

Introduced by

Senators Heckaman, Marcellais, Mathern

Representatives Delmore, Kilichowski, Metcalf

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 50-11.1 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to the establishment of early childhood services inclusion support  
3 services and a grant program for licensed early childhood services providers who care for  
4 children with special needs; to provide a continuing appropriation; and to provide an  
5 appropriation.

6 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

7 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 50-11.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
8 and enacted as follows:

9 **Early childhood services inclusion support services and grant program.**

10 1. The department shall ~~establish an early childhood services inclusion grant program for~~  
11 ~~licensed early childhood services providers that provide care for children with~~  
12 ~~disabilities or developmental delays. The grant program must be designed to:~~

13 ~~a. Increase the number of staff in the adult to child ratio to expand supervision and~~  
14 ~~the ability to care for children with disabilities or developmental delays; and~~

15 ~~b. Assist in modifying or adapting the early childhood services setting as needed to~~  
16 ~~address the health and safety needs of children with disabilities or developmental~~  
17 ~~delays.~~ fund early childhood services specialists to make available technical

18 assistance to early childhood services providers that care for children with special  
19 needs or developmental delays. The technical assistance program must be  
20 designed to:

21 a. Assist early childhood services providers that request support and information  
22 regarding caring for children with special needs or developmental delays;

23 b. Assist early childhood services providers in adapting the program environment  
24 and care practices to meet the individual child's needs and to build the early

1 childhood services providers' capacity to serve children with special needs or  
2 developmental delays;

3 c. In partnership with the child's parents and health care provider, assist the early  
4 childhood services provider in the development or coordination of care plans for  
5 children with special needs or special health care needs relevant to the care  
6 setting;

7 d. In partnership with the child's parents, foster communication with the team of  
8 specialists serving the child to ensure consistency in therapy practices and  
9 appropriate approaches;

10 e. Provide classroom training to early childhood services providers to assist the  
11 providers in the integration of children with special needs; and

12 f. As requested by the early childhood services providers, conduct one-on-one  
13 training at the provider's business to assist the provider in the integration of  
14 children with special needs.

15 2. The department shall establish a grant review committee to assist in the development  
16 of grant guidelines, the review of applications, and the determination of awards or  
17 denials. The membership of the grant review committee must include representation  
18 from each of the following:

19 a. The department of human services;

20 b. The department of public instruction;

21 c. The North Dakota training and information center;

22 d. North Dakota child care resource and referral; and

23 e. Parents of children with disabilities or at risk for developmental delays.

24 3. To be eligible for the grant program, the early childhood services provider must:

25 a. Be state-licensed;

26 b. Submit a letter from the provider's county social services office confirming the  
27 provider's licensing status;

28 c. Submit a letter from a service provider that provides formal supports to the child  
29 confirming an increased funding need to assist the provider in serving the child  
30 with disabilities; and

- 1           d. Work with the child's family and an inclusion or health specialist to complete a  
2           care plan appropriate for the child care setting.
- 3           4. The department shall give priority consideration to licensed early childhood services  
4           providers that care for children with disabilities.
- 5           5. For purposes of this section, a child with disabilities or who is at risk for developmental  
6           delays includes any child in this state between the ages of birth and twelve years who  
7           receives support through either public or private services and includes a child who is in  
8           the process of being evaluated for public or private formal support. A child who is at  
9           risk for developmental delays includes any child between the ages of birth and twelve  
10          years who received foster care services; who has a previous substantiated history as  
11          a victim of child abuse, neglect, or domestic violence; who is homeless; who has  
12          documented special health care needs; or who has a parent with a significant  
13          disability.
- 14          6. The department may accept gifts, grants, and donations from any source to assist the  
15          department in the establishment and implementation of the early childhood services  
16          inclusion support services and grant program. Any gifts, grants, and donations  
17          received are appropriated to the department on a continuing basis for the purpose of  
18          funding the early childhood services inclusion support services and grant program  
19          under this section.

20           **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.** ~~There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general-~~  
21 ~~fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$600,000, or so much of the-~~  
22 ~~sum as may be necessary, and from special funds derived from federal funds and other income-~~  
23 ~~from the temporary assistance for needy families program, the sum of \$650,000, or so much of~~  
24 ~~the sum as may be necessary, to the department of human services for the purpose of~~  
25 ~~establishing an early childhood services provider inclusion grant program as provided for in-~~  
26 ~~section 1 of this Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2011, and ending June 30, 2013.~~The  
27 funds provided in this section, or so much of the funds as may be necessary, are appropriated  
28 out of any moneys in the lands and minerals trust fund in the state treasury, not otherwise  
29 appropriated, to the department of human services for the purpose of funding the early  
30 childhood services inclusion support services and for establishing an early childhood services

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1 provider inclusion grant program as provided for in section 1 of this Act, for the biennium

2 beginning July 1, 2011, and ending June 30, 2013, as follows:

3 Early childhood services inclusion support \$450,000

4 Early childhood services grant program 300,000

5 Total lands and minerals trust fund appropriation \$750,000