

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to child welfare; amending s. 39.013,
3 F.S.; authorizing an individual's presence or
4 attendance at a hearing or conference to be through
5 physical appearance or audio-video communication
6 technology; requiring the court to provide certain
7 written notification to the parties under certain
8 circumstances; creating s. 39.0143, F.S.; requiring
9 the Department of Children and Families and Department
10 of Juvenile Justice to identify and meet the needs of
11 dually-involved children within a specified timeframe;
12 requiring a quarterly report with specified
13 information to the Legislature; amending s. 39.205,
14 F.S.; removing the requirement of a specified report;
15 amending s. 39.4022, F.S.; requiring a representative
16 from the Department of Juvenile Justice to be invited
17 to a multidisciplinary team staffing under certain
18 circumstances; amending s. 39.5085, F.S.; providing
19 eligibility requirements for caregivers in the
20 Relative Caregiver Program; amending s. 383.011, F.S.;
21 requiring prenatal and infant health care delivery
22 programs to include certain father engagement
23 activities; amending s. 409.145, F.S.; providing that
24 certain caregivers receive a child care subsidy for
25 certain purposes, subject to available resources;

26 | amending s. 409.1451, F.S.; increasing the monthly
27 | stipend for postsecondary education services and
28 | supports; requiring the Department of Children and
29 | Families, or an agency under contract with the
30 | department, to conduct a specified assessment and
31 | provide certain information and referrals to certain
32 | young adults; requiring the department, or an agency
33 | under contract with the department, to work with young
34 | adults to create, review, and update certain plans;
35 | requiring a transition plan to be completed by a
36 | specified time; amending s. 409.1452, F.S.; requiring
37 | liaisons and coaching services to provide specified
38 | assistance for certain students at certain school
39 | district programs, Florida College System
40 | institutions, or state universities; providing
41 | requirements for such liaisons; requiring a liaison's
42 | contact information to be used in certain ways;
43 | requiring certain school district programs, Florida
44 | College System institutions, and state universities to
45 | maintain certain documentation; conforming provisions
46 | to changes made by the act; removing obsolete
47 | language; creating s. 409.1464, F.S.; requiring the
48 | Department of Children and Families, subject to
49 | available resources, to contract for the development
50 | and implementation of the Responsible Fatherhood

51 Initiative; providing initiative requirements;
52 requiring certain collaboration to implement the
53 initiative; creating 409.1465, F.S.; providing
54 legislative intent; requiring the Department of
55 Children and Families, subject to available resources,
56 to award specified grants to not-for-profit community-
57 based organizations to address the needs of fathers;
58 requiring the department to prioritize grant
59 applicants in a specified manner; specifying the time
60 period for which a grant may be awarded; requiring
61 grant recipients to submit certain reports; creating
62 s. 409.1467, F.S.; requiring the Department of
63 Children and Families, subject to available resources,
64 to contract with Volunteer Florida to provide grants
65 to not-for-profit organizations to offer certain
66 mentorship programs; providing grant requirements;
67 providing grant eligibility requirements; providing
68 requirements for grant recipients; requiring Volunteer
69 Florida to prioritize grant applicants in a specified
70 manner; providing the amounts and duration of the
71 grants; requiring grant recipients to submit specified
72 reports to Volunteer Florida; requiring grant
73 recipients to complete certain training within a
74 specified time; providing requirements for Volunteer
75 Florida; amending s. 409.147, F.S.; requiring

76 children's initiatives to update strategic community
77 plans to include certain information; requiring the
78 Ounce of Prevention to provide technical assistance to
79 the children's initiative corporations; providing
80 requirements for children's initiatives to receive
81 state funding; amending s. 409.2557, F.S.; requiring
82 the Department of Revenue to establish a webpage that
83 contains certain information; amending s. 409.2564,
84 F.S.; requiring Department of Revenue to provide
85 certain written notification to delinquent obligors;
86 requiring the written notification to include certain
87 information; creating s. 409.25996, F.S.; requiring
88 the Department of Economic Opportunity to award grants
89 to organizations that assist noncustodial parents in
90 meeting their child support obligations; amending s.
91 409.988, F.S.; requiring lead agencies to address
92 certain needs of fathers served by the lead agency;
93 requiring lead agencies to conduct an assessment,
94 create an action plan, employ certain specialists, and
95 prioritize certain individuals for specified purposes;
96 requiring the Department of Children and Families to
97 annually review lead agencies; amending ss. 409.996
98 and 409.997, F.S.; revising when specified reports
99 must be submitted to the Governor and Legislature;
100 creating s. 683.334, F.S.; designating the month of

101 June as "Responsible Fatherhood Month"; amending s.
 102 1009.25, F.S.; revising eligibility for certain
 103 tuition and fee exemptions for certain students;
 104 providing an effective date.

