

## CHAPTER 2022-67

### House Bill No. 7065

An act relating to child welfare; creating s. 39.0143, F.S.; requiring the Department of Children and Families and Department of Juvenile Justice to identify and meet the needs of dually-involved children within a specified timeframe; requiring a quarterly report with specified information to the Legislature; amending s. 39.205, F.S.; removing the requirement of a specified report; amending s. 39.4022, F.S.; requiring a representative from the Department of Juvenile Justice to be invited to a multidisciplinary team staffing under certain circumstances; amending s. 39.6035, F.S.; revising information that must be included in a transition plan; requiring the child to sign a specified document; requiring the Department of Children and Families or a community-based care lead agency to review and, if necessary, update a young adult's transition plan after his or her 18th birthday under certain circumstances; making technical changes; amending s. 383.011, F.S.; requiring prenatal and infant health care delivery programs to include certain father engagement activities; amending s. 409.1451, F.S.; increasing the monthly stipend for postsecondary education services and supports; requiring the Department of Children and Families, or an agency under contract with the department, to conduct a specified assessment and provide certain information and referrals to certain young adults; requiring such assessment be included in the young adult's transition plan; requiring the department, or an agency under contract with the department, to work with young adults to create, review, and update certain plans; requiring a financial plan be included in the young adult's transition plan; requiring a transition plan to include certain information; amending s. 409.1452, F.S.; requiring the Department of Children and Families to collaborate with specified entities for a certain purpose; requiring liaisons and coaching services to provide specified assistance for certain students at certain school district programs, Florida College System institutions, or state universities; providing requirements for such liaisons; requiring a liaison's contact information to be used in certain ways; requiring certain school district programs, Florida College System institutions, and state universities to maintain certain documentation; requiring certain entities to report certain information annually to the Department of Children and Families; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; removing obsolete language; creating s. 409.1464, F.S.; requiring the Department of Children and Families to contract for the development and implementation of the Responsible Fatherhood Initiative; providing initiative requirements; providing requirements for the entity contracting with the Department of Children and Families to implement the initiative; requiring certain collaboration to implement the initiative; creating 409.1465, F.S.; providing legislative intent; requiring the Department of Children and Families to award specified grants to not-for-profit community-based organizations to address the needs of fathers; requiring the

department to prioritize grant applicants in a specified manner; specifying the time period for which a grant may be awarded; requiring grant recipients to submit certain reports; authorizing the Department of Children and Families to adopt rules; creating s. 409.1467, F.S.; requiring the Department of Children and Families to provide grants to community-based not-for-profit organizations to offer certain mentorship programs; providing grant requirements; providing grant eligibility requirements; providing requirements for grant recipients; requiring the department to prioritize grant applicants in a specified manner; providing the amounts and duration of the grants; requiring grant recipients to submit specified reports to the department; requiring the department to contract for the provision of technical assistance and certain training; requiring grant recipients to complete such training within a specified time; amending s. 409.147, F.S.; requiring children's initiatives to update strategic community plans to include certain information; requiring the Ounce of Prevention to provide technical assistance to the children's initiative corporations; providing requirements for children's initiatives to receive state funding; amending s. 409.2557, F.S.; requiring the Department of Revenue to establish a webpage that contains certain information; amending s. 409.2564, F.S.; requiring Department of Revenue to provide certain written notification to delinquent obligors; requiring the written notification to include certain information; creating s. 409.25996, F.S.; requiring the Department of Economic Opportunity to award grants to organizations that assist noncustodial parents in meeting their child support obligations; amending s. 409.988, F.S.; requiring lead agencies to address certain needs of fathers served by the lead agency; requiring lead agencies to conduct an assessment, create an action plan, employ certain specialists, and prioritize certain individuals for specified purposes; requiring the Department of Children and Families to annually review lead agencies; amending ss. 409.996 and 409.997, F.S.; revising when specified reports must be submitted to the Governor and Legislature; creating s. 683.334, F.S.; designating the month of June as "Responsible Fatherhood Month"; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 39.0143, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

39.0143 Dually-involved children.—Beginning in fiscal year 2022-2023 through fiscal year 2023-2024, the department and the Department of Juvenile Justice shall identify children who are dually involved with both systems of care. The department and the Department of Juvenile Justice shall collaboratively take appropriate action within available resources to meet the needs of dually-involved children more effectively, and shall jointly submit to the Legislature a quarterly report that includes, at a minimum:

(1) Data on the number of children who are dually involved with both systems of care. Such children include, but are not limited to, those who are the subject of any proceeding under this chapter and, at the same time, are

under the supervision of the Department of Juvenile Justice under chapter 985, and those children who were previously served by either the department or the Department of Juvenile Justice and come to the attention of either agency after being served.

