

sources, services, and other assistance provided to families of children with disabilities pursuant to State policy that are designed to—

(A) support families in the efforts of such families to raise their children with disabilities in the home;

(B) strengthen the role of the family as primary caregiver for such children;

(C) prevent involuntary out-of-the-home placement of such children and maintain family unity; and

(D) reunite families with children with disabilities who have been placed out of the home, whenever possible.

(4) Secretary

The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(5) State

The term “State” means each of the 50 States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(6) Systems change activities

The term “systems change activities” means efforts that result in laws, regulations, policies, practices, or organizational structures—

(A) that are family-centered and family-directed;

(B) that facilitate and increase access to, provision of, and funding for, family support services for families of children with disabilities; and

(C) that otherwise accomplish the purposes of this subchapter.

(b) Special rule

References in this subchapter to a child with a disability shall be considered to include references to an individual who is not younger than age 18 who—

(1) has a significant impairment described in subsection (a)(1)(A); and

(2) is residing with and receiving assistance from a family member.

(Pub. L. 106-402, title II, §203, Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1729.)

§ 15093. Grants to States

(a) In general

The Secretary shall make grants to States on a competitive basis, in accordance with the provisions of this subchapter, to support systems change activities designed to assist States to develop and implement, or expand and enhance, a statewide system of family support services for families of children with disabilities that accomplishes the purposes of this subchapter.

(b) Award period and grant limitation

No grant shall be awarded under this section for a period of more than 3 years. No State shall be eligible for more than 1 grant under this section.

(c) Amount of grants

(1) Grants to States

(A) Federal matching share

From amounts appropriated under section 15101(a) of this title, the Secretary shall pay to each State that has an application approved under section 15094 of this title, for each year of the grant period, an amount that is—

(i) equal to not more than 75 percent of the cost of the systems change activities to be carried out by the State; and

(ii) not less than \$100,000 and not more than \$500,000.

(B) Non-Federal share

The non-Federal share of the cost of the systems change activities may be in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated, including plant, equipment, or services.

(2) Calculation of amounts

The Secretary shall calculate a grant amount described in paragraph (1) on the basis of—

(A) the amounts available for making grants under this section; and

(B) the child population of the State concerned.

(d) Priority for previously participating States

For the second and third fiscal years for which amounts are appropriated to carry out this section, the Secretary, in providing payments under this section, shall give priority to States that received payments under this section during the preceding fiscal year.

(e) Priorities for distribution

To the extent practicable, the Secretary shall award grants to States under this section in a manner that—

(1) is geographically equitable;

(2) distributes the grants among States that have differing levels of development of statewide systems of family support services for families of children with disabilities; and

(3) distributes the grants among States that attempt to meet the needs of unserved and underserved populations, such as individuals from racial and ethnic minority backgrounds, disadvantaged individuals, individuals with limited English proficiency, and individuals from underserved geographic areas (rural or urban).

(Pub. L. 106-402, title II, §204, Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1730.)

§ 15094. Application

To be eligible to receive a grant under this subchapter, a State shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information and assurances as the Secretary may require, including information about the designation of a lead entity, a description of available State resources, and assurances that systems change activities will be family-centered and family-directed.

(Pub. L. 106-402, title II, §205, Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1731.)

§ 15095. Designation of the lead entity**(a) Designation**

The Chief Executive Officer of a State that desires to receive a grant under section 15093 of this title, shall designate the office or entity (referred to in this subchapter as the “lead entity”) responsible for—

- (1) submitting the application described in section 15094 of this title on behalf of the State;
- (2) administering and supervising the use of the amounts made available under the grant;
- (3) coordinating efforts related to and supervising the preparation of the application;
- (4) coordinating the planning, development, implementation (or expansion and enhancement), and evaluation of a statewide system of family support services for families of children with disabilities among public agencies and between public agencies and private agencies, including coordinating efforts related to entering into interagency agreements;
- (5) coordinating efforts related to the participation by families of children with disabilities in activities carried out under a grant made under this subchapter; and
- (6) submitting the report described in section 15097 of this title on behalf of the State.

(b) Qualifications

In designating the lead entity, the Chief Executive Officer may designate—

- (1) an office of the Chief Executive Officer;
- (2) a commission appointed by the Chief Executive Officer;
- (3) a public agency;
- (4) a council established under Federal or State law; or
- (5) another appropriate office, agency, or entity.

(Pub. L. 106-402, title II, §206, Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1731.)

§ 15096. Authorized activities**(a) In general**

A State that receives a grant under section 15093 of this title shall use the funds made available through the grant to carry out systems change activities that accomplish the purposes of this subchapter.

(b) Special rule

In carrying out activities authorized under this subchapter, a State shall ensure that such activities address the needs of families of children with disabilities from unserved or underserved populations.

(Pub. L. 106-402, title II, §207, Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1732.)

§ 15097. Reporting

A State that receives a grant under this subchapter shall prepare and submit to the Secretary, at the end of the grant period, a report containing the results of State efforts to develop and implement, or expand and enhance, a statewide system of family support services for families of children with disabilities.

(Pub. L. 106-402, title II, §208, Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1732.)

§ 15098. Technical assistance**(a) In general**

The Secretary shall enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with appropriate public or private agencies and organizations, including institutions of higher education, with documented experience, expertise, and capacity, for the purpose of providing technical assistance and information with respect to the development and implementation, or expansion and enhancement, of a statewide system of family support services for families of children with disabilities.

(b) Purpose

An agency or organization that provides technical assistance and information under this section in a State that receives a grant under this subchapter shall provide the technical assistance and information to the lead entity of the State, family members of children with disabilities, organizations, service providers, and policymakers involved with children with disabilities and their families. Such an agency or organization may also provide technical assistance and information to a State that does not receive a grant under this subchapter.

(c) Reports to the Secretary

An entity providing technical assistance and information under this section shall prepare and submit to the Secretary periodic reports regarding Federal policies and procedures identified within the States that facilitate or impede the delivery of family support services to families of children with disabilities. The report shall include recommendations to the Secretary regarding the delivery of services, coordination with other programs, and integration of the policies described in section 15091 of this title in Federal law, other than this subchapter.

(Pub. L. 106-402, title II, §209, Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1732.)

§ 15099. Evaluation**(a) In general**

The Secretary shall conduct a national evaluation of the program of grants to States authorized by this subchapter.

(b) Purpose**(1) In general**

The Secretary shall conduct the evaluation under subsection (a) to assess the status and effects of State efforts to develop and implement, or expand and enhance, statewide systems of family support services for families of children with disabilities in a manner consistent with the provisions of this subchapter. In particular, the Secretary shall assess the impact of such efforts on families of children with disabilities, and recommend amendments to this subchapter that are necessary to assist States to accomplish fully the purposes of this subchapter.

(2) Information systems

The Secretary shall work with the States to develop an information system designed to compile and report, from information provided by the States, qualitative and quantitative de-