106 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

108 Section 1. Subsection (13) is added to section 39.013,
 109 Florida Statutes, to read:

110 39.013 Procedures and jurisdiction; right to counsel.—

111 (13) A person's presence or attendance at a hearing or
 112 conference may be through that person's physical appearance or,
 113 at the discretion of the court, through audio-video
 114 communication technology. If audio-video communication
 115 technology will be used to conduct the hearing or conference,
 116 the court must provide written notification in advance to each
 117 party which includes all relevant information and instructions
 118 on how to attend the hearing or conference.

119 Section 2. Section 39.0143, Florida Statutes, is created
 120 to read:

121 39.0143 Dually-involved children.—Beginning in fiscal year
 122 2022-2023 through fiscal year 2023-2024, the department and the
 123 Department of Juvenile Justice shall identify children who are
 124 dually involved with both systems of care. The department and
 125 the Department of Juvenile Justice shall collaboratively take

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126 appropriate action within available resources to meet the needs
127 of dually-involved children more effectively, and shall jointly
128 submit to the Legislature a quarterly report that includes, at a
129 minimum, data on how many children are dually involved with both
130 systems of care, how both departments track children who become
131 dually involved, and actions taken by both departments to better
132 serve dually-involved children.

133 Section 3. Subsection (7) of section 39.205, Florida
134 Statutes, is amended to read:

135 39.205 Penalties relating to reporting of child abuse,
136 abandonment, or neglect.—

137 (7) The department shall establish procedures for
138 determining whether a false report of child abuse, abandonment,
139 or neglect has been made and for submitting all identifying
140 information relating to such a report to the appropriate law
141 enforcement agency ~~and shall report annually to the Legislature~~
142 ~~the number of reports referred.~~

143 Section 4. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section
144 39.4022, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

145 39.4022 Multidisciplinary teams; staffings; assessments;
146 report.—

147 (4) PARTICIPANTS.—

148 (a) Collaboration among diverse individuals who are part
149 of the child's network is necessary to make the most informed
150 decisions possible for the child. A diverse team is preferable

151 to ensure that the necessary combination of technical skills,
152 cultural knowledge, community resources, and personal
153 relationships is developed and maintained for the child and
154 family. The participants necessary to achieve an appropriately
155 diverse team for a child may vary by child and may include
156 extended family, friends, neighbors, coaches, clergy, coworkers,
157 or others the family identifies as potential sources of support.

158 1. Each multidisciplinary team staffing must invite the
159 following members:

160 a. The child, unless he or she is not of an age or
161 capacity to participate in the team;

162 b. The child's family members and other individuals
163 identified by the family as being important to the child,
164 provided that a parent who has a no contact order or injunction,
165 is alleged to have sexually abused the child, or is subject to a
166 termination of parental rights may not participate;

167 c. The current caregiver, provided the caregiver is not a
168 parent who meets the criteria of one of the exceptions under
169 sub-subparagraph b.;

170 d. A representative from the department other than the
171 Children's Legal Services attorney, when the department is
172 directly involved in the goal identified by the staffing;

173 e. A representative from the community-based care lead
174 agency, when the lead agency is directly involved in the goal
175 identified by the staffing; and

176 f. The case manager for the child, or his or her case
 177 manager supervisor.

178 g. A representative from the Department of Juvenile
 179 Justice if the child is dually involved with both the department
 180 and the Department of Juvenile Justice.

181 2. The multidisciplinary team must make reasonable efforts
 182 to have all mandatory invitees attend. However, the
 183 multidisciplinary team staffing may not be delayed if the
 184 invitees in subparagraph 1. fail to attend after being provided
 185 reasonable opportunities.

186 Section 5. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section
 187 39.5085, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

188 39.5085 Relative Caregiver Program.—

189 (2)(a) The Department of Children and Families shall
 190 establish, operate, and implement the Relative Caregiver Program
 191 by rule of the department. The Relative Caregiver Program is
 192 available for caregivers who meet the requirements of this
 193 section but are unable to meet the licensure requirements for
 194 the Guardianship Assistance Program under s. 39.6225. The
 195 Relative Caregiver Program shall, within the limits of available
 196 funding, provide financial assistance to:

197 1. Relatives who are within the fifth degree by blood or
 198 marriage to the parent or stepparent of a child and who are
 199 caring full-time for that dependent child in the role of
 200 substitute parent as a result of a court's determination of

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201 child abuse, neglect, or abandonment and subsequent placement
202 with the relative under this chapter.

203 2. Relatives who are within the fifth degree by blood or
204 marriage to the parent or stepparent of a child and who are
205 caring full-time for that dependent child, and a dependent half-
206 brother or half-sister of that dependent child, in the role of
207 substitute parent as a result of a court's determination of
208 child abuse, neglect, or abandonment and subsequent placement
209 with the relative under this chapter.

210 3. Nonrelatives who are willing to assume custody and care
211 of a dependent child in the role of substitute parent as a
212 result of a court's determination of child abuse, neglect, or
213 abandonment and subsequent placement with the nonrelative
214 caregiver under this chapter. The court must find that a
215 proposed placement under this subparagraph is in the best
216 interest of the child.