(2) Data on the number of children who are placed in licensed care after leaving the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice.

(3) Information on how both departments track children who are or become dually involved.

(4) A summary of the actions taken by both departments to better serve dually-involved children.

Section 2. Subsection (7) of section 39.205, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

39.205 Penalties relating to reporting of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect.—

(7) The department shall establish procedures for determining whether a false report of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect has been made and for submitting all identifying information relating to such a report to the appropriate law enforcement agency ~~and shall report annually to the Legislature the number of reports referred.~~

Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section 39.4022, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

39.4022 Multidisciplinary teams; staffings; assessments; report.—

(4) PARTICIPANTS.—

(a) Collaboration among diverse individuals who are part of the child’s network is necessary to make the most informed decisions possible for the child. A diverse team is preferable to ensure that the necessary combination of technical skills, cultural knowledge, community resources, and personal relationships is developed and maintained for the child and family. The participants necessary to achieve an appropriately diverse team for a child may vary by child and may include extended family, friends, neighbors, coaches, clergy, coworkers, or others the family identifies as potential sources of support.

1. Each multidisciplinary team staffing must invite the following members:

a. The child, unless he or she is not of an age or capacity to participate in the team;

b. The child’s family members and other individuals identified by the family as being important to the child, provided that a parent who has a no

contact order or injunction, is alleged to have sexually abused the child, or is subject to a termination of parental rights may not participate;

c. The current caregiver, provided the caregiver is not a parent who meets the criteria of one of the exceptions under sub-subparagraph b.;

d. A representative from the department other than the Children's Legal Services attorney, when the department is directly involved in the goal identified by the staffing;

e. A representative from the community-based care lead agency, when the lead agency is directly involved in the goal identified by the staffing; and

f. The case manager for the child, or his or her case manager supervisor.

g. A representative from the Department of Juvenile Justice if the child is dually involved with both the department and the Department of Juvenile Justice.

2. The multidisciplinary team must make reasonable efforts to have all mandatory invitees attend. However, the multidisciplinary team staffing may not be delayed if the invitees in subparagraph 1. fail to attend after being provided reasonable opportunities.

Section 4. Section 39.6035, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

39.6035 Transition plan.—

(1) During the year after a child reaches 16 years of age, the department and the community-based care lead agency provider, in collaboration with the caregiver and any other individual whom the child would like to include, shall assist the child in developing a transition plan. The required transition plan is in addition to standard case management requirements. The transition plan must address specific options for the child to use in obtaining services, including housing, health insurance, education, financial literacy, a driver license, and workforce support and employment services. The plan must also include tasks to establish and maintain naturally occurring mentoring relationships and other personal support services. The transition plan may be as detailed as the child chooses. This plan must ~~shall~~ be updated as needed before the child reaches 18 years of age and after the child reaches 18 years of age if he or she is receiving funding under s. 409.1451(2). In developing and updating the transition plan, the department and the community-based care lead agency shall:

(a) Provide the child with the documentation required under s. 39.701(3).

(b) Coordinate the transition plan with the independent living provisions in the case plan and, for a child with disabilities, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act transition plan.

(c) Provide information for the financial literacy curriculum for youth offered by the Department of Financial Services.

(d) Provide information about independent living services and programs which is tailored to the individual needs and plans of the child, including, at a minimum, the specific benefits of each program and how such benefits meet the needs and plans of the child, the advantages and disadvantages of participation in each program considering the needs and plans of the child, and the financial value of each program to the child. The community-based care lead agency shall discuss this information with the child, and the child must sign a document indicating that he or she:

1. Received such information.
2. Discussed such information with the community-based care lead agency representative.
3. Understands how such services and benefits would meet his or her individual needs.
4. Understands how such services would assist him or her in accomplishing future plans.

(2) The department and the child shall schedule a time, date, and place for a meeting to assist the child in drafting the transition plan. The time, date, and place must be convenient for the child and any individual whom the child would like to include. This meeting must ~~shall~~ be conducted in the child's primary language.

