

CHAPTER 65

AN ACT

SB 1579

Relating to child abuse; creating new provisions; amending ORS 418.788; and declaring an emergency.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTER FUND

SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2024 Act is added to and made a part of ORS 418.746 to 418.796.

SECTION 2. (1) The Children’s Advocacy Center Fund is established in the State Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned by the Children’s Advocacy Center Fund shall be credited to the fund. The fund consists of moneys appropriated, allocated, deposited or transferred to the fund by the Legislative Assembly or otherwise and interest earned on moneys in the fund. The moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the Department of Justice for carrying out the purposes of ORS 418.786.

(2) To establish and maintain sufficient children’s advocacy centers and regional children’s advocacy centers in Oregon necessary to ensure that every child referred to a center for concerns of neglect or abuse receives a skilled, complete and, if needed, forensically sound child abuse assessment, the Legislative Assembly shall appropriate, allocate or otherwise make available to the Children’s Advocacy Center Fund moneys necessary to fully fund the grant program required by ORS 418.786.

SECTION 3. ORS 418.788 is amended to read:

418.788. (1) Subject to the availability of funds under the provisions of ORS 418.796 and section 2 of this 2024 Act, the administrator of the Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention Program shall make grants for the establishment and maintenance of children’s advocacy centers or regional children’s advocacy centers.

(2)(a) A public or private agency may apply to the administrator for a grant to:

(A) Establish and maintain a children’s advocacy center or regional children’s advocacy center;

(B) Provide training and technical assistance to children’s advocacy centers or county child abuse multidisciplinary teams; or

(C) Provide coordination and support to regional children’s advocacy centers.

(b) The administrator may consolidate applications from more than one public or private agency or may return the application with the recommendation that the application be consolidated.

(3) The administrator shall by rule establish criteria for awarding grants to establish and maintain children’s advocacy centers or regional children’s advocacy centers, including but not limited to:

(a) Expenses eligible for reimbursement from funds under ORS 418.796 and section 2 of this 2024 Act;

(b) The extent to which the applicant’s proposal will best accomplish the purposes of ORS 418.746 to 418.796;

(c) The extent to which an applicant meets criteria for receiving a grant to:

(A) Establish and maintain a children’s advocacy center or regional children’s advocacy center;

(B) Provide training and technical assistance to children’s advocacy centers and county child abuse multidisciplinary teams; or

(C) Provide coordination and support to regional children’s advocacy centers;

(d) Minimum facility standards for children’s advocacy centers and regional children’s advocacy centers consistent with national accreditation standards to ensure that children receive consistent, evidence-based intervention services statewide;

(e) Minimum forensic interview training standards that are consistent with national forensic interview training standards, evidence-based and supported by current forensic interview research; and

(f) For a regional children’s advocacy center, the extent to which the applicant’s proposal meets the documented needs of the communities, children’s advocacy centers and county child abuse multidisciplinary teams in the region or regions to be served by the center.

(4) The administrator is not required to fund any grant in the total amount requested in the application.

CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTER ONE-TIME GRANTS

SECTION 4. (1) As used in this section:

(a) “Children’s advocacy center” means a facility that meets the facility standards described in ORS 418.788, to which a child from the community may be referred to receive a thorough child abuse assessment, as defined in ORS 418.782, for the purpose of determining whether the child has been abused or neglected, and that facilitates a coordinated, comprehensive and multidisciplinary response to cases of child abuse.

(b) “Regional children’s advocacy center” means a facility operated by a children’s advocacy center that meets the facility standards described in ORS 418.788 and is selected by the Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention Program to provide training and complex case assistance, including one or more of the following:

(A) Consultation;

(B) Education;

(C) Referral;
 (D) Technical assistance; and
 (E) If authorized by the Department of Justice, other services as needed.

(2) The Department of Justice shall develop and administer a one-time noncompetitive grant program to expand access to services and supports provided by children's advocacy centers and regional children's advocacy centers and to increase the number of children served by children's advocacy centers and regional children's advocacy centers in this state.

(3)(a) The department shall distribute 50 percent of the amounts available for the grant program, in equal shares to each children's advocacy center that is providing services in this state on the effective date of this 2024 Act.

(b) If the department is unable to distribute one or more children's advocacy center share or portion of a share under this subsection and amounts remain undistributed on June 30, 2025, the department shall distribute the undistributed amounts to Oregon Child Abuse Solutions for the purpose of providing or coordinating the provision of assistance to children's advocacy centers seeking accreditation with the National Children's Alliance.

