

I\_135\_0633-4

135th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2023-2024

Sub. H. B. No. 7

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**A BILL**

To amend sections 3125.18, 3701.61, 5101.342, 1  
5101.35, 5101.80, 5101.801, 5123.0421, and 2  
5153.16 and to enact sections 4723.89, 4723.90, 3  
5101.805, 5101.91, 5104.291, 5120.658, 5162.137, 4  
5164.071, and 5166.45 of the Revised Code to 5  
support strong foundations for Ohio mothers and 6  
babies in their first one thousand days to 7  
address maternal and infant mortality, to 8  
improve health, developmental, and learning 9  
outcomes for babies and mothers through expanded 10  
prenatal, postnatal, infant, and toddler health 11  
care and early intervention and wraparound 12  
services and supports; to name this act the 13  
Strong Foundations Act; and to make 14  
appropriations. 15

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That sections 3125.18, 3701.61, 5101.342, 16  
5101.35, 5101.80, 5101.801, 5123.0421, and 5153.16 be amended 17  
and sections 4723.89, 4723.90, 5101.805, 5101.91, 5104.291, 18



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5120.658, 5162.137, 5164.071, and 5166.45 of the Revised Code be 19  
enacted to read as follows: 20

**Sec. 3125.18.** A child support enforcement agency shall 21  
administer a Title IV-A program identified under division (A)(4) 22  
(c) or ~~(g)~~ (h) of section 5101.80 of the Revised Code that the 23  
department of job and family services provides for the agency to 24  
administer under the department's supervision pursuant to 25  
section 5101.801 of the Revised Code. 26

**Sec. 3701.61.** (A) The department of health shall establish 27  
the help me grow program as the state's evidence-based parent 28  
support program that encourages early prenatal and well-baby 29  
care, as well as provides parenting education to promote the 30  
comprehensive health and development of children. The program 31  
shall provide home visiting services to families with a pregnant 32  
woman or child under five years of age that meet the eligibility 33  
requirements established in rules adopted under this section. 34  
Home visiting services shall be provided through evidence-based 35  
home visiting models, including the early head start home-based 36  
option administered by the office of head start in the United 37  
States department of health and human services, or innovative, 38  
promising home visiting models recommended by the Ohio home 39  
visiting consortium created under section 3701.612 of the 40  
Revised Code. 41

(B) Families shall be referred to the appropriate home 42  
visiting services through the central intake and referral system 43  
created under section 3701.611 of the Revised Code. 44

(C) To the extent possible, the goals of the help me grow 45  
program shall be consistent with the goals of the federal home 46  
visiting program, as specified by the maternal and child health 47  
bureau of the health resources and services administration in 48

the United States department of health and human services or its 49  
successor. 50

(D) The director of health ~~may~~ shall enter into an 51  
interagency agreement with one or more state agencies, including 52  
the department of developmental disabilities, department of job 53  
and family services, commission on minority health, Ohio 54  
fatherhood commission, and children's trust fund board, to 55  
implement the help me grow program and ensure coordination of 56  
early childhood programs. 57

In addition to creating the central intake and referral 58  
system as described in section 3701.611 of the Revised Code, the 59  
department of health shall establish a comprehensive screening 60  
and connection program to support the coordination of home 61  
visiting services across the state, including through the 62  
department of health, department of developmental disabilities, 63  
department of job and family services, commission on minority 64  
health, Ohio fatherhood commission, and children's trust fund 65  
board. Following the program's establishment, the department of 66  
health shall evaluate on a regular basis the program's 67  
effectiveness in coordinating home visiting services. 68

(E) The director may distribute help me grow program funds 69  
through contracts, grants, or subsidies to entities providing 70  
services under the program. 71

(F) As a condition of receiving payments for home visiting 72  
services, providers shall report to the director data on the 73  
program performance indicators, specified in rules adopted under 74  
division (G) of this section, that are used to assess progress 75  
toward achieving all of the following: 76

(1) The benchmark domains established for the federal home 77

visiting program, including improvement in maternal and newborn 78  
health; reduction in child injuries, abuse, and neglect; 79  
improved school readiness and achievement; reduction in crime 80  
and domestic violence; and improved family economic self- 81  
sufficiency; 82

(2) Improvement in birth outcomes and reduction in 83  
stillbirths, as that term is defined in section 3701.97 of the 84  
Revised Code; 85

(3) Reduction in tobacco use by pregnant women, new 86  
parents, and others living in households with children. 87

The providers shall report the data in the format and 88  
within the time frames specified in the rules. 89

The director shall prepare an annual report on the data 90  
received from the providers. The director shall make the report 91  
available on the internet web site maintained by the department 92  
of health. 93

(G) Pursuant to Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, the 94  
director shall adopt rules that are necessary and proper to 95  
implement this section. The rules shall specify all of the 96  
following: 97

(1) Subject to division (H) of this section, eligibility 98  
requirements for home visiting services; 99

(2) ~~Eligibility~~ Subject to division (H) of this section, 100  
eligibility requirements for providers of home visiting 101  
services; 102

(3) ~~Standards~~ Subject to division (H) of this section, 103  
standards and procedures for the provision of program services, 104  
including data collection, program monitoring, and program 105

evaluation;	106
(4) Procedures for appealing the denial of an application for program services or the termination of services;	107 108
(5) Procedures for appealing the denial of an application to become a provider of program services or the termination of the department's approval of a provider;	109 110 111
(6) Procedures for addressing complaints;	112
(7) The program performance indicators on which data must be reported by providers of home visiting services under division (F) of this section, which, to the extent possible, shall be consistent with federal reporting requirements for federally funded home visiting services;	113 114 115 116 117
(8) The format in which reports must be submitted under division (F) of this section and the time frames within which the reports must be submitted;	118 119 120
(9) Criteria for payment of approved providers of program services;	121 122
(10) Any other rules necessary to implement the program.	123
<u>The director shall ensure that the requirements, standards, and procedures specified in rules are consistent with implementing the early head start home-based option.</u>	124 125 126
(H) <u>(1)</u> When adopting rules required by division (G) (1) of this section, the <del>department</del> <u>director</u> shall specify that families residing in the urban and rural communities specified in rules adopted under section 3701.142 of the Revised Code <u>and families at risk of being in, or engaged with, the child welfare system</u> are to receive priority over other families for home visiting services.	127 128 129 130 131 132 133

(2) When adopting rules required by division (G) (2) of 134  
this section, the director shall specify the following entities 135  
as eligible providers of home visiting services: nurse family 136  
partnership or its successor organization, healthy families 137  
America or its successor organization, and parents as teachers 138  
or its successor organization. 139

(3) When adopting rules required by division (G) (3) of 140  
this section, the director shall allow the provision of home 141  
visiting services to be supplemented by services available 142  
online or through other electronic means. 143

(I) (1) For the providers and online services described in 144  
divisions (H) (2) and (3) of this section, the department shall 145  
evaluate on a regular basis their effectiveness in serving 146  
pregnant women, infants, and toddlers, especially those at risk 147  
of being in, or engaged with, the child welfare system. As part 148  
of each evaluation, the department shall identify the challenges 149  
to participation in the help me grow program that families in 150  
rural and Appalachian communities experience and recommend 151  
strategies to improve their participation. 152

(2) The department shall annually submit a report to the 153  
governor analyzing the impact of the providers and online 154  
services described in divisions (H) (2) and (3) of this section 155  
over the previous fiscal year. 156

(J) The department, in collaboration with the department 157  
of job and family services, shall develop strategies to increase 158  
the workforce capacity of home visiting service providers and 159  
parenting support professionals, including efforts to 160  
incentivize and retain such providers and professionals in this 161  
state. 162

