

(4) subject to paragraph (1), the Secretary shall assume the responsibilities of the Lead State Agency under this chapter, as appropriate.

(Pub. L. 106-554, §1(a)(1) [title VIII, §807], Dec. 21, 2000, 114 Stat. 2763, 2763A-82.)

§ 9407. Uses of funds

(a) In general

Subject to section 9409 of this title, grant funds under this chapter shall be used to pay for developing, operating, or enhancing voluntary early learning programs that are likely to produce sustained gains in early learning.

(b) Limited uses

Subject to section 9409 of this title, Lead State Agencies and Local Councils shall ensure that funds made available under this chapter to the agencies and Local Councils are used for three or more of the following activities:

- (1) Helping parents, caregivers, child care providers, and educators increase their capacity to facilitate the development of cognitive, language comprehension, expressive language, social-emotional, and motor skills, and promote learning readiness.
- (2) Promoting effective parenting.
- (3) Enhancing early childhood literacy.
- (4) Developing linkages among early learning programs within a community and between early learning programs and health care services for young children.
- (5) Increasing access to early learning opportunities for young children with special needs, including developmental delays, by facilitating coordination with other programs serving such young children.
- (6) Increasing access to existing early learning programs by expanding the days or times that the young children are served, by expanding the number of young children served, or by improving the affordability of the programs for low-income families.
- (7) Improving the quality of early learning programs through professional development and training activities, increased compensation, and recruitment and retention incentives, for early learning providers.
- (8) Removing ancillary barriers to early learning, including transportation difficulties and absence of programs during nontraditional work times.

(c) Requirements

Each Lead State Agency designated under section 9409(c) of this title and Local Councils receiving a grant under this chapter shall ensure—

- (1) that Local Councils described in section 9413 of this title work with local educational agencies to identify cognitive, social, emotional, and motor developmental abilities which are necessary to support children's readiness for school;
- (2) that the programs, services, and activities assisted under this chapter will represent developmentally appropriate steps toward the acquisition of those abilities; and
- (3) that the programs, services, and activities assisted under this chapter collectively provide benefits for children cared for in their

own homes as well as children placed in the care of others.

(d) Sliding scale payments

States and Local Councils receiving assistance under this chapter shall ensure that programs, services, and activities assisted under this chapter which customarily require a payment for such programs, services, or activities, adjust the cost of such programs, services, and activities provided to the individual or the individual's child based on the individual's ability to pay.

(Pub. L. 106-554, §1(a)(1) [title VIII, §808], Dec. 21, 2000, 114 Stat. 2763, 2763A-83.)

§ 9408. Reservations and allotments

(a) Reservation for Indian tribes, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians

The Secretary shall reserve 1 percent of the total amount appropriated under section 9404 of this title for each fiscal year, to be allotted to Indian tribes, Regional Corporations, and Native Hawaiian entities, of which—

- (1) 0.5 percent shall be available to Indian tribes; and
- (2) 0.5 percent shall be available to Regional Corporations and Native Hawaiian entities.

(b) Allotments

From the funds appropriated under this chapter for each fiscal year that are not reserved under subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary shall allot to each State the sum of—

- (1) an amount that bears the same ratio to 50 percent of such funds as the number of children 4 years of age and younger in the State bears to the number of such children in all States; and
- (2) an amount that bears the same ratio to 50 percent of such funds as the number of children 4 years of age and younger living in families with incomes below the poverty line in the State bears to the number of such children in all States.

(c) Minimum allotment

No State shall receive an allotment under subsection (b) of this section for a fiscal year in an amount that is less than .40 percent of the total amount appropriated for the fiscal year under this chapter.

(d) Availability of funds

Any portion of the allotment to a State that is not expended for activities under this chapter in the fiscal year for which the allotment is made shall remain available to the State for two additional years, after which any unexpended funds shall be returned to the Secretary. The Secretary shall use the returned funds to carry out a discretionary grant program for research-based early learning demonstration projects.

(e) Data

The Secretary shall make allotments under this chapter on the basis of the most recent data available to the Secretary.

(Pub. L. 106-554, §1(a)(1) [title VIII, §809], Dec. 21, 2000, 114 Stat. 2763, 2763A-84.)