217 4. A relative or nonrelative caregiver, but the relative
218 or nonrelative caregiver may not receive a Relative Caregiver
219 Program payment if the parent or stepparent of the child resides
220 in the home. However, a relative or nonrelative may receive the
221 Relative Caregiver Program payment for a minor parent who is in
222 his or her care, as well as for the minor parent's child, if
223 both children have been adjudicated dependent and meet all other
224 eligibility requirements. If the caregiver is currently
225 receiving the payment, the Relative Caregiver Program payment

226 | must be terminated no later than the first of the following
 227 | month after the parent or stepparent moves into the home,
 228 | allowing for 10-day notice of adverse action.

229 |
 230 | The placement may be court-ordered temporary legal custody to
 231 | the relative or nonrelative under protective supervision of the
 232 | department pursuant to s. 39.521(1)(c)3., or court-ordered
 233 | placement in the home of a relative or nonrelative as a
 234 | permanency option under s. 39.6221 or s. 39.6231 or under former
 235 | s. 39.622 if the placement was made before July 1, 2006. The
 236 | Relative Caregiver Program shall offer financial assistance to
 237 | caregivers who would be unable to serve in that capacity without
 238 | the caregiver payment because of financial burden, thus exposing
 239 | the child to the trauma of placement in a shelter or in foster
 240 | care.

241 | Section 6. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of section
 242 | 383.011, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

243 | 383.011 Administration of maternal and child health
 244 | programs.—

245 | (1) The Department of Health is designated as the state
 246 | agency for:

247 | (d) Administering and providing for prenatal and infant
 248 | health care delivery services through county health departments
 249 | or subcontractors for the provision of the following enhanced
 250 | services for medically and socially high-risk clients, subject

251 to the availability of moneys and the limitations established by
 252 the General Appropriations Act or chapter 216:

- 253 1. Case finding or outreach.
- 254 2. Assessment of health, social, environmental, and
 255 behavioral risk factors.
- 256 3. Case management utilizing a service delivery plan.
- 257 4. Home visiting to support the delivery of and
 258 participation in prenatal and infant primary health care
 259 services.
- 260 5. Childbirth and parenting education, including
 261 encouragement of breastfeeding.
- 262 6. Father engagement activities, such as providing
 263 individualized support to fathers to increase participation in
 264 services that strengthen family and child well-being and
 265 evaluating father involvement with services provided by a home
 266 visiting program.

267 Section 7. Subsection (4) of section 409.145, Florida
 268 Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (5), and a new subsection
 269 (4) is added to that section to read:

270 409.145 Care of children; "reasonable and prudent parent"
 271 standard.—The child welfare system of the department shall
 272 operate as a coordinated community-based system of care which
 273 empowers all caregivers for children in foster care to provide
 274 quality parenting, including approving or disapproving a child's
 275 participation in activities based on the caregiver's assessment

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276 using the "reasonable and prudent parent" standard.

277 (4) CHILD CARE SUBSIDY.—Subject to available resources, a
278 foster parent or a relative or nonrelative caregiver, regardless
279 of his or her participation in the Relative Caregiver Program
280 under s. 39.5085 or licensure as a level I foster placement, who
281 has a child from birth to the age of school entry placed with
282 the foster parent or caregiver, shall receive a monthly payment
283 of up to \$200 to fund any costs of the early learning or child
284 care program attended by that child which are charged to the
285 foster parent or caregiver beyond any state subsidy from the
286 early learning coalition under part VI of chapter 1002.

287 Section 8. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section
288 409.1451, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph (e),
289 paragraph (b) and present paragraph (d) of that subsection are
290 amended, and a new paragraph (d) is added to that subsection, to
291 read:

292 409.1451 The Road-to-Independence Program.—

293 (2) POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION SERVICES AND SUPPORT.—

294 (b) The amount of the financial assistance shall be as
295 follows:

296 1. For a young adult who does not remain in foster care
297 and is attending a postsecondary school as provided in s.
298 1009.533, the amount is \$1,720 ~~\$1,256~~ monthly.

299 2. For a young adult who remains in foster care, is
300 attending a postsecondary school, as provided in s. 1009.533,

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301 and continues to reside in a licensed foster home, the amount is
302 the established room and board rate for foster parents. This
303 takes the place of the payment provided for in s. 409.145(3).

304 3. For a young adult who remains in foster care, but
305 temporarily resides away from a licensed foster home for
306 purposes of attending a postsecondary school as provided in s.
307 1009.533, the amount is \$1,720 ~~\$1,256~~ monthly. This takes the
308 place of the payment provided for in s. 409.145(3).

309 4. For a young adult who remains in foster care, is
310 attending a postsecondary school as provided in s. 1009.533, and
311 continues to reside in a licensed group home, the amount is
312 negotiated between the community-based care lead agency and the
313 licensed group home provider.

