

SENATE, No. 2224

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 17, 1997

By Senator LaROSSA

1 AN ACT establishing the Neighborhood-Based Child Care Incentive
2 Demonstration Program.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

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7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that: the increase in numbers
8 of working parents in New Jersey has led to a serious shortage of child
9 care resources, especially for infants and toddlers of low and middle
10 income, working families; in light of the implementation of welfare
11 reform the need to expand the availability of safe, affordable child care
12 is critical; and the State must promote regulatory flexibility without
13 jeopardizing the quality and safety of child care as it provides
14 incentives to encourage the establishment of innovative community
15 partnerships and the use of volunteer networks in the delivery of
16 neighborhood-based child care services, and to expand the family day
17 care model.

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19 2. The Commissioner of Human Services shall establish a three-
20 year Neighborhood-Based Child Care Incentive Demonstration
21 Program in the Division of Youth and Family Services in the
22 Department of Human Services.

23 The program shall be designed to utilize to the greatest extent
24 possible: neighborhood resources such as religious organizations and
25 schools; volunteer networks of college students, retired teachers,
26 nurses and other persons qualified to participate in the child care
27 program; active, involved parents of children needing child care
28 services; community leaders; and local businesses interested in
29 establishing collaborative partnerships in developing the child care
30 centers.

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32 3. a. The Director of the Division of Youth and Family Services
33 shall adopt regulations for creating the child care centers for the
34 three-year demonstration program in five counties which are
35 representative of all regions of the State. At least two of the child care
36 centers established under the program shall be located in municipalities
37 targeted by the Governor's Urban Coordinating Council for urban

1 revitalization.

2 b. The director shall adopt standards regarding the physical facility,
3 staffing, record keeping and other administrative requirements for the
4 program that promote regulatory flexibility without jeopardizing the
5 quality and safety of child care.

6 c. The director shall review child care center proposals submitted
7 by nonprofit community agencies and religious organizations
8 interested in participating in the program as sponsors, and award
9 grants from the Neighborhood-Based Child Care Incentive
10 Demonstration Fund established pursuant to this act within six months
11 of the effective date of this act to those proposals which best meet the
12 purposes of the Neighborhood-Based Child Care Incentive
13 Demonstration Program.

14 d. Priority consideration for the awarding of grants shall be given
15 to those proposals which: use a partnership approach; leverage in-
16 kind donations, such as physical space and equipment, for the child
17 care centers; leverage monetary contributions; and use a large network
18 of volunteers that have social, educational or professional
19 qualifications that would further the goal of expanding quality child
20 care services.

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22 4. a. The Director of the Division of Youth and Family Services,
23 in consultation with child care advocacy groups, shall actively inform
24 parents, community and religious groups, retired teachers, college
25 students, businesses and business organizations, and other volunteer
26 networks about the demonstration program.

27 b. The director shall establish a training program for volunteers
28 who will provide services under the Neighborhood-Based Child Care
29 Incentive Demonstration Program or refer the volunteers to existing
30 training programs.

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32 5. a. There is established a nonlapsing, revolving Neighborhood-
33 Based Child Care Incentive Demonstration Fund. The fund shall be
34 administered by the Director of the Division of Youth and Family
35 Services, and shall be credited with monies received pursuant to
36 subsection b. of this section and section 6 of this act.

37 The State Treasurer shall be the custodian of the fund and all
38 disbursements from the fund shall be made by the treasurer upon
39 vouchers signed by the director. The monies in the fund shall be
40 invested and reinvested by the Director of the Division of Investment
41 in the Department of the Treasury as are other trust funds in the
42 custody of the State Treasurer in the manner provided by law. Interest
43 received on the monies in the fund shall be credited to the fund.

44 b. For the purpose of providing the moneys necessary to establish
45 and meet the purposes of the fund, fees paid by a licensed child care
46 center at the time of application for a license and at every renewal of

1 a license, pursuant to section 8 of P.L.1983, c.492 (C.30:5B-8), shall
2 be deposited in the fund annually as provided by the director.

