STATE OF NEW YORK

9620--A

IN ASSEMBLY

March 26, 2024

Introduced by M. of A. DAVILA -- read once and referred to the Committee on Social Services -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to establishing a two generation pilot program to promote family stability and children's school readiness; 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:

Section 1. The social services law is amended by adding a new section 335-d to read as follows:

§ 335-d. Two generation pilot program. 1. Subject to appropriation, the commissioner of the office of temporary and disability assistance in cooperation with the commissioner of the office of children and family services, the commissioner of mental health and the commissioner of health shall establish a pilot program to promote family stability and children's school readiness in up to six local social services districts. Such program, subject to the rules and regulations of the commissioner, shall consist of services for families with children up to age six who are recipients of public assistance. The commissioner shall select by a competitive bid or request for proposal process, organizations with expertise in adult education and workforce preparation programs, programs that provide information about appropriate nutrition and medical services for new mothers and young children, and child development programs, including early care, early education, and home visiting. Such services shall be provided in a coordinated effort with a focus on serving families through an integrated, multi-generational approach. Nothing herein shall prohibit organizations from working in joint collaboration when delivering services to families in accordance with this section.

2. Such program shall be designed to achieve the following outcomes:

(a) increased financial stability of families including increased earning potential of parents;

(b) improved school readiness of children;

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

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(c) increased access for parents and children to programs that foster healthy parent-child relationships; and

(d) increased access for all family members to participate in programs that address the mental and physical health needs of parents and children.

3. Such programs shall be further designed to utilize funding for services including but not limited to personalized parent support services aimed at maintaining parental engagement and overcoming obstacles to achieve program outcomes.

4. Each organization participating in the pilot program established under this section shall submit annual project data pertaining to the number of children screened through standardized developmental or social-emotional screening, the number of parents who were unemployed prior to participation in the program who since obtained employment as a result of the program, the number of parents who increased their education level and specific credentials obtained and the number of parents who were employed at the beginning of their participation in the pilot program, whether their earnings have increased as a result of their participation and any other data or information determined to be relevant for the understanding, implementation and outcomes of the pilot program.

5. The locations of the participating organizations under the pilot program shall be geographically disbursed throughout the state and determined by the commissioner based on the number of public assistance recipients in a given county, counties with high rates of unemployment or underemployment and counties that lack access to comparable services.

6. The duration of a project undertaken by an organization participating in the pilot program established under this section shall be at least one year and no more than four years.

7. Thirty months after the effective date of this section, and upon the conclusion of the pilot program, the commissioners shall submit a report to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly and the early childhood advisory council established under section four hundred eighty-three-g of this chapter, analyzing the data provided by the participating organization, as well as recommendations based on the outcomes of the pilot program.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law and shall expire 5 years after such effective date when upon such date the provisions of this act shall be deemed repealed.