314 5. For a young adult who remains in foster care, but
315 temporarily resides away from a licensed group home for purposes
316 of attending a postsecondary school as provided in s. 1009.533,
317 the amount is \$1,720 ~~\$1,256~~ monthly. This takes the place of a
318 negotiated room and board rate.

319 6. A young adult is eligible to receive financial
320 assistance during the months when he or she is enrolled in a
321 postsecondary educational institution.

322 (d) Before a young adult's enrollment in postsecondary
323 education, the department, or an agency under contract with the
324 department, shall assess the young adult's financial literacy
325 and executive functioning, self-regulation, and similar skills

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326 that are important for successful independent living and the
327 completion of postsecondary education. The department, or an
328 agency under contract with the department, must provide
329 information and referrals to the young adult as needed to assist
330 him or her in strengthening any necessary skills.

331 (e)1.~~(d)1.~~ The department must advertise the availability
332 of the stipend and must provide notification of the criteria and
333 application procedures for the stipend to children and young
334 adults leaving, or who were formerly in, foster care;
335 caregivers; case managers; guidance and family services
336 counselors; principals or other relevant school administrators;
337 and guardians ad litem.

338 2. If the award recipient transfers from one eligible
339 institution to another and continues to meet eligibility
340 requirements, the award shall be transferred with the recipient.

341 3. The department, or an agency under contract with the
342 department, shall evaluate each Road-to-Independence award for
343 renewal eligibility on an annual basis. In order to be eligible
344 for a renewal award for the subsequent year, the young adult
345 must:

346 a. Be enrolled for or have completed the number of hours,
347 or the equivalent, to be considered a full-time student under
348 subparagraph (a)4., unless the young adult qualifies for an
349 exception under subparagraph (a)4.

350 b. Maintain standards of academic progress as defined by

351 the education institution, except that if the young adult's
352 progress is insufficient to renew the award at any time during
353 the eligibility period, the young adult may continue to be
354 enrolled for additional terms while attempting to restore
355 eligibility as long as progress towards the required level is
356 maintained.

357 4. Funds may be terminated during the interim between an
358 award and the evaluation for a renewal award if the department,
359 or an agency under contract with the department, determines that
360 the award recipient is no longer enrolled in an educational
361 institution as described in subparagraph (a)4. or is no longer a
362 resident of this state.

363 5. The department, or an agency under contract with the
364 department, shall notify a recipient who is terminated and
365 inform the recipient of his or her right to appeal.

366 6. An award recipient who does not qualify for a renewal
367 award or who chooses not to renew the award may apply for
368 reinstatement. An application for reinstatement must be made
369 before the young adult reaches 23 years of age. In order to be
370 eligible for reinstatement, the young adult must meet the
371 eligibility criteria and the criteria for award renewal for the
372 program.

373 7. The department, or an agency under contract with the
374 department, shall work with the young adult to create a
375 financial plan that is guided by the young adult's financial

376 goals in meeting his or her needs while in postsecondary
 377 education. The department, or an agency under contract with the
 378 department, shall review and, if necessary, update the financial
 379 plan with the young adult every 6 months until funding under
 380 this subsection is no longer provided.

381 8. The department, or an agency under contract with the
 382 department, shall assist the young adult with developing a
 383 transition plan that includes, at a minimum, how the young adult
 384 will meet his or her financial needs and obligations when
 385 funding under this subsection is no longer provided. The
 386 transition plan must be completed during the year before the
 387 young adult graduates from postsecondary education or the year
 388 before the young adult turns 23 years of age, whichever occurs
 389 first.

390 Section 9. Section 409.1452, Florida Statutes, is amended
 391 to read:

392 409.1452 Liaisons and coaching services for students
 393 ~~Collaboration with Board of Governors, Florida College System,~~
 394 ~~and Department of Education to assist children and young adults~~
 395 ~~who have been or are in foster care~~ or are experiencing
 396 homelessness; documentation regarding eligibility for tuition
 397 and fee exemptions.-

398 (1)(a) Each school district program, Florida College
 399 System institution, or state university at which a student is
 400 exempt from the payment of tuition and fees under s. 1009.25

401 must have, at a minimum, a knowledgeable, accessible, and
402 responsive employee who acts as a liaison and provides
403 assistance to those students who are exempt from the payment of
404 tuition and fees in resolving any problems related to such
405 exemption. The liaisons shall provide such students on-campus
406 support and must be employees of the program, institution, or
407 university. The name and contact information of the liaison must
408 be:

409 1. Provided to each student who is exempt from the payment
410 of tuition and fees and who is attending that program,
411 institution, or university.

412 2. Published on the website of the program, institution,
413 or university.

414 3. Provided to the Department of Children and Families and
415 each community-based care lead agency.

416 (b) Each school district program, Florida College System
417 institution, and state university must maintain the original
418 documentation submitted by the student regarding his or her
419 eligibility for the tuition and fee exemption under s. 1009.25
420 and may not make additional requests for such documentation.

