

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DCF 8/3/2009

LRB Number	09-1912/2	Introduction Number	SB-211	Estimate Type	Original
Description Child abuse and neglect prevention grants					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Under current law, the Department distributes \$995,700 GPR annually to provide child abuse and neglect prevention grants to up to eleven counties and tribes. These Family Foundation grants are provided for the purpose of funding home visiting services to first-time birth parents and their child and, in certain situations, to parents and their children when the parents are not first-time parents.

The bill does not change the amount of GPR available for the program. However, the bill does make a number of changes to the child abuse and neglect prevention grants program, including: allowing a private agencies to participate in the program, removing restrictions on the number and types of counties and tribes that can receive grants; and removing restrictions on Milwaukee's eligibility and use of funds. These provisions may increase the number of applicants and thus impact the number and amount of grants provided to recipients at the local level. The bill also requires grantees to provide 25% of their grant award as cash or in-kind services . This may reduce the number of applicants who may otherwise have applied. While it is assumed that many of the current grantees provide additional money and in-kind services to augment the state grant, the Department cannot estimate what local impact this provision will have on counties receiving grants. For local programs receiving a Family Foundations grant, the bill allows continuation of services for certain families; requires applicants for a grant to provide information on how their home visitation program incorporates national standards and elements; requires county support of applications by a private agency; and requires home visitation programs to collect and report data and develop an evaluation plan. As a result of all of these changes, until the number and location of applicants is known, the impact on individual counties cannot be determined.

Finally, the bill requires the department to evaluate the availability of home visitation programs in the state, determine whether there are gaps in home visitation services in the state, cooperate with agencies providing home visitation services to address any gaps identified, work with the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board to provide training to participating agencies; and specifies that the training provided not be limited to a particular home visitation model, but contain specific elements of a home visitation program. Depending on the number of agencies funded, it is anticipated that these new requirements can be incorporated into existing training program funded with base resources.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

None