(3) The transition plan shall be reviewed periodically with the child, the department, and other individuals of the child's choice and updated when necessary before each judicial review so long as the child or young adult remains in care.

(4) The transition plan must be approved by the court before the child's 18th birthday and must be attached to the case plan and updated before each judicial review.

(5) The department or community-based care lead agency shall continue to periodically meet with a young adult to review and, if necessary, update the transition plan beyond his or her 18th birthday if the young adult receives funding under s. 409.1451(2).

Section 5. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of section 383.011, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

383.011 Administration of maternal and child health programs.—

- (1) The Department of Health is designated as the state agency for:

(d) Administering and providing for prenatal and infant health care delivery services through county health departments or subcontractors for the provision of the following enhanced services for medically and socially high-risk clients, subject to the availability of moneys and the limitations established by the General Appropriations Act or chapter 216:

1. Case finding or outreach.
2. Assessment of health, social, environmental, and behavioral risk factors.
3. Case management utilizing a service delivery plan.
4. Home visiting to support the delivery of and participation in prenatal and infant primary health care services.
5. Childbirth and parenting education, including encouragement of breastfeeding.
6. Father engagement activities, such as providing individualized support to fathers to increase participation in services that strengthen family and child well-being.

Section 6. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section 409.1451, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph (e), paragraph (b) and present paragraph (d) of that subsection are amended, and a new paragraph (d) is added to that subsection, to read:

409.1451 The Road-to-Independence Program.—

(2) POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION SERVICES AND SUPPORT.—

(b) The amount of the financial assistance shall be as follows:

1. For a young adult who does not remain in foster care and is attending a postsecondary school as provided in s. 1009.533, the amount is \$1,720 ~~\$1,256~~ monthly.

2. For a young adult who remains in foster care, is attending a postsecondary school, as provided in s. 1009.533, and continues to reside in a licensed foster home, the amount is the established room and board rate for foster parents. This takes the place of the payment provided for in s. 409.145(3).

3. For a young adult who remains in foster care, but temporarily resides away from a licensed foster home for purposes of attending a postsecondary school as provided in s. 1009.533, the amount is \$1,720 ~~\$1,256~~ monthly. This takes the place of the payment provided for in s. 409.145(3).

4. For a young adult who remains in foster care, is attending a postsecondary school as provided in s. 1009.533, and continues to reside

in a licensed group home, the amount is negotiated between the community-based care lead agency and the licensed group home provider.

5. For a young adult who remains in foster care, but temporarily resides away from a licensed group home for purposes of attending a postsecondary school as provided in s. 1009.533, the amount is ~~\$1,720~~ \$1,256 monthly. This takes the place of a negotiated room and board rate.

6. A young adult is eligible to receive financial assistance during the months when he or she is enrolled in a postsecondary educational institution.

(d) Before a young adult receives funding under this subsection, the department, or an agency under contract with the department, shall assess the young adult's financial literacy and executive functioning, self-regulation, and similar skills that are important for successful independent living and the completion of postsecondary education. The assessment must be included as part of the transition plan required under s. 39.6035. Within a reasonable time after completing the assessment, the department, or an agency under contract with the department, must provide information and referrals for any voluntary services that are recommended by the assessment to the young adult to assist in strengthening any necessary skills.

(e)1.(d)1. The department must advertise the availability of the stipend and must provide notification of the criteria and application procedures for the stipend to children and young adults leaving, or who were formerly in, foster care; caregivers; case managers; guidance and family services counselors; principals or other relevant school administrators; and guardians ad litem.

2. If the award recipient transfers from one eligible institution to another and continues to meet eligibility requirements, the award shall be transferred with the recipient.

3. The department, or an agency under contract with the department, shall evaluate each Road-to-Independence award for renewal eligibility on an annual basis. In order to be eligible for a renewal award for the subsequent year, the young adult must:

a. Be enrolled for or have completed the number of hours, or the equivalent, to be considered a full-time student under subparagraph (a)4., unless the young adult qualifies for an exception under subparagraph (a)4.

b. Maintain standards of academic progress as defined by the education institution, except that if the young adult's progress is insufficient to renew the award at any time during the eligibility period, the young adult may continue to be enrolled for additional terms while attempting to restore eligibility as long as progress towards the required level is maintained.