<u>Sec. 4723.89. (A) As used in this section:</u>	163
<u>(1) "Doula" means a trained, nonmedical professional who</u>	164
<u>advocates for, and provides continuous physical, emotional, and</u>	165
<u>informational support to, a pregnant woman during any of the</u>	166
<u>following periods:</u>	167
<u>(a) The antepartum period;</u>	168
<u>(b) The intrapartum period;</u>	169
<u>(c) The postpartum period.</u>	170
<u>(2) "Doula certification organization" means organizations</u>	171
<u>that are recognized, at an international, national, state, or</u>	172
<u>local level, for training and certifying doulas.</u>	173
<u>(B) Beginning on the date that occurs one year after the</u>	174
<u>effective date of this section, a person shall not use or assume</u>	175
<u>the title "certified doula" unless the person holds a</u>	176
<u>certificate issued under this section by the board of nursing.</u>	177
<u>(C) The board of nursing shall seek and consider the</u>	178
<u>opinion of the doula advisory board established in section</u>	179
<u>4723.90 of the Revised Code when an individual is seeking to be</u>	180
<u>eligible for medicaid reimbursement as a certified doula.</u>	181
<u>(D) The board of nursing shall adopt rules in accordance</u>	182
<u>with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code establishing standards and</u>	183
<u>procedures for issuing certificates to doulas under this</u>	184
<u>section. The rules shall include all of the following:</u>	185
<u>(1) Requirements for certification as a doula, including a</u>	186
<u>requirement that a doula either be certified by a doula</u>	187
<u>certification organization or, if not certified, have education</u>	188
<u>and experience considered by the board to be appropriate, as</u>	189
<u>specified in the rules;</u>	190

<u>(2) Requirements for renewal of a certificate and continuing education;</u>	191 192
<u>(3) Requirements for training on racial bias, health disparities, and cultural competency as a condition of initial certification and certificate renewal;</u>	193 194 195
<u>(4) Certificate application and renewal fees, as well as a waiver of those fees for applicants with a family income not exceeding three hundred per cent of the federal poverty line;</u>	196 197 198
<u>(5) Requirements and standards of practice for certified doulas;</u>	199 200
<u>(6) The amount of a fine to be imposed under division (F) of this section;</u>	201 202
<u>(7) Any other standards or procedures the board considers necessary to implement this section.</u>	203 204
<u>(E) The board of nursing shall develop and regularly update a registry of doulas who hold certificates issued under this section. The registry shall be made available to the public on a web site maintained by the board.</u>	205 206 207 208
<u>(F) In an adjudication under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, the board of nursing may impose a fine against any person who violates division (B) of this section. On request of the board, the attorney general shall bring and prosecute to judgment a civil action to collect any fine imposed under this division that remains unpaid.</u>	209 210 211 212 213 214
<u>Sec. 4723.90. (A) There is hereby established within the board of nursing the doula advisory board.</u>	215 216
<u>(B) (1) The advisory board shall consist of the following sixteen members:</u>	217 218



<u>(a) The following members appointed by the board of</u>	219
<u>nursing:</u>	220
<u>(i) Three members representing communities most impacted</u>	221
<u>by negative maternal and infant health outcomes;</u>	222
<u>(ii) Five members who are doulas with current, valid</u>	223
<u>certification from a doula certification organization;</u>	224
<u>(iii) Two members who are public health officials,</u>	225
<u>physicians, nurses, or social workers;</u>	226
<u>(iv) Two members who are consumers;</u>	227
<u>(v) Two members representing a doula certification program</u>	228
<u>or organization established in Ohio.</u>	229
<u>(b) One member representing the commission on minority</u>	230
<u>health appointed by the executive director of the commission on</u>	231
<u>minority health;</u>	232
<u>(c) One member representing the department of health</u>	233
<u>appointed by the director of health.</u>	234
<u>(2) Both of the following apply to the board of nursing in</u>	235
<u>appointing members to the advisory board:</u>	236
<u>(a) A good faith effort shall be made to select members</u>	237
<u>who represent counties with higher rates of infant and maternal</u>	238
<u>mortality, particularly those counties with the largest</u>	239
<u>disparities.</u>	240
<u>(b) Priority shall be given to individuals with direct</u>	241
<u>service experience providing care to infants and pregnant and</u>	242
<u>postpartum women.</u>	243
<u>(C) The advisory board, by a majority vote of a quorum of</u>	244
<u>its members, shall select an individual to serve as its</u>	245

chairperson. The advisory board may replace a chairperson in the 246  
same manner. 247

(D) Of the initial appointments to the advisory board made 248  
pursuant to division (B)(1)(a) of this section, half shall be 249  
appointed to a term of one year and half shall be appointed to a 250  
term of two years. Thereafter, all terms shall be two years. 251

(E) The board of nursing, the executive director of the 252  
commission on minority health, and the director of health shall 253  
fill a vacancy as soon as practicable. 254

Members may be reappointed for an unlimited number of 255  
terms. 256

(F) The advisory board shall meet at the call of the 257  
advisory board's chairperson as often as the chairperson 258  
determines necessary for timely completion of the board's duties 259  
as described in this section. 260

(G) The board of nursing shall provide meeting space, 261  
virtual meeting technology, staff services, and other technical 262  
assistance required by the advisory board in carrying out its 263  
duties. 264

(H) The advisory board shall do all of the following: 265

(1) Provide general advice, guidance, and recommendations 266  
to the board of nursing regarding doula certification and the 267  
adoption of rules under divisions (D)(3) and (5) of section 268  
4723.89 of the Revised Code; 269

(2) Advise the board of nursing regarding individuals 270  
seeking to be eligible for medicaid reimbursement as certified 271  
doulas; 272

(3) Provide general advice, guidance, and recommendations 273

<u>to the department of medicaid regarding the program operated</u>	274
<u>under section 5164.071 of the Revised Code;</u>	275
<u>(4) Make recommendations to the medicaid director</u>	276
<u>regarding the adoption of rules for purposes of section 5164.071</u>	277
<u>of the Revised Code.</u>	278
<b>Sec. 5101.342.</b> The Ohio commission on fatherhood shall do	279
both of the following:	280
(A) Organize a state summit on fatherhood every four	281
years;	282
(B) Prepare a report each year that does the following:	283
(1) Identifies resources available to fund fatherhood-	284
related programs and explores the creation of initiatives to do	285
the following:	286
(a) Build the parenting skills of fathers;	287
(b) Provide employment-related services for low-income,	288
noncustodial fathers;	289
(c) Prevent premature fatherhood;	290
(d) Provide services to fathers who are inmates in or have	291
just been released from imprisonment in a state correctional	292
institution, as defined in section 2967.01 of the Revised Code,	293
or in any other detention facility, as defined in section	294
2921.01 of the Revised Code, so that they are able to maintain	295
or reestablish their relationships with their families;	296
(e) Reconcile fathers with their families;	297
(f) Increase public awareness of the critical role fathers	298
play.	299
(2) Describes the commission's expectations for the	300

outcomes of fatherhood-related programs and initiatives and the 301  
methods the commission uses for conducting annual measures of 302  
those outcomes. 303

(C) Pursuant to section 5101.805 of the Revised Code, the 304  
commission may make recommendations to the director of job and 305  
family services regarding funding, approval, and implementation 306  
of fatherhood programs in this state that meet at least one of 307  
the four purposes of the temporary assistance for needy families 308  
block grant, as specified in 42 U.S.C. 601. 309

(D) The portion of the report prepared pursuant to 310  
division (B) (2) of this section shall be prepared by the 311  
commission in collaboration with the director of job and family 312  
services. 313

~~(D)~~ (E) The commission shall submit each report prepared 314  
pursuant to division (B) of this section to the president and 315  
minority leader of the senate, speaker and minority leader of 316  
the house of representatives, governor, and chief justice of the 317  
supreme court. The first report is due not later than one year 318  
after the last of the initial appointments to the commission is 319  
made under section 5101.341 of the Revised Code. 320

**Sec. 5101.35.** (A) As used in this section: 321

(1) (a) "Agency" means the following entities that 322  
administer a family services program: 323

(i) The department of job and family services; 324

(ii) A county department of job and family services; 325

(iii) A public children services agency; 326

(iv) A private or government entity administering, in 327  
whole or in part, a family services program for or on behalf of 328

the department of job and family services or a county department 329  
of job and family services or public children services agency. 330

(b) If the department of medicaid contracts with the 331  
department of job and family services to hear appeals authorized 332  
by section 5160.31 of the Revised Code regarding medical 333  
assistance programs, "agency" includes the department of 334  
medicaid. 335