421 (2) A school district program, Florida College System
422 institution, or state university may also provide campus
423 coaching services and other support to a student who is exempt
424 from the payment of tuition and fees under s. 1009.25 to promote
425 his or her successful completion of postsecondary education and

426 ~~transition to independent living. Effective July 1, 2013, the~~
427 ~~Department of Children and Families shall work in collaboration~~
428 ~~with the Board of Governors, the Florida College System, and the~~
429 ~~Department of Education to help address the need for a~~
430 ~~comprehensive support structure in the academic arena to assist~~
431 ~~children and young adults who have been or continue to remain in~~
432 ~~the foster care system in making the transition from a~~
433 ~~structured care system into an independent living setting. The~~
434 ~~State University System of Florida and the Florida College~~
435 ~~System shall provide postsecondary educational campus coaching~~
436 ~~positions that will be integrated into Florida College System~~
437 ~~institutions' and university institutions' general support~~
438 ~~services structure to provide current and former foster care~~
439 ~~children and young adults with dedicated, on-campus support. The~~
440 ~~Department of Children and Families has the sole discretion to~~
441 ~~determine which state college or university will offer a campus~~
442 ~~coaching position, based on departmental demographic data~~
443 ~~indicating greatest need. These campus coaching positions shall~~
444 ~~be employees of the selected educational institutions, focused~~
445 ~~on supporting children and young adults who have been or~~
446 ~~continue to remain in the foster care system.~~

447 (3) The Chancellors of the Florida College System and the
448 Board of Governors shall report annually to the Department of
449 Children and Families specific data, subject to privacy laws,
450 about the students ~~children and young adults~~ served by the

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451 campus liaisons ~~coaches~~, including academic progress, retention
452 rates for students enrolled in the program, financial aid
453 requested and received, and information required by the National
454 Youth in Transition Database.

455 Section 10. Section 409.1464, Florida Statutes, is created
456 to read:

457 409.1464 Responsible Fatherhood Initiative.—

458 (1) Subject to available resources, the department shall
459 contract for the development and implementation of the
460 Responsible Fatherhood Initiative. The initiative must provide
461 an opportunity for every father in the state to be able to
462 obtain information and inspiration that will motivate and enable
463 him to enhance his abilities as a father, recognizing that some
464 fathers have greater challenges than others and would benefit
465 from greater support.

466 (2) The initiative must, at a minimum:

467 (a) Include a website and other related electronic
468 resources that will allow a father to obtain information about
469 effective parenting, identify areas in which support would
470 enable him to enhance his ability to be an effective father, and
471 be connected to such support, including but not limited to,
472 support provided by organizations receiving grants under s.
473 409.1465.

474 (b) Use appropriate materials from the fatherhood media
475 campaign available through the National Responsible Father

476 Clearinghouse.

477 (3) Subject to available resources, the initiative must
 478 include, but need not be limited to, print, television, digital,
 479 and social media elements and public events, and may include
 480 appearances by and involvement from public figures and
 481 influencers.

482 (4) The person or entity with which the department
 483 contracts for the initiative must collaborate with other
 484 agencies and organizations to develop and implement the
 485 initiative.

486 Section 11. Section 409.1465, Florida Statutes, is created
 487 to read:

488 409.1465 Grants to address the needs of fathers.—

489 (1) The Legislature recognizes that families are stronger
 490 when both parents act responsibly in caring for their children.
 491 It is the intent of the Legislature to recognize and support the
 492 important and unique role that fathers play in ensuring the
 493 physical, emotional, and economic well-being of their children
 494 and families.

495 (2) Subject to available resources, the department shall
 496 award grants to not-for-profit community-based organizations to
 497 address the needs of fathers. The department shall award the
 498 following types of grants:

499 (a) Grants that comprehensively address the needs of
 500 fathers, such as assisting them in finding employment, managing

501 child support obligations, transitioning from a period of
502 incarceration, accessing health care, understanding child
503 development, and enhancing parenting skills. Services provided
504 must be tailored to the needs of the father being served. Case
505 management services must be provided to the fathers who are
506 served by the grants under this paragraph.

507 (b) Grants that provide evidence-based parenting education
508 specifically for fathers. The grants under this paragraph do not
509 require case management services.

510 (3) The department shall prioritize applicants for a grant
511 specified under subsection (2) based on:

512 (a) Need in a geographic area and the population to be
513 served by the grant as indicated by, at a minimum:

514 1. Unemployment rates.

515 2. Incarceration rates.

516 3. Housing instability.

517 4. The number of single-parent households.

518 5. The number of public benefit recipients.

519 6. Graduation rates.

520 7. Levels of academic achievement.

521 (b) If an applicant has a primary mission of, or a history
522 of a significant focus on and effective work towards, addressing
523 the needs of men in their role as fathers.

524 (c) Applicant current and historical involvement in the
525 community being served.

526 (d) Applicant commitment and capability to employ
 527 competent staff who can effectively engage with the fathers
 528 being served, including at a minimum, those individuals who
 529 share a similar background as the fathers being served.

