

House Engrossed

nurse-home visitation; program; appropriations

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-sixth Legislature
First Regular Session
2023

HOUSE BILL 2053

AN ACT

ESTABLISHING AN EVIDENCE-BASED NURSE-HOME VISITOR GRANT PROGRAM;
APPROPRIATING MONIES.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Department of child safety; evidence-based
3 nurse-home visitor grant program; requirements;
4 annual report; delayed repeal

5 A. The evidenced-based nurse-home visitor grant program is
6 established in the department of child safety to prevent child
7 maltreatment and neglect, improve maternal and child health, including
8 child development, and promote families' economic mobility. The
9 department shall award the grant monies to at least one eligible
10 organization to provide voluntary, evidence-based nurse-home visiting
11 services for a three-year period, including assessments and screenings,
12 care coordination, case management, preventive education and counseling,
13 nurse-delivered interventions and referrals to health and human services,
14 educational or job development resources, and other appropriate supports,
15 to first-time low-income, expectant mothers who voluntarily enroll before
16 their third trimester. The evidence-based nurse-home visiting services
17 shall be available through the second birthday of children born to
18 participating new mothers.

19 B. Organizations that are eligible to receive a grant pursuant to
20 this section include public and private entities, nonprofit organizations,
21 county and other local government entities and tribal nations.

22 C. When determining which organizations shall be awarded monies
23 through the grant program, the department shall give preference to
24 organizations that meet all of the following:

25 1. Are working and providing services in this state.

26 2. Can demonstrate either delivery as of December 31, 2022 or
27 capacity to begin delivery, within ninety days after receiving the grant
28 award, of a service delivered by registered nurses that meets the criteria
29 established by the United States department of health and human services
30 for an evidence-based early childhood home visiting service delivery model
31 with favorable impacts found for reductions in child maltreatment and, as
32 of January 1, 2023, and that is ranked as a "well-supported" service in
33 the federal title IV-E prevention services clearinghouse to prevent foster
34 care placements and provide enhanced support to children and families
35 through in-home parenting skill-based services.

36 3. Limit program enrollees to first-time expectant mothers who
37 voluntarily enroll before the twenty-eighth week of their pregnancy.

38 4. Provide services to program enrollees and their children from
39 early prenatal enrollment through the child's second birthday.

40 5. Employ licensed registered nurses that have received, or are
41 actively pursuing, a bachelor of science in nursing degree to provide
42 services.

43 6. Provide services in the enrollee's home, via telehealth or at
44 another location as directed by the enrollee.

1 D. An organization that receives monies pursuant to this section
2 shall submit to the department of child safety, for the purpose of
3 evaluating successful service delivery, data as prescribed in the
4 children's health bureau title IV-E prevention programs data elements to
5 the extent it is collected as standard practice in the course of service
6 delivery.

7 E. On or before August 31 of 2024, 2025, 2026 and 2027, the
8 department shall publish a report that includes all of the following
9 information for the previous fiscal year:

10 1. The number of grants awarded under the program, the recipient
11 organizations and number of participants expected to be served.

12 2. The number of unduplicated participants enrolled during the
13 reporting period for each recipient organization.

14 3. The total number of hours spent providing home-visiting services
15 to enrolled participants.

16 4. Other data and information related to measures of health and
17 well-being of participants and their children participating in the program
18 as deemed necessary by the department to the extent it is collected and
19 reported as standard practice in the course of service delivery.

20 F. This section is repealed from and after December 31, 2027.

21 Sec. 2. Appropriations; department of child safety;
22 evidence-based nurse-home visitor grant program;
23 exemption

24 A. The sum of \$15,000,000 and five FTE positions are appropriated
25 from the state general fund in fiscal year 2023-2024 to the department of
26 child safety for the purposes of administering the evidence-based
27 nurse-home visitor grant program to deliver evidence-based nurse-home
28 visiting services. The department may use up to \$382,500 of the monies
29 appropriated in each of fiscal years 2023-2024, 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 to
30 administer the grant program.

31 B. The appropriations made in subsection A of this section are
32 exempt from the provisions of section 35-190, Arizona Revised Statutes,
33 relating to lapsing of appropriations. Any unspent monies remaining on
34 January 1, 2028 shall revert to the state general fund.

35 Sec. 3. Legislative findings

36 The legislature finds and declares the following:

37 1. That new mothers, in order to adequately care for their newborns
38 and young children, often benefit from voluntarily receiving professional
39 assistance and information.

40 2. That without this assistance and information, a first-time
41 mother may develop habits or practices that are detrimental to her health
42 and well-being and to the health and well-being of her child.

43 3. That inadequate prenatal care and inadequate care in infancy and
44 early childhood often inhibit a child's ability to learn and develop

1 throughout childhood and may have lasting, adverse effects on the child's
2 ability to function as an adult.

3 4. That the implementation of an evidenced-based nurse-home
4 visiting program for first-time mothers that has been found to be
5 evidence-based by the United States department of health and human
6 services and which is ranked as "well-supported" in the federal title IV-E
7 prevention services clearinghouse for in-home parent skill-based services
8 under the family first prevention services act as of January 1, 2023,
9 provides educational, health and other resources for first-time mothers
10 from early pregnancy through the first two years of their infants' lives
11 and has been proven to significantly reduce the risk of preterm birth, the
12 amount of drug use, including nicotine and alcohol use and abuse by
13 first-time mothers, the occurrence of criminal activity committed by
14 mothers and their children under fifteen years of age, and the number of
15 reported incidents of child abuse and neglect.

16 5. That the program has been proven to reduce the mother's need for
17 other forms of public assistance and to increase the mother's educational
18 attainment and employment.