(2) "Appellant" means an applicant, participant, former 336  
participant, recipient, or former recipient of a family services 337  
program who is entitled by federal or state law to a hearing 338  
regarding a decision or order of the agency that administers the 339  
program. 340

(3) (a) "Family services program" means all of the 341  
following: 342

(i) A Title IV-A program as defined in section 5101.80 of 343  
the Revised Code; 344

(ii) Programs that provide assistance under Chapter 5104. 345  
of the Revised Code; 346

(iii) Programs that provide assistance under section 347  
5101.141, 5101.461, 5101.54, 5119.41, 5153.163, or 5153.165 of 348  
the Revised Code; 349

(iv) Title XX social services provided under section 350  
5101.46 of the Revised Code, other than such services provided 351  
by the department of mental health and addiction services, the 352  
department of developmental disabilities, a board of alcohol, 353  
drug addiction, and mental health services, or a county board of 354  
developmental disabilities. 355

(b) If the department of medicaid contracts with the 356

department of job and family services to hear appeals authorized 357  
by section 5160.31 of the Revised Code regarding medical 358  
assistance programs, "family services program" includes medical 359  
assistance programs. 360

(4) "Medical assistance program" has the same meaning as 361  
in section 5160.01 of the Revised Code. 362

(B) Except as provided by divisions (G) and (H) of this 363  
section, an appellant who appeals under federal or state law a 364  
decision or order of an agency administering a family services 365  
program shall, at the appellant's request, be granted a state 366  
hearing by the department of job and family services. This state 367  
hearing shall be conducted in accordance with rules adopted 368  
under this section. The state hearing shall be recorded, but 369  
neither the recording nor a transcript of the recording shall be 370  
part of the official record of the proceeding. Except as 371  
provided in section 5160.31 of the Revised Code, a state hearing 372  
decision is binding upon the agency and department, unless it is 373  
reversed or modified on appeal to the director of job and family 374  
services or a court of common pleas. 375

(C) Except as provided by division (G) of this section, an 376  
appellant who disagrees with a state hearing decision may make 377  
an administrative appeal to the director of job and family 378  
services in accordance with rules adopted under this section. 379  
This administrative appeal does not require a hearing, but the 380  
director or the director's designee shall review the state 381  
hearing decision and previous administrative action and may 382  
affirm, modify, remand, or reverse the state hearing decision. 383  
An administrative appeal decision is the final decision of the 384  
department and, except as provided in section 5160.31 of the 385  
Revised Code, is binding upon the department and agency, unless 386

it is reversed or modified on appeal to the court of common 387  
pleas. 388

(D) An agency shall comply with a decision issued pursuant 389  
to division (B) or (C) of this section within the time limits 390  
established by rules adopted under this section. If a county 391  
department of job and family services or a public children 392  
services agency fails to comply within these time limits, the 393  
department may take action pursuant to section 5101.24 of the 394  
Revised Code. If another agency, other than the department of 395  
medicaid, fails to comply within the time limits, the department 396  
may force compliance by withholding funds due the agency or 397  
imposing another sanction established by rules adopted under 398  
this section. 399

(E) An appellant who disagrees with an administrative 400  
appeal decision of the director of job and family services or 401  
the director's designee issued under division (C) of this 402  
section may appeal from the decision to the court of common 403  
pleas pursuant to section 119.12 of the Revised Code. The appeal 404  
shall be governed by section 119.12 of the Revised Code except 405  
that: 406

(1) The person may appeal to the court of common pleas of 407  
the county in which the person resides, or to the court of 408  
common pleas of Franklin county if the person does not reside in 409  
this state. 410

(2) The person may apply to the court for designation as 411  
an indigent and, if the court grants this application, the 412  
appellant shall not be required to furnish the costs of the 413  
appeal. 414

(3) The appellant shall mail the notice of appeal to the 415

department of job and family services and file notice of appeal 416  
with the court within thirty days after the department mails the 417  
administrative appeal decision to the appellant. For good cause 418  
shown, the court may extend the time for mailing and filing 419  
notice of appeal, but such time shall not exceed six months from 420  
the date the department mails the administrative appeal 421  
decision. Filing notice of appeal with the court shall be the 422  
only act necessary to vest jurisdiction in the court. 423

(4) The department shall be required to file a transcript 424  
of the testimony of the state hearing with the court only if the 425  
court orders the department to file the transcript. The court 426  
shall make such an order only if it finds that the department 427  
and the appellant are unable to stipulate to the facts of the 428  
case and that the transcript is essential to a determination of 429  
the appeal. The department shall file the transcript not later 430  
than thirty days after the day such an order is issued. 431

(F) The department of job and family services shall adopt 432  
rules in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code to 433  
implement this section, including rules governing the following: 434

(1) State hearings under division (B) of this section. The 435  
rules shall include provisions regarding notice of eligibility 436  
termination and the opportunity of an appellant appealing a 437  
decision or order of a county department of job and family 438  
services to request a county conference with the county 439  
department before the state hearing is held. 440

(2) Administrative appeals under division (C) of this 441  
section; 442

(3) Time limits for complying with a decision issued under 443  
division (B) or (C) of this section; 444



(4) Sanctions that may be applied against an agency under 445  
division (D) of this section. 446

(G) The department of job and family services may adopt 447  
rules in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code 448  
establishing an appeals process for an appellant who appeals a 449  
decision or order regarding a Title IV-A program identified 450  
under division (A) (4) (c), (d), (e), (f), ~~or (g)~~, or (h) of 451  
section 5101.80 of the Revised Code that is different from the 452  
appeals process established by this section. The different 453  
appeals process may include having a state agency that 454  
administers the Title IV-A program pursuant to an interagency 455  
agreement entered into under section 5101.801 of the Revised 456  
Code administer the appeals process. 457

(H) If an appellant receiving medicaid through a health 458  
insuring corporation that holds a certificate of authority under 459  
Chapter 1751. of the Revised Code is appealing a denial of 460  
medicaid services based on lack of medical necessity or other 461  
clinical issues regarding coverage by the health insuring 462  
corporation, the person hearing the appeal may order an 463  
independent medical review if that person determines that a 464  
review is necessary. The review shall be performed by a health 465  
care professional with appropriate clinical expertise in 466  
treating the recipient's condition or disease. The department 467  
shall pay the costs associated with the review. 468

A review ordered under this division shall be part of the 469  
record of the hearing and shall be given appropriate evidentiary 470  
consideration by the person hearing the appeal. 471

(I) The requirements of Chapter 119. of the Revised Code 472  
apply to a state hearing or administrative appeal under this 473  
section only to the extent, if any, specifically provided by 474

rules adopted under this section. 475

**Sec. 5101.80.** (A) As used in this section and in section 476  
5101.801 of the Revised Code: 477

(1) "County family services agency" has the same meaning 478  
as in section 307.981 of the Revised Code. 479

(2) "State agency" has the same meaning as in section 9.82 480  
of the Revised Code. 481

(3) "Title IV-A administrative agency" means both of the 482  
following: 483

(a) A county family services agency or state agency 484  
administering a Title IV-A program under the supervision of the 485  
department of job and family services; 486

(b) A government agency or private, not-for-profit entity 487  
administering a project funded in whole or in part with funds 488  
provided under the Title IV-A demonstration program created 489  
under section 5101.803 of the Revised Code. 490

(4) "Title IV-A program" means all of the following that 491  
are funded in part with funds provided under the temporary 492  
assistance for needy families block grant established by Title 493  
IV-A of the "Social Security Act," 110 Stat. 2113 (1996), 42 494  
U.S.C. 601, as amended: 495

(a) The Ohio works first program established under Chapter 496  
5107. of the Revised Code; 497

(b) The prevention, retention, and contingency program 498  
established under Chapter 5108. of the Revised Code; 499

(c) A program established by the general assembly or an 500  
executive order issued by the governor that is administered or 501

supervised by the department of job and family services pursuant 502  
to section 5101.801 of the Revised Code; 503

(d) The kinship permanency incentive program created under 504  
section 5101.802 of the Revised Code; 505

(e) The Title IV-A demonstration program created under 506  
section 5101.803 of the Revised Code; 507