4. Funds may be terminated during the interim between an award and the evaluation for a renewal award if the department, or an agency under

contract with the department, determines that the award recipient is no longer enrolled in an educational institution as described in subparagraph (a)4. or is no longer a resident of this state.

5. The department, or an agency under contract with the department, shall notify a recipient who is terminated and inform the recipient of his or her right to appeal.

6. An award recipient who does not qualify for a renewal award or who chooses not to renew the award may apply for reinstatement. An application for reinstatement must be made before the young adult reaches 23 years of age. In order to be eligible for reinstatement, the young adult must meet the eligibility criteria and the criteria for award renewal for the program.

7. The department, or an agency under contract with the department, shall work with the young adult to create a financial plan that is guided by the young adult's financial goals in meeting his or her needs while in postsecondary education. The financial plan must be included in the transition plan required under s. 39.6035. The department, or an agency under contract with the department, shall review and, if necessary, update the financial plan with the young adult every 6 months until funding under this subsection is no longer provided.

8. The department, or an agency under contract with the department, shall review with the young adult the transition plan required under s. 39.6035 during the year before the young adult graduates from postsecondary education or the year before the young adult reaches 23 years of age, whichever occurs first. The transition plan must include an assessment of the young adult's current and future needs and challenges for self-sufficiency and address, at a minimum, how the young adult will meet his or her financial needs and obligations when funding under this subsection is no longer provided.

Section 7. Section 409.1452, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

409.1452 Collaboration with State University System Board of Governors, Florida College System, and Department of Education to assist children and young adults who have been or are in foster care or are experiencing homelessness; documentation regarding eligibility for tuition and fee exemptions.—The department shall collaborate with the State University System, the Florida College System, and the Department of Education to address the need for a comprehensive support structure in the academic arena to assist children and young adults who have been or remain in the foster care system in making the transition from a structured care system into an independent living setting.

(1)(a) Each school district program, Florida College System institution, or state university at which a student is exempt from the payment of tuition and fees under s. 1009.25 must have, at a minimum, a knowledgeable, accessible, and responsive employee who acts as a liaison and provides



assistance to those students who are exempt from the payment of tuition and fees to assist in resolving any problems related to such exemption. The liaisons shall provide such students with on-campus support and must be employees of the program, institution, or university. The name and contact information of the liaison must be:

1. Provided to each student who is exempt from the payment of tuition and fees and who is attending that program, institution, or university.
2. Published on the website of the program, institution, or university.
3. Provided to the Department of Children and Families and each community-based care lead agency.

(b) Each school district program, Florida College System institution, and state university must maintain the original documentation submitted by the student regarding his or her eligibility for the tuition and fee exemption under s. 1009.25 and may not make additional requests for such documentation.

(2) A school district program, Florida College System institution, or state university may also provide campus coaching services and other support to a student who is exempt from the payment of tuition and fees under s. 1009.25 to promote his or her successful completion of postsecondary education and transition to independent living. Effective July 1, 2013, the Department of Children and Families shall work in collaboration with the Board of Governors, the Florida College System, and the Department of Education to help address the need for a comprehensive support structure in the academic arena to assist children and young adults who have been or continue to remain in the foster care system in making the transition from a structured care system into an independent living setting. The State University System of Florida and the Florida College System shall provide postsecondary educational campus coaching positions that will be integrated into Florida College System institutions' and university institutions' general support services structure to provide current and former foster care children and young adults with dedicated, on-campus support. The Department of Children and Families has the sole discretion to determine which state college or university will offer a campus coaching position, based on departmental demographic data indicating greatest need. These campus coaching positions shall be employees of the selected educational institutions, focused on supporting children and young adults who have been or continue to remain in the foster care system.

(3) The Chancellors of the Division of Career and Adult Education, the Florida College System, and the State University System Board of Governors shall report annually to the Department of Children and Families specific data, subject to privacy laws, about the students children and young adults served by the campus liaisons coaches, including academic progress, retention rates for students enrolled in the program, financial aid requested

and received, and information required by the National Youth in Transition Database.

Section 8. Section 409.1464, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

409.1464 Responsible Fatherhood Initiative.—

(1) The department shall contract for the development and implementation of the Responsible Fatherhood Initiative. The initiative must provide an opportunity for every father in the state to be able to obtain information and inspiration that will motivate and enable him to enhance his abilities as a father, recognizing that some fathers have greater challenges than others and would benefit from greater support.