(4) The department shall distribute the remaining 50 percent of amounts available for the grant program as provided in subsection (5) of this section.

(5) The department shall adopt rules for distributing the remaining 50 percent of amounts available for the grant program. The rules must, at a minimum:

(a) Require that an applicant certify that on or before June 30, 2025, the applicant will be accredited by the National Children's Alliance or will have an application for accreditation with the National Children's Alliance pending.

(b) Require children's advocacy centers to apply directly for the grants.

(c) Allow a health care provider or a medical facility to apply for a grant to expand medical assessment services, intervention services and any other services and supports not inconsistent with the purposes of ORS 418.746 to 418.796, if:

(A) The health care provider or medical facility is connected through a linkage agreement or contract with a children's advocacy center; and

(B) The children's advocacy center satisfies the accreditation requirements described in paragraph (a) of this subsection.

(d) Permit the department, when determining the amounts of grants awarded under this subsection, to consider:

(A) The applicant's capability to expand access to or maintain a children's advocacy center in an underserved community;

(B) The applicant's capability to expand access of a children's advocacy center to a ge-

ographic area of this state with no children's advocacy centers;

(C) The likelihood that the applicant, if awarded a grant, will expand access to children's advocacy center services and supports to children from historically marginalized and underserved communities;

(D) If awarded a grant, the ability of the existing or proposed children's advocacy center to provide behavioral and mental health services for victims of child abuse;

(E) The applicant's capability to provide services to drug endangered children; and

(F) The applicant's capability to provide services to children who have been trafficked.

(e) Allow grant recipients to use the grants:

(A) To expand access to designated medical professionals, as described in ORS 418.747 (9); and

(B) For costs associated with obtaining accreditation from the National Children's Alliance, including application fees and support staff expenses.

(f) Require applicants to demonstrate how the grant award would allow for initial consultation with a designated medical professional, as defined in ORS 419B.023, within 48 hours in accordance with Karly's Law and would improve response times for intervention following incidents of child abuse and the prevention of child fatalities.

(g) Provide that the total amount distributed to a given children's advocacy center under this section may not exceed \$300,000, calculated based on the total of:

(A) Amounts distributed to the children's advocacy center under subsection (3) of this section; and

(B) Amounts awarded to the children's advocacy center under this subsection, including the amounts of any grants awarded as permitted under paragraph (c) of this subsection to a health care provider or medical facility that is connected with the children's advocacy center.

(6) The department shall award and distribute all of the amounts available for grants under this section no later than June 30, 2025.

SECTION 5. (1) The Children's Advocacy Center One-Time Grant Fund is established in the State Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund. The Children's Advocacy Center One-Time Grant Fund consists of moneys appropriated, allocated, deposited or transferred to the fund by the Legislative Assembly or otherwise. Interest earned by the fund shall be credited to the fund. Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the Department of Justice for carrying out the purposes of section 4 of this 2024 Act.

(2) The department may use moneys in the fund to pay the administrative costs associated

with the fund and with administering the grant program under section 4 of this 2024 Act.

APPROPRIATION

SECTION 6. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Department of Justice, for the biennium ending June 30, 2025, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$7,000,000, for deposit in the Children’s Advocacy Center One-Time Grant Fund established under section 5 of this 2024 Act.

SECTION 7. Notwithstanding any other law limiting expenditures, the amount of \$7,000,000 is established for the biennium ending June 30, 2025, as the maximum limit for payment of expenses from fees, moneys or other revenues, including Miscellaneous Receipts, but excluding lottery funds and other federal funds, collected or received by the Department of Justice, for the Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division, for the Children’s Advocacy Center One-

Time Grant Fund established by section 5 of this 2024 Act, for the grants and grant program administrative costs under section 4 of this 2024 Act.

MISCELLANEOUS

SECTION 8. Sections 4 and 5 of this 2024 Act are repealed on January 2, 2026.

SECTION 9. The unit captions used in this 2024 Act are provided only for the convenience of the reader and do not become part of the statutory law of this state or express any legislative intent in the enactment of this 2024 Act.

SECTION 10. This 2024 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2024 Act takes effect on its passage.

Approved by the Governor March 27, 2024
 Filed in the office of Secretary of State March 27, 2024
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