530 (e) The number of individuals the applicant plans to serve
 531 through the grant and the projected costs for the program.

532 (f) Applicant organizational capacity to effectively meet
 533 the requirements of the grant and to deliver the programs
 534 proposed by the applicant. The department may offer technical
 535 assistance to applicants and grant recipients that have lower
 536 organizational capacity as long as such organizations have, or
 537 the organization's leadership has, significant experience
 538 serving fathers.

539 (4) Grants shall be awarded for no more than 3 years, with
 540 subsequent year funding contingent on compliance with grant
 541 requirements and adequate performance. Grant recipients must
 542 submit reports to the department in a format and at intervals
 543 prescribed by the department.

544 Section 12. Section 409.1467, Florida Statutes, is created
 545 to read:

546 409.1467 Mentorship for at-risk male students.-

547 (1) Subject to available resources, the department shall
 548 contract with Volunteer Florida to provide grants to not-for-
 549 profit organizations in order to offer mentorship programs for
 550 at-risk male students. These grants must:

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551 (a) Assist at-risk male students who are in middle school
552 or high school in developing social, emotional, and cognitive
553 skills to prepare them for future success.

554 (b) Provide an opportunity for small not-for-profit
555 organizations to receive training and technical assistance that
556 will strengthen their capacity to provide high-quality,
557 effective services and obtain additional nonstate funding in the
558 future.

559 (2) A not-for-profit organization must have organizational
560 management and a board of directors reflective of the community
561 served by the organization in order to be eligible to receive a
562 grant under this section.

563 (3) Grant recipients must:

564 (a) Recruit and train mentors for eligible at-risk male
565 students.

566 (b) Provide mentorship, social and academic support, life
567 skill development, and other opportunities for eligible at-risk
568 male students.

569 (c) Use trauma-informed practices and interventions to
570 address adverse childhood experiences of eligible at-risk male
571 students.

572 (d) Be inclusive of eligible at-risk male students who
573 have a disability.

574 (4) Prioritization of applicants for a grant must, at a
575 minimum, be based on:

576 (a) Unemployment rates; incarceration rates; housing
577 instability; the number of single-parent households; the number
578 of public benefit recipients; graduation rates; and levels of
579 academic achievement in the geographic area in which mentorship
580 services would be provided.

581 (b) The number of at-risk male students that the applicant
582 plans to serve through the grant and the projected costs for the
583 new or expanded mentorship program.

584 (c) The applicant's current revenues and organizational
585 capacity, experience and demonstrated effectiveness in serving
586 at-risk male students or providing mentorship programs, and
587 commitment to organizational development through the training
588 required under subsection (7) in order to achieve the goal
589 specified in paragraph (1)(b).

590 (5) Volunteer Florida may award grants that are between
591 \$25,000 and \$250,000 per year and the grants may be awarded to a
592 not-for-profit organization for no more than 3 years, contingent
593 on continued eligibility, compliance with grant requirements,
594 and adequate performance. Volunteer Florida shall create
595 categories of grants based on the annual revenues of the not-
596 for-profit organizations that are applying in order to maximize
597 the opportunities for small not-for-profit organizations to
598 receive grants.

599 (6) Grant recipients must submit reports to Volunteer
600 Florida in a format and at intervals prescribed by Volunteer

601 Florida. At a minimum, grant recipients must report on the
602 number of at-risk male students served and their ages, the
603 number of mentors providing mentorship services, and the
604 outcomes of the at-risk students served, including, but not
605 limited to, improved academic success, decreased involvement in
606 the juvenile justice system, and enhanced readiness for and
607 involvement in postsecondary education, as appropriate.

608 (7) Within 6 months after receiving a grant, a grant
609 recipient must complete training in nonprofit management,
610 outcomes measurement, and positive youth development as required
611 by Volunteer Florida in order to achieve the goal specified in
612 paragraph (1)(b). Volunteer Florida shall determine the specific
613 training needed by grant recipients and directly provide or
614 contract for such training. Grant funding may be used for the
615 training required under this subsection.

616 (8) Volunteer Florida shall provide technical assistance
617 to grant recipients.

618 Section 13. Subsections (8) through (13) of section
619 409.147, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (9)
620 through (14), respectively, subsection (7) is amended, and a new
621 subsection (8) is added to that section, to read:

622 409.147 Children's initiatives.—

623 (7) CHILDREN'S INITIATIVE CORPORATION.—

624 (a) After the governing body adopts the resolution
625 described in subsection (4), establishes the planning team as

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626 provided in subsection (5), and develops and adopts the
627 strategic community plan as provided in subsection (6), the
628 county or municipality shall create a corporation not for profit
629 which shall be registered, incorporated, organized, and operated
630 in compliance with chapter 617. The purpose of the corporation
631 is to facilitate fundraising, to secure broad community
632 ownership of the children's initiative, and, if the area
633 selected by the governing body is designated as a children's
634 initiative, to:

635 1.~~(a)~~ Begin to transfer responsibility for planning from
636 the planning team to the corporation.

