

STATE OF NEW YORK

10274

IN ASSEMBLY

May 13, 2022

Introduced by COMMITTEE ON RULES -- (at request of M. of A. Hevesi) --
read once and referred to the Committee on Children and Families

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to establishing the child and family wellbeing program; to amend the state finance law, in relation to the child and family wellbeing fund; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The social services law is amended by adding a new section
2 394 to read as follows:

3 § 394. The child and family wellbeing program. 1. The child and family
4 wellbeing program is hereby established as a flexible innovative state-
5 wide funding program to support local efforts led by smaller nonprofit
6 community-based providers to respond to children's and families' needs
7 in communities, with avenues for community input and accountability. The
8 program shall focus on funding primary prevention and resources for
9 families in communities with the highest levels of child protective
10 involvement in each region.

11 2. The program shall be overseen by an advisory board made up of eight
12 members to be appointed by the commissioner, consisting of a diverse
13 group of people with policy expertise in children and families and
14 people with personal experience in child welfare and other public
15 systems. One board member shall serve as a full-time director, to be
16 determined by the commissioner.

17 3. The board shall disburse grants to eligible nonprofit community-
18 based providers from the child and family wellbeing fund established
19 pursuant to section ninety-seven-aaaa of the state finance law.

20 4. The board shall determine criteria to provide technical assistance
21 to small nonprofit community-based providers in order to diversify and
22 strengthen the array of organizations that can support families in
23 communities with the highest levels of child protective involvement,
24 including:

25 (a) Developing a concept paper through a process designed to (i)
26 ensure that smaller nonprofit community-based providers groups in commu-

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 nities with the highest levels of child protective involvement are aware
2 of this program, (ii) elicit guidance from both community groups and
3 state and local agencies to direct resources to communities with weak
4 grassroots infrastructure around family life and to address community
5 and family issues that are implicated in local child protective involve-
6 ment, and (iii) ensure that the child and family wellbeing fund's capac-
7 ity-building and learning design will address needs.

8 (b) Disbursing grants of twenty thousand to two hundred thousand
9 dollars to small nonprofit community-based providers that increase
10 access to existing resources;

11 (c) Establish four regional backbone nonprofit partners to work
12 increase community capacity through investment in technical assistance,
13 capacity-building, evaluation and facilitation of a community of prac-
14 tice among grantees and build a format for local input on grants
15 distributed by the child and family wellbeing fund; and

16 (d) Produce annual public reports to the legislature that identify
17 recommendations for broad structural realignments and investments at the
18 state and county level to increase capacities of grassroots, communit-
19 led organizations around its public health strategy for family wellbe-
20 ing.

21 5. For purposes of this section:

22 (a) "Communities with the highest levels of child protective involve-
23 ment" shall mean communities with zip codes with the highest investi-
24 gation and child removal rates.

25 (b) "Smaller nonprofit community-based providers" shall mean local
26 organizations with budgets under two million dollars annually who offer
27 voluntary networks of care through services or resources to families or
28 parents that are not duplicative of existing funding streams around
29 prevention services, mental health, and/or that enhance the capacity of
30 a community to access existing resources, such as through transporta-
31 tion, cash resources, peer navigators, home-based supports, or opening
32 of a satellite site; that affirmatively address local racial dispari-
33 ties; community-based organizations with a record of providing quality
34 services to children and families in such communities, including by
35 families impacted by child protective services; have a demonstrated
36 capacity to voluntarily engage families; and have developed a proposal
37 to meet specific local needs associated with child protective involve-
38 ment.

39 (c) "Regional backbone organization" shall mean one of up to four
40 nonprofit organizations to act as regional coordinators of the child and
41 family wellbeing fund working to increase community capacity through
42 investment in technical assistance, capacity-building, evaluation and
43 facilitation of a community of practice among grantees and build a
44 format for local input on grants distributed by the child and family
45 wellbeing fund. The regional backbone organization shall not have
46 concurrent service contracts with local departments of social services
47 within their region.

48 6. The board shall annually report to the legislature on the progress
49 of the child and family wellbeing program and disbursements under the
50 child and family wellbeing fund.

51 § 2. The state finance law is amended by adding a new section 97-aaaa
52 to read as follows:

53 § 97-aaaa. Child and family wellbeing fund. 1. There is hereby estab-
54 lished in the joint custody of the state comptroller and the commis-
55 ioner of taxation and finance a special revenue fund to be known as the
56 child and family wellbeing fund.

1 2. The child and family wellbeing fund shall consist of moneys appro-
2 riated, credited or transferred thereto from any other fund or source.

3 3. Moneys of the child and family wellbeing fund, following appropri-
4 ation by the legislature and allocation by the director of the budget,
5 shall be made available to the advisory board for the child and family
6 wellbeing program for grants to nonprofit community-based providers to
7 respond to children's and families' needs in certain communities as
8 established by section three hundred ninety-four of the social services
9 law.

10 4. The advisory board for the child and family wellbeing program shall
11 submit a report to the governor and the legislature by January thirty-
12 first, two thousand twenty-four and annually thereafter detailing all
13 expenditures made from the child and family wellbeing fund during the
14 previous year.

15 § 3. This act shall take effect January 1, 2023 and shall expire and
16 be deemed repealed January 1, 2028. Effective immediately, the addition,
17 amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the
18 implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be
19 made and completed on or before such effective date.