(f) The Ohio parenting and pregnancy program created under 508  
section 5101.804 of the Revised Code; 509

(g) Fatherhood programs recommended by the Ohio commission 510  
on fatherhood under section 5101.85 of the Revised Code; 511

(h) A component of a Title IV-A program identified under 512  
divisions (A) (4) (a) to ~~(f)~~ (g) of this section that the Title 513  
IV-A state plan prepared under division (C) (1) of this section 514  
identifies as a component. 515

(B) The department of job and family services shall act as 516  
the single state agency to administer and supervise the 517  
administration of Title IV-A programs. The Title IV-A state plan 518  
and amendments to the plan prepared under division (C) of this 519  
section are binding on Title IV-A administrative agencies. No 520  
Title IV-A administrative agency may establish, by rule or 521  
otherwise, a policy governing a Title IV-A program that is 522  
inconsistent with a Title IV-A program policy established, in 523  
rule or otherwise, by the director of job and family services. 524

(C) The department of job and family services shall do all 525  
of the following: 526

(1) Prepare and submit to the United States secretary of 527  
health and human services a Title IV-A state plan for Title IV-A 528  
programs; 529

- (2) Prepare and submit to the United States secretary of health and human services amendments to the Title IV-A state plan that the department determines necessary, including amendments necessary to implement Title IV-A programs identified in divisions (A) (4) (c) to ~~(g)~~ (h) of this section;
- (3) Prescribe forms for applications, certificates, reports, records, and accounts of Title IV-A administrative agencies, and other matters related to Title IV-A programs;
- (4) Make such reports, in such form and containing such information as the department may find necessary to assure the correctness and verification of such reports, regarding Title IV-A programs;
- (5) Require reports and information from each Title IV-A administrative agency as may be necessary or advisable regarding a Title IV-A program;
- (6) Afford a fair hearing in accordance with section 5101.35 of the Revised Code to any applicant for, or participant or former participant of, a Title IV-A program aggrieved by a decision regarding the program;
- (7) Administer and expend, pursuant to Chapters 5104., 5107., and 5108. of the Revised Code and sections 5101.801, 5101.802, 5101.803, and 5101.804 of the Revised Code, any sums appropriated by the general assembly for the purpose of those chapters and sections and all sums paid to the state by the secretary of the treasury of the United States as authorized by Title IV-A of the "Social Security Act," 110 Stat. 2113 (1996), 42 U.S.C. 601, as amended;
- (8) Conduct investigations and audits as are necessary regarding Title IV-A programs;

(9) Enter into reciprocal agreements with other states	559
relative to the provision of Ohio works first and prevention,	560
retention, and contingency to residents and nonresidents;	561
(10) Contract with a private entity to conduct an	562
independent on-going evaluation of the Ohio works first program	563
and the prevention, retention, and contingency program. The	564
contract must require the private entity to do all of the	565
following:	566
(a) Examine issues of process, practice, impact, and	567
outcomes;	568
(b) Study former participants of Ohio works first who have	569
not participated in Ohio works first for at least one year to	570
determine whether they are employed, the type of employment in	571
which they are engaged, the amount of compensation they are	572
receiving, whether their employer provides health insurance,	573
whether and how often they have received benefits or services	574
under the prevention, retention, and contingency program, and	575
whether they are successfully self sufficient;	576
(c) Provide the department with reports at times the	577
department specifies.	578
(11) Not later than the last day of each January and July,	579
prepare a report containing information on the following:	580
(a) Individuals exhausting the time limits for	581
participation in Ohio works first set forth in section 5107.18	582
of the Revised Code.	583
(b) Individuals who have been exempted from the time	584
limits set forth in section 5107.18 of the Revised Code and the	585
reasons for the exemption.	586

(D) The department shall provide copies of the reports it 587  
receives under division (C) (10) of this section and prepares 588  
under division (C) (11) of this section to the governor, the 589  
president and minority leader of the senate, and the speaker and 590  
minority leader of the house of representatives. The department 591  
shall provide copies of the reports to any private or government 592  
entity on request. 593

(E) An authorized representative of the department or a 594  
county family services agency or state agency administering a 595  
Title IV-A program shall have access to all records and 596  
information bearing thereon for the purposes of investigations 597  
conducted pursuant to this section. An authorized representative 598  
of a government entity or private, not-for-profit entity 599  
administering a project funded in whole or in part with funds 600  
provided under the Title IV-A demonstration program shall have 601  
access to all records and information bearing on the project for 602  
the purpose of investigations conducted pursuant to this 603  
section. 604

**Sec. 5101.801.** (A) Except as otherwise provided by the law 605  
enacted by the general assembly or executive order issued by the 606  
governor establishing the Title IV-A program, a Title IV-A 607  
program identified under division (A) (4) (c), (d), (e), (f), ~~or~~ 608  
(g), or (h) of section 5101.80 of the Revised Code shall provide 609  
benefits and services that are not "assistance" as defined in 45 610  
C.F.R. 260.31(a) and are benefits and services that 45 C.F.R. 611  
260.31(b) excludes from the definition of assistance. 612

(B) (1) Except as otherwise provided by the law enacted by 613  
the general assembly or executive order issued by the governor 614  
establishing the Title IV-A program, the department of job and 615  
family services shall do either of the following regarding a 616

Title IV-A program identified under division (A) (4) (c), (d), 617  
(e), (f), ~~or~~ (g), or (h) of section 5101.80 of the Revised Code: 618

(a) Administer the program or supervise a county family 619  
services agency's administration of the program; 620

(b) Enter into an interagency agreement with a state 621  
agency for the state agency to administer the program under the 622  
department's supervision. 623

(2) The department may enter into an agreement with a 624  
government entity and, to the extent permitted by federal law, a 625  
private, not-for-profit entity for the entity to receive funding 626  
for a project under the Title IV-A demonstration program created 627  
under section 5101.803 of the Revised Code. 628

(3) To the extent permitted by federal law, the department 629  
may enter into an agreement with a private, not-for-profit 630  
entity for the entity to receive funds under the Ohio parenting 631  
and pregnancy program created under section 5101.804 of the 632  
Revised Code. 633

(4) To the extent permitted by federal law, the department 634  
may enter into an agreement with a private, not-for-profit 635  
entity for the entity to receive funds as recommended by the 636  
Ohio commission on fatherhood under section 5101.805 of the 637  
Revised Code. 638

(C) The department may adopt rules governing Title IV-A 639  
programs identified under divisions (A) (4) (c), (d), (e), (f), 640  
~~and~~ (g), and (h) of section 5101.80 of the Revised Code. Rules 641  
governing financial and operational matters of the department or 642  
between the department and county family services agencies shall 643  
be adopted as internal management rules adopted in accordance 644  
with section 111.15 of the Revised Code. All other rules shall 645

be adopted in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code. 646

(D) If the department enters into an agreement regarding a 647  
Title IV-A program identified under division (A) (4) (c), (e), 648  
(f), ~~or~~ (g), or (h) of section 5101.80 of the Revised Code 649  
pursuant to division (B) (1) (b) or (2) of this section, the 650  
agreement shall include at least all of the following: 651

(1) A requirement that the state agency or entity comply 652  
with the requirements for the program or project, including all 653  
of the following requirements established by federal statutes 654  
and regulations, state statutes and rules, the United States 655  
office of management and budget, and the Title IV-A state plan 656  
prepared under section 5101.80 of the Revised Code: 657

(a) Eligibility; 658

(b) Reports; 659

(c) Benefits and services; 660

(d) Use of funds; 661

(e) Appeals for applicants for, and recipients and former 662  
recipients of, the benefits and services; 663

(f) Audits. 664

(2) A complete description of all of the following: 665

(a) The benefits and services that the program or project 666  
is to provide; 667

(b) The methods of program or project administration; 668

(c) The appeals process under section 5101.35 of the 669  
Revised Code for applicants for, and recipients and former 670  
recipients of, the program or project's benefits and services; 671



(d) Other requirements that the department requires be included. 672  
673

(3) Procedures for the department to approve a policy, established by rule or otherwise, that the state agency or entity establishes for the program or project before the policy is established; 674  
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(4) Provisions regarding how the department is to reimburse the state agency or entity for allowable expenditures under the program or project that the department approves, including all of the following: 678  
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681