637 2.~~(b)~~ Begin the implementation and governance of the
638 children's initiative community plan.

639 3. Update the strategic community plan every 5 years to
640 reflect, at a minimum, the current status of the area served by
641 the children's initiative; the goals, objectives, and strategies
642 for each focus area; and the tasks required to implement the
643 strategies for the upcoming year.

644 (b) Subject to available resources, the Ounce of
645 Prevention must provide technical assistance to the corporation
646 to facilitate achievement of the plans created under subsection
647 (6).

648 (8) REQUIREMENTS FOR RECEIVING STATE FUNDING.-Unless
649 otherwise specified in the general appropriations act:

650 (a) State funding for children's initiatives must be

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651 awarded through a performance-based contract that links payments
652 to achievement of outcomes directly related to the goals,
653 objectives, strategies, and tasks outlined in the strategic
654 community plan.

655 (b) Counties that do not currently have a children's
656 initiative and are trying to establish an initiative have
657 priority for funding available under this subsection.

658 Section 14. Subsection (4) is added to section 409.2557,
659 Florida Statutes, to read:

660 409.2557 State agency for administering child support
661 enforcement program.—

662 (4) The department shall establish on its website a
663 dedicated webpage that provides information to obligors who have
664 difficulty paying child support due to economic hardship. There
665 must be a link to such webpage on the main child support
666 webpage. The webpage must be in plain language and include, at a
667 minimum, information on how an obligor can modify a child
668 support order, information on how to access services from
669 CareerSource Florida and the organizations awarded grants under
670 s. 409.25996, and a link to the website for CareerSource
671 Florida.

672 Section 15. Subsection (9) of section 409.2564, Florida
673 Statutes, is amended to read:

674 409.2564 Actions for support.—

675 (9) (a) For the purpose of securing delinquent support, the

676 department may increase the amount of the monthly support
 677 obligation to include amounts for delinquencies, subject to such
 678 conditions or limitations as set forth in paragraph (b).

679 (b) In support obligations not subject to income
 680 deduction, the department shall notify the obligor in writing of
 681 his or her delinquency and of the department's intent to require
 682 an additional 20 percent of the monthly obligation amount to
 683 allow for collection of the delinquency unless, within 20 days,
 684 the obligor:

- 685 ~~1.~~ pays the delinquency in full~~;~~ or
- 686 ~~2.~~ files a petition with the circuit court to contest the
 687 delinquency action.

688 (c) All written notices provided to an obligor regarding
 689 delinquent support must include information on how the obligor
 690 can access the webpage required under s. 409.2557(4) and how to
 691 access services through CareerSource Florida and the
 692 organizations that are awarded grants under s. 409.25996.

693 Section 16. Section 409.25996, Florida Statutes, is
 694 created to read:

695 409.25996 Organizations that assist noncustodial parents.-
 696 The Department of Economic Opportunity shall award grants to
 697 organizations that assist noncustodial parents who are
 698 unemployed or underemployed and have difficulty meeting child
 699 support obligations to become self-sufficient and establish a
 700 successful pattern of paying child support obligations.

701 Section 17. Paragraph (n) is added to subsection (1) of
702 section 409.988, Florida Statutes, is to read:

703 409.988 Community-based care lead agency duties; general
704 provisions.—

705 (1) DUTIES.—A lead agency:

706 (n) Shall ensure that it is addressing the unique needs of
707 fathers of children served by the lead agency.

708 1. The lead agency shall:

709 a. Conduct an initial assessment of its engagement with
710 such fathers and provision of and referral to father-oriented
711 services.

712 b. Create an action plan to address any gaps identified
713 through the assessment and implement the action plan.

714 c. Employ a father-engagement specialist to, at a minimum,
715 build relationships with fathers, help identify their needs,
716 assist them in accessing services, and communicate with the lead
717 agency about the challenges faced by these fathers and how to
718 appropriately meet their unique needs. The lead agency shall
719 prioritize individuals who have faced experiences similar to the
720 fathers served by the lead agency for selection as a father-
721 engagement specialist.

722 2. The department shall annually review how the lead
723 agency is meeting the needs of fathers, including, at a minimum,
724 how the lead agency is helping fathers establish positive,
725 stable relationships with their children and assisting fathers

726 in receiving needed services. The lead agency shall provide any
727 relevant information on how it is meeting the needs of these
728 fathers to the department, which must be included in the report
729 required under s. 409.997.

730 Section 18. Subsection (3) of section 409.996, Florida
731 Statutes, is amended to read:

732 409.996 Duties of the Department of Children and
733 Families.—The department shall contract for the delivery,
734 administration, or management of care for children in the child
735 protection and child welfare system. In doing so, the department
736 retains responsibility for the quality of contracted services
737 and programs and shall ensure that, at a minimum, services are
738 delivered in accordance with applicable federal and state
739 statutes and regulations and the performance standards and
740 metrics specified in the strategic plan created under s.
741 20.19(1).