(2) The initiative must, at a minimum:

(a) Include a website and other related electronic resources that will allow a father to obtain information about effective parenting, identify areas in which support would enable him to enhance his ability to be an effective father, and be connected to such support, including but not limited to, support provided by organizations receiving grants under s. 409.1465.

(b) Use appropriate materials from the fatherhood media campaign available through the National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse.

(c) Include print, television, digital, and social media elements and public events, and may include appearances by and involvement from public figures and influencers.

(3)(a) The entity with which the department contracts for the Responsible Fatherhood Initiative must be a not-for-profit organization that:

1. Has a history of focusing on responsible fatherhood, including providing online resources to fathers, and engaging fathers, father figures, and children through community-based and school-based events to encourage responsible fatherhood.

2. Has the organizational capacity to manage a statewide initiative and successfully carry out the requirements of this section.

(b) The entity must collaborate with other relevant agencies of state government and private organizations to develop and implement the initiative. Such agencies of state government must collaborate with the entity with which the department contracts to carry out the initiative.

Section 9. Section 409.1465, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

409.1465 Grants to address the needs of fathers.—

(1) The Legislature recognizes that families are stronger when both parents act responsibly in caring for their children. It is the intent of the Legislature to recognize and support the important and unique role that

fathers play in ensuring the physical, emotional, and economic well-being of their children and families.

(2) The department shall award grants to not-for-profit community-based organizations to address the needs of fathers. The department shall award the following types of grants:

(a) Grants that comprehensively address the needs of fathers, such as assisting them in finding employment, managing child support obligations, transitioning from a period of incarceration, accessing health care, understanding child development, and enhancing parenting skills. Services provided must be tailored to the needs of the father being served. Case management services must be provided by the grant recipient, either directly or by subcontract, to the fathers who are served by the grants under this paragraph. If the father receiving case management services through a grant awarded under this paragraph has a child receiving case management services from a community-based care lead agency because the child is the subject of a dependency proceeding under chapter 39, the case management services may be coordinated.

(b) Grants that provide evidence-based parenting education specifically for fathers. The grants under this paragraph do not require case management services.

(3) The department shall prioritize applicants for a grant specified under subsection (2) based on:

(a) Need in a geographic area and the population to be served by the grant as indicated by, at a minimum:

1. Unemployment rates.
2. Incarceration rates.
3. Housing instability.
4. The number of single-parent households.
5. The number of public benefit recipients.
6. Graduation rates.
7. Levels of academic achievement.

(b) If an applicant has a primary mission of, or a history of a significant focus on and effective work towards, addressing the needs of men in their role as fathers.

(c) Applicant current and historical involvement in the community being served.

(d) Applicant commitment and capability to employ competent staff who can effectively engage with the fathers being served, including at a minimum, those individuals who share a similar background as the fathers being served.

(e) The number of individuals the applicant plans to serve through the grant and the projected costs for the program.

(f) Applicant organizational capacity to effectively meet the requirements of the grant and to deliver the programs proposed by the applicant. The department may offer technical assistance to applicants and grant recipients that have lower organizational capacity as long as such organizations have, or the organization's leadership has, significant experience serving fathers.

(4) Grants shall be awarded for no more than 3 years, with subsequent year funding contingent on compliance with grant requirements and adequate performance. Grant recipients must submit reports to the department in a format and at intervals, which must be at least annually, prescribed by the department.

(5) The department may adopt rules to implement this section.

Section 10. Section 409.1467, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

409.1467 Mentorship for at-risk male students.—

(1) The department must award grants to community-based not-for-profit organizations incorporated under chapter 617 to offer mentorship programs for at-risk male students. These grants must:

(a) Assist at-risk male students who are in middle school or high school in developing social, emotional, and cognitive skills to prepare them for future success.

(b) Provide an opportunity for small not-for-profit organizations to receive training and technical assistance that will strengthen their capacity to provide high-quality, effective services and obtain additional nonstate funding in the future.

(2) A community-based not-for-profit organization must have organizational management and a board of directors reflective of the community served by the organization in order to be eligible to receive a grant under this section.

(3) Grant recipients must:

(a) Recruit and train mentors for eligible at-risk male students.

(b) Provide mentorship, social and academic support, life skill development, and other opportunities for eligible at-risk male students.

(c) Use trauma-informed practices and interventions to address adverse childhood experiences of eligible at-risk male students.