(a) Limitations on administrative costs; 682

(b) The department, at its discretion, doing either of the following: 683  
684

(i) Withholding no more than five per cent of the funds that the department would otherwise provide to the state agency or entity for the program or project; 685  
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(ii) Charging the state agency or entity for the costs to the department of performing, or contracting for the performance of, audits and other administrative functions associated with the program or project. 688  
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(5) If the state agency or entity arranges by contract, grant, or other agreement for another entity to perform a function the state agency or entity would otherwise perform regarding the program or project, the state agency or entity's responsibilities for both of the following: 692  
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(a) Ensuring that the other entity complies with the agreement between the state agency or entity and department and federal statutes and regulations and state statutes and rules 697  
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governing the use of funds for the program or project; 700

(b) Auditing the other entity in accordance with 701  
requirements established by the United States office of 702  
management and budget. 703

(6) The state agency or entity's responsibilities 704  
regarding the prompt payment, including any interest assessed, 705  
of any adverse audit finding, final disallowance of federal 706  
funds, or other sanction or penalty imposed by the federal 707  
government, auditor of state, department, a court, or other 708  
entity regarding funds for the program or project; 709

(7) Provisions for the department to terminate the 710  
agreement or withhold reimbursement from the state agency or 711  
entity if either of the following occur: 712

(a) The federal government disapproves the program or 713  
project or reduces federal funds for the program or project; 714

(b) The state agency or entity fails to comply with the 715  
terms of the agreement. 716

(8) Provisions for both of the following: 717

(a) The department and state agency or entity determining 718  
the performance outcomes expected for the program or project; 719

(b) An evaluation of the program or project to determine 720  
its success in achieving the performance outcomes determined 721  
under division (D) (8) (a) of this section. 722

(E) To the extent consistent with the law enacted by the 723  
general assembly or executive order issued by the governor 724  
establishing the Title IV-A program and subject to the approval 725  
of the director of budget and management, the director of job 726  
and family services may terminate a Title IV-A program 727

identified under division (A) (4) (c), (d), (e), (f), ~~or~~ (g), or 728  
(h) of section 5101.80 of the Revised Code or reduce funding for 729  
the program if the director of job and family services 730  
determines that federal or state funds are insufficient to fund 731  
the program. If the director of budget and management approves 732  
the termination or reduction in funding for such a program, the 733  
director of job and family services shall issue instructions for 734  
the termination or funding reduction. If a Title IV-A 735  
administrative agency is administering the program, the agency 736  
is bound by the termination or funding reduction and shall 737  
comply with the director's instructions. 738

(F) The director of job and family services may adopt 739  
internal management rules in accordance with section 111.15 of 740  
the Revised Code as necessary to implement this section. The 741  
rules are binding on each Title IV-A administrative agency. 742

Sec. 5101.805. (A) Subject to division (E) of section 743  
5101.801 of the Revised Code, the Ohio commission on fatherhood, 744  
created under section 5101.34 of the Revised Code, may make 745  
recommendations to the director of job and family services 746  
concerning the funding, approval, and implementation of 747  
fatherhood programs in this state that meet at least one of the 748  
four purposes of the temporary assistance for needy families 749  
block grant, as specified in 42 U.S.C. 601. 750

(B) The department of job and family services may provide 751  
funding under this section to government entities and, to the 752  
extent permitted by federal law, private, not-for-profit 753  
entities with which the department enters into agreements under 754  
division (B) (4) of section 5101.801 of the Revised Code. 755

Sec. 5101.91. To increase participation in the "Positive 756  
Parenting Program," also known as "Triple P," the department of 757

job and family services shall develop strategies for state 758  
departments, agencies, and boards to use in informing parents, 759  
caregivers, and child care providers about the program and in 760  
promoting its benefits, including the program's parenting, 761  
caregiving, and educational resources. In developing the 762  
foregoing strategies, the department of job and family services 763  
shall collaborate with other state departments. 764

**Sec. 5104.291.** (A) This section establishes standards and 765  
conditions for rating the following early learning and 766  
development programs in the step up to quality program: 767

(1) A licensed child day-care center operating a head 768  
start or early head start program; 769

(2) A licensed type A or type B family day-care home under 770  
contract to provide head start or early head start services. 771

(B) (1) On a periodic basis, the department of job and 772  
family services shall do both of the following: 773

(a) Review head start program performance standards 774  
described in 45 C.F.R. Part 1302 and determine which step up to 775  
quality program ratings tier corresponds with minimum head start 776  
program performance standards; 777

(b) Review accreditation standards for the national 778  
association for the education of young children, or its 779  
successor organization, and determine which step up to quality 780  
program ratings tier corresponds with minimum accreditation 781  
standards. 782

(2) The department shall rate each program described in 783  
division (A) (1) or (2) of this section in the step up to quality 784  
program ratings tier that the department has determined 785  
corresponds with the minimum standards. 786

(C) The department shall prescribe the manner in which a 787  
program is to demonstrate to the department satisfaction of the 788  
requirements of this section. 789

**Sec. 5120.658.** (A) As used in this section, "doula" has 790  
the same meaning as in section 4723.89 of the Revised Code. 791

(B) Beginning one year after the effective date of this 792  
section, the department of rehabilitation and correction shall 793  
operate a program to provide to inmates participating in any 794  
prison nursery program established under section 5120.65 of the 795  
Revised Code doula services that are provided by a doula 796  
certified under section 4723.89 of the Revised Code. 797

(C) The department may adopt rules in accordance with 798  
Chapter 119. of the Revised Code to implement this section. 799

**Sec. 5123.0421.** The director of developmental disabilities 800  
shall adopt rules in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised 801  
Code that are necessary to implement the state's part C early 802  
intervention services program, including rules that specify all 803  
of the following: 804

(A) Eligibility requirements to receive program services, 805  
including standards that deem an infant born before thirty-eight 806  
weeks of gestational age eligible for program services, without 807  
any other required conditions; 808

(B) Eligibility requirements to be a program service 809  
provider; 810

(C) Operating standards and procedures for program service 811  
providers, including standards and procedures governing data 812  
collection, program monitoring, and program evaluation; 813

(D) Procedures to appeal the denial of an application to 814

receive program services or the termination of program services;	815
(E) Procedures to appeal a decision by the department of developmental disabilities to deny an application to be a program service provider or to terminate a provider's status;	816 817 818
(F) Procedures for addressing complaints by persons who receive program services;	819 820
(G) Criteria for the payment of program service providers;	821
(H) The metrics or indicators used to measure program service provider performance.	822 823
<b>Sec. 5153.16.</b> (A) Except as provided in section 2151.422 of the Revised Code, in accordance with rules adopted under section 5153.166 of the Revised Code, and on behalf of children in the county whom the public children services agency considers to be in need of public care or protective services, the public children services agency shall do all of the following:	824 825 826 827 828 829
(1) Make an investigation concerning any child alleged to be an abused, neglected, or dependent child;	830 831
(2) Enter into agreements with the parent, guardian, or other person having legal custody of any child, or with the department of job and family services, department of mental health and addiction services, department of developmental disabilities, other department, any certified organization within or outside the county, or any agency or institution outside the state, having legal custody of any child, with respect to the custody, care, or placement of any child, or with respect to any matter, in the interests of the child, provided the permanent custody of a child shall not be transferred by a parent to the public children services agency without the consent of the juvenile court;	832 833 834 835 836 837 838 839 840 841 842 843

- (3) Accept custody of children committed to the public children services agency by a court exercising juvenile jurisdiction; 844  
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- (4) Provide such care as the public children services agency considers to be in the best interests of any child adjudicated to be an abused, neglected, or dependent child the agency finds to be in need of public care or service; 847  
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- (5) Provide social services to any unmarried girl adjudicated to be an abused, neglected, or dependent child who is pregnant with or has been delivered of a child; 851  
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- (6) Make available to the children with medical handicaps program of the department of health at its request any information concerning a child with a disability found to be in need of treatment under sections 3701.021 to 3701.028 of the Revised Code who is receiving services from the public children services agency; 854  
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- (7) Provide temporary emergency care for any child considered by the public children services agency to be in need of such care, without agreement or commitment; 860  
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- (8) Find certified foster homes, within or outside the county, for the care of children, including children with disabilities from other counties attending special schools in the county; 863  
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- (9) Subject to the approval of the board of county commissioners and the state department of job and family services, establish and operate a training school or enter into an agreement with any municipal corporation or other political subdivision of the county respecting the operation, acquisition, or maintenance of any children's home, training school, or other 867  
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institution for the care of children maintained by such 873  
municipal corporation or political subdivision; 874