742 (3) The department shall annually conduct a comprehensive,
743 multiyear review of the revenues, expenditures, and financial
744 position of all community-based care lead agencies which must
745 cover the most recent 2 consecutive fiscal years. The review
746 must include a comprehensive system-of-care analysis. All
747 community-based care lead agencies must develop and maintain a
748 plan to achieve financial viability. The department's review and
749 the agency's plan shall be submitted to the Governor, the
750 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of

751 Representatives by December 1 ~~November 1~~ of each year.

752 Section 19. Paragraph (g) of subsection (2) of section
753 409.997, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

754 409.997 Child welfare results-oriented accountability
755 program.—

756 (2) The purpose of the results-oriented accountability
757 program is to monitor and measure the use of resources, the
758 quality and amount of services provided, and child and family
759 outcomes. The program includes data analysis, research review,
760 and evaluation. The program shall produce an assessment of
761 individual entities' performance, as well as the performance of
762 groups of entities working together on a local, judicial
763 circuit, regional, and statewide basis to provide an integrated
764 system of care. Data analyzed and communicated through the
765 accountability program shall inform the department's development
766 and maintenance of an inclusive, interactive, and evidence-
767 supported program of quality improvement which promotes
768 individual skill building as well as organizational learning.
769 The department may use data generated by the program regarding
770 performance drivers, process improvements, short-term and long-
771 term outcomes, and quality improvement efforts to determine
772 contract compliance and as the basis for payment of performance
773 incentives if funds for such payments are made available through
774 the General Appropriations Act. The information compiled and
775 utilized in the accountability program must incorporate, at a

776 minimum:

777 (g) An annual performance report that is provided to
 778 interested parties including the dependency judge or judges in
 779 the community-based care service area. The report shall be
 780 submitted to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the
 781 Speaker of the House of Representatives by November 15 ~~October 1~~
 782 of each year.

783 Section 20. Section 683.334, Florida Statutes, is created
 784 to read:

785 683.334 Responsible Fatherhood Month.—

786 (1) The Legislature designates the month of June as
 787 "Responsible Fatherhood Month" to recognize the importance of
 788 fathers in their children's lives, how fathers contribute to
 789 their children's safety and stability, and the direct link
 790 between positive father involvement and child well-being.

791 (2) The Department of Children and Families, the
 792 Department of Health, local governments, and other agencies are
 793 encouraged to sponsor events to promote awareness of responsible
 794 fatherhood engagement and the contributions fathers make in the
 795 lives of their children.

796 Section 21. Paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection (1) of
 797 section 1009.25, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

798 1009.25 Fee exemptions.—

799 (1) The following students are exempt from the payment of
 800 tuition and fees, including lab fees, at a school district that

801 provides workforce education programs, Florida College System
 802 institution, or state university:

803 (c) A student who was the subject of a dependency
 804 proceeding and:

805 1. Is, or was at the time he or she reached 18 years of
 806 age, in out-of-home care; ~~the custody of the Department of~~
 807 Children and Families or who,

808 2. Is, or was at the time he or she reached 18 years of
 809 age, in the custody of a relative or nonrelative pursuant to s.
 810 39.5085 or s. 39.6225;

811 3. After spending at least 6 months in the custody of the
 812 department after reaching 16 years of age, was placed in a
 813 guardianship by the court;

814 4. After reaching 14 years of age and thereafter spending
 815 at least 18 months in out-of-home care, was reunited with his or
 816 her parent or parents who were the subject of the dependency
 817 proceeding before he or she reaches 18 years of age, including a
 818 student who is reunited under s. 39.8155. For a student to be
 819 eligible under this subparagraph, the student must be Pell
 820 Grant-eligible, and the entity imposing the tuition and fees
 821 must verify such eligibility;

822 5. Was adopted from the department after May 5, 1997; or

823 6. Was placed in a permanent guardianship, regardless of
 824 whether the caregiver participates or participated in the
 825 Relative Caregiver Program under s. 39.5085, and remains in such

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826 guardianship until the student either reaches 18 years of age
827 or, if before reaching 18 years of age, he or she enrolls in an
828 eligible program, Florida College System institution, or state
829 university.

830

831 Such exemption includes fees associated with enrollment in
832 applied academics for adult education instruction. The exemption
833 remains valid until the student reaches 28 years of age.

834 ~~(d) A student who is, or was at the time he or she reached~~
835 ~~18 years of age, in the custody of a relative or nonrelative~~
836 ~~under s. 39.5085 or s. 39.6225 or who was adopted from the~~
837 ~~Department of Children and Families after May 5, 1997. Such~~
838 ~~exemption includes fees associated with enrollment in applied~~
839 ~~academics for adult education instruction. The exemption remains~~
840 ~~valid until the student reaches 28 years of age.~~

841 Section 22. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.