(d) Be inclusive of eligible at-risk male students who have a disability.

(4) Prioritization of applicants for a grant must, at a minimum, be based on:

(a) Unemployment rates; incarceration rates; housing instability; the number of single-parent households; the number of public benefit recipients; graduation rates; and levels of academic achievement in the geographic area in which mentorship services would be provided.

(b) The number of at-risk male students that the applicant plans to serve through the grant and the projected costs for the new or expanded mentorship program.

(c) The applicant's current revenues and organizational capacity, experience and demonstrated effectiveness in serving at-risk male students or providing mentorship programs, and commitment to organizational development through the training required under subsection (7) in order to achieve the goal specified in paragraph (1)(b).

(5) The department may award grants that are between \$25,000 and \$250,000 per year and the grants may be awarded to a community-based not-for-profit organization for no more than 3 years, contingent on continued eligibility, compliance with grant requirements, and adequate performance. The department shall create categories of grants based on the annual revenues of the community-based not-for-profit organizations that are applying in order to maximize the opportunities for small not-for-profit organizations to receive grants.

(6) Grant recipients must submit reports to the department in a format and at intervals prescribed by the department. At a minimum, grant recipients must report on the number of at-risk male students served and their ages, the number of mentors providing mentorship services, and the outcomes of the at-risk students served, including, but not limited to, improved academic success, decreased involvement in the juvenile justice system, and enhanced readiness for and involvement in postsecondary education, as appropriate.

(7) The department shall contract for the provision of technical assistance and training in nonprofit management, outcomes measurement, and positive youth development for grant recipients. Within 6 months after receiving a grant, a grant recipient must complete such training as required by the department in order to achieve the goal specified in paragraph (1)(b). The contracted provider shall determine the specific training needed by grant recipients and directly provide or subcontract for such training and technical assistance.

Section 11. Subsections (8) through (13) of section 409.147, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (9) through (14), respectively, subsection (7) is amended, and a new subsection (8) is added to that section, to read:

409.147 Children's initiatives.—

(7) CHILDREN'S INITIATIVE CORPORATION.—

(a) After the governing body adopts the resolution described in subsection (4), establishes the planning team as provided in subsection (5), and develops and adopts the strategic community plan as provided in subsection (6), the county or municipality shall create a corporation not for profit which shall be registered, incorporated, organized, and operated in compliance with chapter 617. The purpose of the corporation is to facilitate fundraising, to secure broad community ownership of the children's initiative, and, if the area selected by the governing body is designated as a children's initiative, to:

1.(a) Begin to transfer responsibility for planning from the planning team to the corporation.

2.(b) Begin the implementation and governance of the children's initiative community plan.

3. Update the strategic community plan every 5 years to reflect, at a minimum, the current status of the area served by the children's initiative; the goals, objectives, and strategies for each focus area; and the tasks required to implement the strategies for the upcoming year.

(b) The Ounce of Prevention must provide technical assistance to the corporation to facilitate achievement of the plans created under subsection (6).

(8) REQUIREMENTS FOR RECEIVING STATE FUNDING.—Unless otherwise specified in the general appropriations act:

(a) State funding for children's initiatives must be awarded through a performance-based contract that links payments to achievement of outcomes directly related to the goals, objectives, strategies, and tasks outlined in the strategic community plan.

(b) Counties that do not currently have a children's initiative and are trying to establish an initiative have priority for funding available under this subsection.

Section 12. Subsection (4) is added to section 409.2557, Florida Statutes, to read:

409.2557 State agency for administering child support enforcement program.—

(4) The department shall establish on its website a dedicated webpage that provides information to obligors who have difficulty paying child support due to economic hardship. There must be a link to such webpage on the main child support webpage. The webpage must be in plain language and include, at a minimum, information on how an obligor can modify a child support order, information on how to access services from CareerSource Florida and the organizations awarded grants under s. 409.25996, and a link to the website for CareerSource Florida.

Section 13. Subsection (9) of section 409.2564, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

409.2564 Actions for support.—

(9)(a) For the purpose of securing delinquent support, the department may increase the amount of the monthly support obligation to include amounts for delinquencies, subject to such conditions or limitations as set forth in paragraph (b).