(10) Acquire and operate a county children's home, 875  
establish, maintain, and operate a receiving home for the 876  
temporary care of children, or procure certified foster homes 877  
for this purpose; 878

(11) Enter into an agreement with the trustees of any 879  
district children's home, respecting the operation of the 880  
district children's home in cooperation with the other county 881  
boards in the district; 882

(12) Cooperate with, make its services available to, and 883  
act as the agent of persons, courts, the department of job and 884  
family services, the department of health, and other 885  
organizations within and outside the state, in matters relating 886  
to the welfare of children, except that the public children 887  
services agency shall not be required to provide supervision of 888  
or other services related to the exercise of parenting time 889  
rights granted pursuant to section 3109.051 or 3109.12 of the 890  
Revised Code or companionship or visitation rights granted 891  
pursuant to section 3109.051, 3109.11, or 3109.12 of the Revised 892  
Code unless a juvenile court, pursuant to Chapter 2151. of the 893  
Revised Code, or a common pleas court, pursuant to division (E) 894  
(6) of section 3113.31 of the Revised Code, requires the 895  
provision of supervision or other services related to the 896  
exercise of the parenting time rights or companionship or 897  
visitation rights; 898

(13) Make investigations at the request of any 899  
superintendent of schools in the county or the principal of any 900  
school concerning the application of any child adjudicated to be 901  
an abused, neglected, or dependent child for release from 902



school, where such service is not provided through a school 903  
attendance department; 904

(14) Administer funds provided under Title IV-E of the 905  
"Social Security Act," 94 Stat. 501 (1980), 42 U.S.C.A. 671, as 906  
amended, in accordance with rules adopted under section 5101.141 907  
of the Revised Code; 908

(15) In addition to administering Title IV-E adoption 909  
assistance funds, enter into agreements to make adoption 910  
assistance payments under section 5153.163 of the Revised Code; 911

(16) Implement a system of safety and risk assessment, in 912  
accordance with rules adopted by the director of job and family 913  
services, to assist the public children services agency in 914  
determining the risk of abuse or neglect to a child; 915

(17) Enter into a plan of cooperation with the board of 916  
county commissioners under section 307.983 of the Revised Code 917  
and comply with each fiscal agreement the board enters into 918  
under section 307.98 of the Revised Code that include family 919  
services duties of public children services agencies and 920  
contracts the board enters into under sections 307.981 and 921  
307.982 of the Revised Code that affect the public children 922  
services agency; 923

(18) Make reasonable efforts to prevent the removal of an 924  
alleged or adjudicated abused, neglected, or dependent child 925  
from the child's home, eliminate the continued removal of the 926  
child from the child's home, or make it possible for the child 927  
to return home safely, except that reasonable efforts of that 928  
nature are not required when a court has made a determination 929  
under division (A) (2) of section 2151.419 of the Revised Code; 930

(19) Make reasonable efforts to place the child in a 931

timely manner in accordance with the permanency plan approved 932  
under division (E) of section 2151.417 of the Revised Code and 933  
to complete whatever steps are necessary to finalize the 934  
permanent placement of the child; 935

(20) Administer a Title IV-A program identified under 936  
division (A) (4) (c) or ~~(g)~~ (h) of section 5101.80 of the Revised 937  
Code that the department of job and family services provides for 938  
the public children services agency to administer under the 939  
department's supervision pursuant to section 5101.801 of the 940  
Revised Code; 941

(21) Administer the kinship permanency incentive program 942  
created under section 5101.802 of the Revised Code under the 943  
supervision of the director of job and family services; 944

(22) Provide independent living services pursuant to 945  
sections 2151.81 to 2151.84 of the Revised Code; 946

(23) File a missing child report with a local law 947  
enforcement agency upon becoming aware that a child in the 948  
custody of the public children services agency is or may be 949  
missing. 950

(B) The public children services agency shall use the 951  
system implemented pursuant to division (A) (16) of this section 952  
in connection with an investigation undertaken pursuant to 953  
division (G) (1) of section 2151.421 of the Revised Code to 954  
assess both of the following: 955

(1) The ongoing safety of the child; 956

(2) The appropriateness of the intensity and duration of 957  
the services provided to meet child and family needs throughout 958  
the duration of a case. 959

(C) Except as provided in section 2151.422 of the Revised Code, in accordance with rules of the director of job and family services, and on behalf of children in the county whom the public children services agency considers to be in need of public care or protective services, the public children services agency may do the following:

(1) Provide or find, with other child serving systems, specialized foster care for the care of children in a specialized foster home, as defined in section 5103.02 of the Revised Code, certified under section 5103.03 of the Revised Code;

(2) (a) Except as limited by divisions (C) (2) (b) and (c) of this section, contract with the following for the purpose of assisting the agency with its duties:

(i) County departments of job and family services;

(ii) Boards of alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services;

(iii) County boards of developmental disabilities;

(iv) Regional councils of political subdivisions established under Chapter 167. of the Revised Code;

(v) Private and government providers of services;

(vi) Managed care organizations and prepaid health plans.

(b) A public children services agency contract under division (C) (2) (a) of this section regarding the agency's duties under section 2151.421 of the Revised Code may not provide for the entity under contract with the agency to perform any service not authorized by the department's rules.

(c) Only a county children services board appointed under 987  
section 5153.03 of the Revised Code that is a public children 988  
services agency may contract under division (C)(2)(a) of this 989  
section. If an entity specified in division (B) or (C) of 990  
section 5153.02 of the Revised Code is the public children 991  
services agency for a county, the board of county commissioners 992  
may enter into contracts pursuant to section 307.982 of the 993  
Revised Code regarding the agency's duties. 994

Sec. 5162.137. Annually, the department of medicaid shall 995  
conduct a cost savings study of the medicaid program and prepare 996  
a report based on that study recommending measures to reduce 997  
costs under that program. The department shall submit its report 998  
to the governor. 999

Sec. 5164.071. (A) As used in this section, "doula" has 1000  
the same meaning as in section 4723.89 of the Revised Code. 1001

(B) Beginning one year after the effective date of this 1002  
section, the medicaid program shall operate a program to cover 1003  
doula services that are provided by a doula if the doula has a 1004  
valid provider agreement and is certified under section 4723.89 1005  
of the Revised Code. Medicaid payments for doula services shall 1006  
be determined on the basis of each pregnancy, regardless of 1007  
whether multiple births occur as a result of that pregnancy. 1008

(C) Outcome measurements and incentives for the program 1009  
shall be consistent with this state's medicare-medicaid plan 1010  
quality withhold methodology and benchmarks. The medicaid 1011  
director shall complete an annual report regarding the program 1012  
outcomes, including related to maternal health and morbidity and 1013  
an estimated fiscal impact. The director shall provide a copy of 1014  
the annual report to the joint medicaid oversight committee. 1015

(D) The medicaid director shall adopt rules under section 5164.02 of the Revised Code to implement this section. 1016  
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**Sec. 5166.45.** (A) As used in this section, "medical assistance program" and "refugee medical assistance program" have the same meanings as in section 5160.01 of the Revised Code. 1018  
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(B) The medicaid director shall establish a medicaid waiver component to provide continuous medicaid enrollment for children from birth through three years of age. A child who is determined eligible for medical assistance under Title XIX of the "Social Security Act" or child health assistance under Title XXI of the "Social Security Act" shall remain eligible for those benefits until the earlier of: 1022  
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(1) The end of a period, not to exceed forty-eight months, following the determination; 1029  
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(2) The date when the individual exceeds four years of age. 1031  
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(C) The waiver component described in division (B) of this section does not apply to a child who is eligible for a medical assistance program on the basis of being any of the following: 1033  
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(1) Deemed presumptively eligible for medicaid pursuant to section 5163.101 of the Revised Code; 1036  
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(2) Eligible for alien emergency medical assistance, as specified in section 1903(v) (2) of the "Social Security Act," 42 U.S.C. 1396b(v) (2); 1038  
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(3) Eligible for the refugee medical assistance program administered pursuant to section 5160.50 of the Revised Code. 1041  
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**Section 2.** That existing sections 3125.18, 3701.61, 1043