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4 6. The director shall apply for and accept any grant of money from
5 the federal government, private foundations or other sources, which
6 may be available for the Neighborhood-Based Child Care Incentive
7 Demonstration Program and for volunteer training. Such moneys shall
8 be leveraged with the moneys collected pursuant to subsection b. of
9 section 5 of this act.

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11 7. The Commissioner of Human Services shall give priority
12 consideration for the awarding of moneys for Mini Child Care Center
13 Project Grants to centers established by the Neighborhood-Based
14 Child Care Incentive Demonstration Program which use a volunteer
15 network in addition to professional child care personnel in the delivery
16 of child care services and demonstrate a need for training of volunteer
17 child care staff.

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19 8. No later than six months before the expiration of this act, the
20 director shall report to the Legislature and the Governor on the
21 effectiveness of the program and present recommendations for
22 expanding the program Statewide, as appropriate. Specific
23 recommendations pertaining to expanding financing opportunities for
24 the programs shall be provided in the report.

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26 9. In accordance with the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
27 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), the director shall adopt rules
28 and regulations necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act.

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30 10. This act shall take effect immediately and expire on the first
31 day of the 37th month after enactment.

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34 STATEMENT

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36 This bill establishes a three-year Neighborhood-Based Child Care
37 Incentive Demonstration Program in the Division of Youth and Family
38 Services in the Department of Human Services. This program will
39 offer new and innovative opportunities for the delivery of child care
40 services, which will be carefully monitored and provided in safe and
41 secure child care settings.

42 The Director of the Division of Youth and Family Services shall
43 adopt regulations for creating the three-year demonstration program
44 in five counties of the State. At least two of the child care centers
45 established under the program shall be located in municipalities
46 targeted by the Governor's Urban Coordinating Council for urban

1 revitalization.

2 The program shall be designed to utilize to the greatest extent
3 possible: neighborhood resources such as religious organizations and
4 schools; volunteer networks of retired teachers, nurses and other
5 persons qualified to participate in the child care program; active,
6 involved parents of children needing child care services; community
7 leaders; and local businesses interested in establishing collaborative
8 partnerships in developing the child care centers.

9 The director shall adopt standards regarding the physical facility,
10 staffing, record keeping and other administrative requirements for the
11 program that promote regulatory flexibility without jeopardizing the
12 quality and safety of child care. The director shall also review child
13 care center proposals submitted by nonprofit community agencies and
14 religious organizations interested in participating in the program as
15 sponsors, and award the grants within six months of the effective date
16 of this bill to those proposals which best meet the purposes of the
17 Neighborhood-Based Child Care Incentive Demonstration Program.

18 Priority consideration for the awarding of grants shall be given to
19 those proposals which: use a partnership approach; leverage in-kind
20 donations, such as physical space and equipment, for the child care
21 centers; leverage monetary contributions, and use a large network of
22 volunteers that have social, educational or professional qualifications
23 that would further the goal of expanding quality child care services.

24 The director, in consultation with child care advocacy groups, shall
25 actively inform parents, community and religious groups, retired
26 teachers, college students, businesses and business organizations, and
27 other volunteer networks about the Neighborhood-Based Child Care
28 Incentive Demonstration Program. The director shall also establish a
29 training program for volunteers who will provide services under the
30 program.

31 The bill establishes a nonlapsing, revolving Neighborhood-Based
32 Child Care Incentive Demonstration Fund, from which grants for the
33 demonstration program can be made. Fees paid by a licensed child
34 care center at the time of application for a license and at every renewal
35 of a license, pursuant to section 8 of P.L.1983, c.492 (C.30:5B-8),
36 shall be deposited into this fund.

37 No later than six months before the expiration of this bill, the
38 director shall report to the Legislature and the Governor on the
39 effectiveness of the program and present recommendations for
40 expanding the program Statewide, as appropriate.

41 This bill is one of several legislative initiatives resulting from a
42 series of public hearings on child care issues which were held by the
43 General Assembly Advisory Council on Women in 1996 and 1997.

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3 Establishes Neighborhood-Based Child Care Incentive Demonstration

4 Program.