(b) In support obligations not subject to income deduction, the department shall notify the obligor in writing of his or her delinquency and of the department's intent to require an additional 20 percent of the monthly obligation amount to allow for collection of the delinquency unless, within 20 days, the obligor:

1. pays the delinquency in full; or
2. files a petition with the circuit court to contest the delinquency action.

(c) All written notices provided to an obligor regarding delinquent support must include information on how the obligor can access the webpage required under s. 409.2557(4) and how to access services through CareerSource Florida and the organizations that are awarded grants under s. 409.25996.

Section 14. Section 409.25996, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

409.25996 Organizations that assist noncustodial parents.—The Department of Economic Opportunity shall award grants to organizations that assist noncustodial parents who are unemployed or underemployed and have difficulty meeting child support obligations to become self-sufficient and establish a successful pattern of paying child support obligations.

Section 15. Paragraph (n) is added to subsection (1) of section 409.988, Florida Statutes, is to read:

409.988 Community-based care lead agency duties; general provisions.

(1) DUTIES.—A lead agency:

(n) Shall ensure that it is addressing the unique needs of the fathers of children who are served by the lead agency.

1. The lead agency shall:

a. Conduct an initial assessment of its engagement with such fathers and provision of and referral to father-oriented services.

b. Create an action plan to address any gaps identified through the assessment and implement the action plan.

c. Employ a father-engagement specialist to, at a minimum, build relationships with fathers, help identify their needs, assist them in accessing services, and communicate with the lead agency about the challenges faced by these fathers and how to appropriately meet their unique needs. The lead agency shall prioritize individuals who have faced experiences similar to the fathers who are being served by the lead agency for selection as a father-engagement specialist.

2. The department shall annually review how the lead agency is meeting the needs of fathers, including, at a minimum, how the lead agency is helping fathers establish positive, stable relationships with their children and assisting fathers in receiving needed services. The lead agency shall provide any relevant information on how it is meeting the needs of these fathers to the department, which must be included in the report required under s. 409.997.

Section 16. Subsection (3) of section 409.996, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

409.996 Duties of the Department of Children and Families.—The department shall contract for the delivery, administration, or management of care for children in the child protection and child welfare system. In doing so, the department retains responsibility for the quality of contracted services and programs and shall ensure that, at a minimum, services are delivered in accordance with applicable federal and state statutes and regulations and the performance standards and metrics specified in the strategic plan created under s. 20.19(1).

(3) The department shall annually conduct a comprehensive, multiyear review of the revenues, expenditures, and financial position of all community-based care lead agencies which must cover the most recent 2 consecutive fiscal years. The review must include a comprehensive system-of-care analysis. All community-based care lead agencies must develop and maintain a plan to achieve financial viability. The department's review and the agency's plan shall be submitted to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 1 ~~November 1~~ of each year.

Section 17. Paragraph (g) of subsection (2) of section 409.997, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:



409.997 Child welfare results-oriented accountability program.—

(2) The purpose of the results-oriented accountability program is to monitor and measure the use of resources, the quality and amount of services provided, and child and family outcomes. The program includes data analysis, research review, and evaluation. The program shall produce an assessment of individual entities' performance, as well as the performance of groups of entities working together on a local, judicial circuit, regional, and statewide basis to provide an integrated system of care. Data analyzed and communicated through the accountability program shall inform the department's development and maintenance of an inclusive, interactive, and evidence-supported program of quality improvement which promotes individual skill building as well as organizational learning. The department may use data generated by the program regarding performance drivers, process improvements, short-term and long-term outcomes, and quality improvement efforts to determine contract compliance and as the basis for payment of performance incentives if funds for such payments are made available through the General Appropriations Act. The information compiled and utilized in the accountability program must incorporate, at a minimum:

(g) An annual performance report that is provided to interested parties including the dependency judge or judges in the community-based care service area. The report shall be submitted to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by November 15 ~~October 1~~ of each year.

Section 18. Section 683.334, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

683.334 Responsible Fatherhood Month.—

(1) The Legislature designates the month of June as “Responsible Fatherhood Month” to recognize the importance of fathers in their children’s lives, how fathers contribute to their children’s safety and stability, and the direct link between positive father involvement and child well-being.

(2) The Department of Children and Families, the Department of Health, local governments, and other agencies are encouraged to sponsor events to promote awareness of responsible fatherhood engagement and the contributions fathers make in the lives of their children.

Section 19. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.

Approved by the Governor April 11, 2022.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 11, 2022.