5101.342, 5101.35, 5101.80, 5101.801, 5123.0421, and 5153.16 of 1044  
the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 1045

**Section 3.** (A) As used in this section: 1046

(1) "WIC" means the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program 1047  
for Women, Infants, and Children established under the "Child 1048  
Nutrition Act of 1966," 42 U.S.C. 1786. 1049

(2) "SNAP" means the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance 1050  
Program administered by the Department of Job and Family 1051  
Services under section 5101.54 of the Revised Code in accordance 1052  
with the "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," 7 U.S.C. 2011. 1053

(B) The Department of Health shall evaluate and invest in 1054  
strategies to create an integrated eligibility determination 1055  
application for both WIC and SNAP. The Department of Health 1056  
shall collaborate with the Department of Job and Family Services 1057  
as necessary to create this application. 1058

(C) The Department of Health shall investigate and 1059  
determine the feasibility of the following: 1060

(1) Incorporating all available federal waivers, including 1061  
a waiver permitting the use of telephone and video calls to 1062  
complete WIC enrollment; 1063

(2) Creating pilot opportunities and modifying the WIC 1064  
internet web site to simplify the application process and 1065  
benefit distribution for WIC, including by: 1066

(a) Pursuing multi-program enrollment through Ohio 1067  
Benefits; 1068

(b) Allowing for adjunctive eligibility for WIC applicants 1069  
who show proof of enrollment in SNAP, Ohio Works First, or 1070  
Medicaid; 1071

(c) Enabling automatic online loading of benefits to WIC nutrition cards;	1072 1073
(d) Offering online shopping with WIC nutrition cards;(e) Exploring other ways to improve access to WIC benefits and remove administrative burdens.	1074 1075 1076
(D) Six months after the effective date of this section, the Department of Health shall submit a report to the General Assembly in accordance with section 101.68 of the Revised Code. The report shall detail the results of the investigation required by division (C) of this section, including the feasibility of implementing the various changes to the WIC program and the anticipated impact of permanently adopting the changes.	1077 1078 1079 1080 1081 1082 1083 1084
<b>Section 4.</b> The Department of Health shall create an Ohio-tailored, membership-based mobile application available to pregnant and postpartum women who are eligible for Medicaid. The Department of Health, in collaboration with the Department of Medicaid, shall issue a request for proposals to onboard the mobile application platform described in this section. The request for proposals shall include the following deliverables:	1085 1086 1087 1088 1089 1090 1091
(A) The selected vendor will deliver education, resources, and support to pregnant women and their families.	1092 1093
(B) The selected vendor will provide Ohio-specific information on its mobile application, including links to the Department of Medicaid and other state agency programs and resources available to pregnant and postpartum women.	1094 1095 1096 1097
(C) The selected vendor will demonstrate a consistent workflow to increase awareness of state agency programs and resources available to users of the mobile application.	1098 1099 1100

(D) The selected vendor will enable the Department of Medicaid and other state agencies to ask specific questions to users of the mobile application. 1101  
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(E) The selected vendor will enable the Department of Medicaid to share specific content and resources, as determined by the Department, with users of the mobile application. 1104  
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(F) The selected vendor will include information and resources in the mobile application that meet acceptable United States clinical standards, including standards defined by all of the following: 1107  
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(1) The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 1111  
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(2) The United States National Institutes of Health; 1113

(3) The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; 1114  
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(4) The American Medical Association; 1116

(5) The American Academy of Pediatrics. 1117

(G) The selected vendor will make its mobile application available in multiple languages to provide access to as many users in the state as possible. 1118  
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(H) The selected vendor will regularly provide the Department of Health and the Department of Medicaid with aggregate, deidentified data concerning the following: 1121  
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(1) The number of users of the mobile application that are eligible for Medicaid; 1124  
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(2) The number of users of the mobile application that are engaging with Ohio-specific content; 1126  
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(3) The number of users of the mobile application seeking additional information about enrollment in the Medicaid program or other available resources; 1128  
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(4) The number of monthly users of the mobile application; 1131

(5) The number of daily users of the mobile application; 1132

(6) The average length of time a user uses the mobile application; 1133  
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(7) Any other information requested by the Department of Health and Department of Medicaid. 1135  
1136

(I) The selected vendor will make its mobile application accessible on both iOS and Android platforms. 1137  
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(J) Any other deliverables determined by the Department of Health and Department of Medicaid. 1139  
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**Section 5.** The Department of Health shall establish a program to award grants to legal assistance organizations and medical providers that partner together to identify pregnant women, mothers, and children in need of legal services and to provide them with those services. The program's aim is to resolve, through the legal system, negative social determinants of health, such as unsafe housing, food or income insecurity, domestic violence, and child custody disputes, in an effort to increase participation in prenatal care and improve health outcomes for pregnant women, mothers, and children. 1141  
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In awarding grants, the Department shall prioritize partnerships that demonstrate to the Department their ability to coordinate with case management and home visitation services. As a condition of receiving a grant, each legal assistance organization and medical provider partnership shall monitor 1151  
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health outcomes for the pregnant women, mothers, and children 1156  
receiving legal services under the partnership and shall report 1157  
on a regular basis those outcomes to the Department. 1158

**Section 6.** The Department of Medicaid shall study how 1159  
evidence-based peer-to-peer programming that supports infant 1160  
vitality can be reimbursed through the Medicaid program. 1161

**Section 7.** (A) The Department of Job and Family Services 1162  
shall establish a pilot program to assist in the development of 1163  
quality, comprehensive child care programs like Early Head Start 1164  
across the state. The program shall focus on communities, 1165  
including Appalachian, rural, and urban communities, 1166  
experiencing both of the following: 1167

(1) High rates of infant mortality; 1168

(2) Limited access to child care for infants, toddlers, 1169  
and families all at risk of being part of, or engaged in, the 1170  
child welfare system. 1171

(B) Under the pilot program, the Department shall award 1172  
resiliency grants to entities or organizations seeking to 1173  
establish new, or enhance existing, center-based, home-based, 1174  
and child care partnership programs for the communities, 1175  
children, and families described in division (A) of this 1176  
section. To be eligible, an entity or organization shall 1177  
demonstrate that the entity or organization is able to offer 1178  
wraparound services, mental health supports, and therapeutic 1179  
classrooms to assist in overcoming barriers and achieving family 1180  
stability. 1181

(C) In meeting the requirements of this section, the 1182  
Department shall do the following: 1183

(1) Consider how to best encourage innovative partnerships 1184

and develop models to improve developmental and learning 1185  
outcomes, with a focus on prenatal to age three, also while 1186  
helping to meet local community workforce needs and further 1187  
state literacy and education priorities; 1188

(2) Assist the programs described in division (B) of this 1189  
section, including local Head Start programs, in collecting data 1190  
that will better enable the programs to apply for federal grants 1191  
and maintain funding over the course of grant cycles. 1192

**Section 8.** The Medicaid Director shall evaluate, clarify, 1193  
and update the Medicaid program's coverage of evidence-based and 1194  
evidence-informed mental health and dyadic family therapy 1195  
services for children and their caregivers, which are intended 1196  
to improve outcomes for children from birth through five years 1197  
of age. The Director's evaluation, clarification, and update to 1198  
coverage shall address mental health and related screening for 1199  
infants, toddlers, young children, pregnant women, women 1200  
postpartum, and mothers and other caregivers, and shall include 1201  
follow-up for those with identified risk, for parent-child 1202  
dyadic therapies, and other infant and early child mental health 1203  
services. 1204

The Director shall develop policy and billing guidance for 1205  
Medicaid providers to do all of the following: 1206

