ECONOMIC SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Home Visiting Programs

2015-17 BIENNIAL BUDGET

Transforming Lives

Reduction Option	FY16	FY17	15-17
FTE	(1.0)	(1.0)	(1.0)
GF-State	($2,190,000)	($2,190,000)	($4,380,000)
Total	**($2,190,000)**	**($2,190,000)**	**($4,380,000)**

REDUCTION OPTION SUMMARY

As required by 2015-17 Biennial Budget Instructions, the Economic Services Administration (ESA) is submitting a reduction option that would eliminate funding appropriated in the 2014 Legislative Session for the Frontiers of Innovation (FOI) Infant Home Visits Pilot and the Homeless Families Wrap Around Services Home Visiting program. By implementing this reduction, fewer families will receive supports which promote healthy child development, the development of executive function skills in low-income caregivers and children who are facing adversity, and services to address issues such as maternal and child health, positive parenting, and safe home environments.

REDUCTION OPTION DETAIL

The FOI and home visiting initiative is a collaboration between the Harvard Center on the Developing Child (Harvard Center) and state partners (including the Department of Early Learning (DEL) and Thrive-by-Five (Thrive)) focused on transformative change for adults and their young children whose needs are not currently being met because of adverse experiences at the individual, family, community, and national levels.

In terms of broader, national impacts, Washington State is a key partner with the Harvard Center on this cutting edge work. Public and private funders across the country are interested in the results of Washington State's FOI work for potential systems change and replication efforts. Washington State leads the nation in putting research into action. Loss of funding for FOI work would greatly impede understanding brain science research regarding executive function and the negative effects of toxic stress and adverse childhood experiences on educational outcomes, employability and self-sufficiency and how these effects can be mitigated through structured service provision.

The Homeless Family Wrap Around Services home visiting program is a collaborative effort between DEL, the non-profit agency Thrive, and the Department of Commerce. The program will be targeted to families enrolled in the Rapid Re-housing Pathway, which is a package of services designed to help transition homeless Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)/WorkFirst families or families at imminent risk of homelessness into permanent housing. This pathway provides short-term rental subsidies along with case management and employment services. ESA funding for home visiting supplements other federal, state and local funds dedicated to home visitation.

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Frontiers of Innovation (FOI) and Homeless Family Wrap Around Services Home Visiting Programs

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Planning for implementation of the Home Visiting project has been underway for a substantial period of time. Not only are DEL and Thrive anticipating the use of these funds to serve the identified populations, multiple local community partners have structured their coming service year around receipt and use of these funds. Staffing would be impacted at multiple local community organizations across the state.

Funding for the 2013-15 Biennium was deposited into the Home Visiting Services Account (HVSA). The HVSA was established in RCW 43.215.130 and is co-administered by the DEL and Thrive. The initial performance period is June 30, 2014 through December 31, 2016. Under the terms of the Home Visiting Contract, home visiting programs will be co-administered by DEL and Thrive.

As a result of this proposed reduction, fewer vulnerable families will have access to evidence-based home visiting programs with a track record of strong return on the investment of funds in the areas of prevention and early learning support.

This reduction will decrease the amount of GF-State available to meet federal Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement for the TANF program. This will increase the reliance on qualifying GF-State spending in other state agencies in order to ensure MOE spending requirement is met. Failure to meet the MOE spending requirement results in a penalty to the state. This penalty is a reduction to the federal TANF block grant equal to the amount of the MOE underspend. The loss of federal funds due to penalty must be replaced with GF-State spending. GF-State spending required to replace a penalty does not count toward meeting the MOE requirement.

This proposal would not require a statutory change.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACT

Advocates, DEL and Thrive, the private entity that is responsible for co-administering the HVSA account and contracting with local community partners providing direct home visiting services, will oppose this proposal.

Debbie Davis (360) 725-0682 September 17, 2014