

CHAPTER 2021-87

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1349

An act relating to assistance programs; amending s. 1002.81, F.S.; deleting obsolete language; amending s. 1002.87, F.S.; requiring an early learning coalition to give priority for participation in a school readiness program to certain children; requiring the Office of Early Learning within the Department of Education to coordinate with the University of Florida Anita Zucker Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Studies to conduct an analysis of certain assistance programs; providing requirements for the analysis; requiring certain agencies to enter into a data sharing agreement with certain entities and annually provide certain data; requiring the University of Florida Anita Zucker Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Studies to provide an annual report to the Office of Early Learning; requiring the Office of Early Learning to provide an annual report to the Governor and Legislature; requiring the Department of Children and Families to provide certain assistance; providing for the scheduled expiration of certain provisions; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsections (6) and (15) of section 1002.81, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1002.81 Definitions.—Consistent with the requirements of 45 C.F.R. parts 98 and 99 and as used in this part, the term:

~~(6) “Earned income” means gross remuneration derived from work, professional service, or self-employment. The term includes commissions, bonuses, back pay awards, and the cash value of all remuneration paid in a medium other than cash.~~

~~(15) “Unearned income” means income other than earned income. The term includes, but is not limited to:~~

~~(a) Documented alimony and child support received.~~

~~(b) Social security benefits.~~

~~(c) Supplemental security income benefits.~~

~~(d) Workers’ compensation benefits.~~

~~(e) Reemployment assistance or unemployment compensation benefits.~~

~~(f) Veterans’ benefits.~~

~~(g) Retirement benefits.~~

~~(h) Temporary cash assistance under chapter 414.~~

Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 1002.87, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.87 School readiness program; eligibility and enrollment.—

(1) Each early learning coalition shall give priority for participation in the school readiness program as follows:

(a) Priority shall be given first to a child younger than 13 years of age from a family that includes a parent who is receiving temporary cash assistance under chapter 414 and subject to the federal work requirements or a parent who has an Intensive Service Account or an Individual Training Account under s. 445.009.

Section 3. (1) The Office of Early Learning within the Department of Education shall coordinate with the University of Florida Anita Zucker Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Studies to conduct an analysis of, at a minimum, recipients of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program established under 7 U.S.C. ss. 2011 et seq., the temporary cash assistance program under s. 414.095, Florida Statutes, the Medicaid program under s. 409.963, Florida Statutes, the school readiness program under part VI of chapter 1002, Florida Statutes, and the Housing Choice Voucher Program established under 42 U.S.C. s. 1437f.

(2) The analysis must include a review of eligibility criteria, the manner in which each program establishes and documents eligibility and disbursement policies, the frequency of eligibility determinations, and the number of families receiving multiple program services out of the total number of eligible families.

(3) The University of Florida Anita Zucker Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Studies shall, through its analysis, develop participant profiles based on the number of families receiving multiple program services that include family composition and the most frequent program services or combination of services families are accessing in each county or geographic region.

(4)(a) Each agency responsible for the administration of a program to be analyzed under subsection (1) shall enter into a data sharing agreement with the Office of Early Learning and the University of Florida Anita Zucker Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Studies by September 1, 2021. Upon execution of the data sharing agreement, and subject to any federal requirements, each agency shall submit a program services data file to the University of Florida Anita Zucker Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Studies by November 1, 2021, containing program service data from the preceding 10 federal fiscal years, if available. By November 1, 2022, and each year thereafter if applicable, each agency shall submit a supplemental data file to the University of Florida Anita Zucker Center for Excellence in Early

Childhood Studies containing program service data from the preceding federal fiscal year.

(b) The Department of Children and Families shall assist the University of Florida Anita Zucker Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Studies with receiving information required to be analyzed under subsection (1) that is related to the department's programs, including, but not limited to, providing assistance with seeking any required approvals or waivers from applicable federal agencies.

(5) The University of Florida Anita Zucker Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Studies shall provide a report to the Office of Early Learning based on the results of its analysis by May 31 of each year.

(6) The Office of Early Learning within 30 days after receiving the report shall submit it to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(7) This section expires on June 30, 2023, unless reviewed and reenacted by the Legislature before that date.

Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.

Approved by the Governor June 11, 2021.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 11, 2021.