(A) Improve the use of mental health and dyadic family 1207  
therapy services for children from birth through age five and 1208  
their families and other caregivers; 1209

(B) Improve the consistency of early childhood screenings 1210  
delivered in primary care settings; 1211

(C) Encourage use of the Diagnostic Classification of 1212  
Mental Health and Developmental Disorders of Infancy and Early 1213

Childhood published by ZERO TO THREE and known as the "DC:0-5" 1214  
for assessing and diagnosing infants, toddlers, and young 1215  
children, and permit use of ICD-10 diagnosis codes, published by 1216  
the United States Department of Health and Human Services, for 1217  
Medicaid billing. 1218

**Section 9.** All items in this act are hereby appropriated 1219  
as designated out of any moneys in the state treasury to the 1220  
credit of the designated fund. For all operating appropriations 1221  
made in this act, those in the first column are for fiscal year 1222  
2024 and those in the second column are for fiscal year 2025. 1223  
The operating appropriations made in this act are in addition to 1224  
any other operating appropriations made for these fiscal years. 1225

**Section 10.** 1226

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	1	2	3	4	5
A	DEV DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT				
B	General Revenue Fund				
C	GRF	195419	Healthy Beginnings at Home	\$16,000,000	\$1,000,000
D	TOTAL GRF General Revenue Fund			\$16,000,000	\$1,000,000
E	TOTAL ALL BUDGET FUND GROUPS			\$16,000,000	\$1,000,000

HEALTHY BEGINNINGS AT HOME 1228

Of the foregoing appropriation item 195419, Healthy 1229  
Beginnings at Home, up to \$15,000,000 in fiscal year 2024 shall 1230

be used, in coordination with the Department of Health, to 1231  
support stable housing initiatives for pregnant mothers and to 1232  
improve maternal and infant health outcomes. 1233

Of the foregoing appropriation item 195419, Healthy 1234  
Beginnings at Home, up to \$1,000,000 in each fiscal year shall 1235  
be used for Move to Prosper efforts. 1236

**Section 11.** 1237

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1	2	3	4	5
A	DDD DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES			
B	General Revenue Fund			
C	GRF 322421	Part C Early Intervention	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
D	TOTAL GRF General Revenue Fund		\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
E	TOTAL ALL BUDGET FUND GROUPS		\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000

PART C EARLY INTERVENTION 1239

The foregoing appropriation item 322421, Part C Early 1240  
Intervention, shall be used by the Department of Developmental 1241  
Disabilities to provide Part C Early Intervention services to 1242  
infants born before thirty-eight weeks of gestational age in 1243  
accordance with section 5123.0421 of the Revised Code. 1244

**Section 12.** 1245

1246

	1	2	3	4	5
A			DOH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH		
B			General Revenue Fund		
C	GRF	440416	Mothers and Children Safety Net Services	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
D	GRF	440459	Help Me Grow	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
E	GRF	440474	Infant Vitality	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000
F	GRF	440484	Public Health Technology Innovation	\$525,000	\$525,000
G	GRF	440485	Health Program Support	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
H			TOTAL GRF General Revenue Fund	\$10,525,000	\$10,525,000
I			TOTAL ALL BUDGET FUND GROUPS	\$10,525,000	\$10,525,000

MOTHERS AND CHILDREN SAFETY NET SERVICES 1247

The foregoing appropriation item 440416, Mothers and 1248  
Children Safety Net Services, shall be used for the activities 1249  
specified in Section 3 of this act. 1250

HELP ME GROW 1251

The foregoing appropriation item 440459, Help Me Grow, 1252  
shall be used by the Director of Health to support the 1253  
following: 1254

(A) Establishing a comprehensive screening and connection 1255  
program as described in division (D) of section 3701.61 of the 1256  
Revised Code and evaluating Help Me Grow's effectiveness in 1257

coordinating services;	1258
(B) Expanding eligible providers of home visiting services	1259
and allowing providers of home visiting services to supplement	1260
their services with those available online or through other	1261
electronic means as specified in division (H) of section 3701.61	1262
of the Revised Code;	1263
(C) Evaluating the Help Me Grow Program in accordance with	1264
division (I) of section 3701.61 of the Revised Code;	1265
(D) Increasing the workforce capacity of home visiting	1266
service providers and parenting support professionals as	1267
specified in division (J) of section 3701.61 of the Revised	1268
Code;	1269
(E) Increasing participation in the Triple P Program in	1270
accordance with section 5101.91 of the Revised Code and in	1271
consultation with the Department of Job and Family Services;	1272
(F) Expanding access to fatherhood programming through the	1273
Ohio Fatherhood Commission in consultation with the Department	1274
of Job and Family Services.	1275
INFANT VITALITY	1276
Of the foregoing appropriation item 440474, Infant	1277
Vitality, \$3,000,000 in each fiscal year shall be used for	1278
Centering Pregnancy services in areas of the state where there	1279
are gaps in such services, as identified by the Director of	1280
Health. Funding shall be targeted first to areas with the	1281
highest levels of infant and maternal mortality.	1282
Of the foregoing appropriation item 440474, Infant	1283
Vitality, \$1,000,000 in each fiscal year shall be used to	1284
establish a community-based grant program to expand access to	1285

infant vitality supports.	1286
PUBLIC HEALTH TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION	1287
The foregoing appropriation item 440484, Public Health	1288
Technology Innovation, shall be used for a mobile application	1289
for Medicaid-eligible pregnant and postpartum women in	1290
accordance with Section 4 of this act.	1291
HEALTH PROGRAM SUPPORT	1292
The foregoing appropriation item 440485, Health Program	1293
Support, shall be used to award grants to legal assistance	1294
organizations and medical providers that partner together to	1295
identify pregnant women, mothers, and children in need of legal	1296
services in accordance with Section 5 of this act.	1297
<b>Section 13.</b>	1298
	1299

	1	2	3	4	5
A	JFS DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES				
B	General Revenue Fund				
C	GRF	600566	Resiliency Grant Pilot Program	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
D	GRF	600551	Job and Family Services Program Support	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
E	TOTAL GRF General Revenue Fund			\$4,500,000	\$4,500,000
F	TOTAL ALL BUDGET FUND GROUPS			\$4,500,000	\$4,500,000



RESILIENCY GRANT PILOT PROGRAM	1300				
The foregoing appropriation item 600566, Resiliency Grant	1301				
Pilot Program, shall be used to fund the pilot program in	1302				
accordance with Section 7 of this act.	1303				
JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES PROGRAM SUPPORT	1304				
The foregoing appropriation item 600551, Job and Family	1305				
Services Program Support, shall be used to award competitive	1306				
community grants to fund both public and private transportation	1307				
services for pregnant women and women with infants to access	1308				
health care, nutrition, and housing services through innovative	1309				
and evidence-based solutions.	1310				
<b>Section 14.</b>	1311				
	1312				
1	2	3	4	5	
A	MHA DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES				
B	General Revenue Fund				
C	GRF	336511	Early Childhood Mental	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000
			Health Counselors and		
			Consultation		
D	TOTAL GRF General Revenue Fund		\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	
E	TOTAL ALL BUDGET FUND GROUPS		\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	
	EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS AND CONSULTATION				
	The foregoing appropriation item 336511, Early Childhood				

Mental Health Counselors and Consultation, shall be used to 1315  
support early childhood mental health consulting, coaching, and 1316  
training in behavior management, and mental health supports for 1317  
child care assistant teachers and lead teachers to address needs 1318  
of young children, in conjunction with their parents. Funds 1319  
shall also be used for the development of online and other 1320  
training tools, service and referral supports, and to evaluate 1321  
program impact with a child care professional cohort. 1322

**Section 15.** Within the limits set forth in this act, the 1323  
Director of Budget and Management shall establish accounts 1324  
indicating the source and amount of funds for each appropriation 1325  
made in this act, and shall determine the manner in which 1326  
appropriation accounts shall be maintained. Expenditures from 1327  
operating appropriations contained in this act shall be 1328  
accounted for as though made in, and are subject to all 1329  
applicable provisions of, the main operating appropriations act 1330  
of the 135th General Assembly. 1331

**Section 16.** This act shall be known as the Strong 1332  
Foundations Act. 1333