

Economic Mobility Initiative

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Lincoln Fillmore

House Sponsor:

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This bill establishes a program to support community-based partnerships focused on educational and economic outcomes.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- defines terms;
- requires the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity to contract with a technical assistance provider to establish a grant program to support community-based partnerships;
- requires the technical assistance provider to create two grant tracks;
- identifies program results;
- establishes community indicators for measuring progress;
- requires the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity to select a technical assistance provider through a competitive procurement process;
- establishes data sharing requirements across state agencies; and
- requires reporting on progress and outcomes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

63N-3-1801, Utah Code Annotated 1953

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **63N-3-1801** is enacted to read:

Part 18. Raising Expectations through Accountability, Community, and Hope

Initiative

63N-3-1801 . Raising Expectations through Accountability, Community, and Hope initiative.

(1) As used in this section:

- (a) "Backbone organization" means a nonprofit entity, government, or higher education entity that coordinates activities among multiple organizations in a neighborhood, community, or region working toward shared outcomes.
- (b) "Community indicators" means the measurable outcomes tracked at the community level to assess progress toward program results, including:
 - (i) the percentage of children living in households experiencing intergenerational poverty;
 - (ii) kindergarten readiness rates;
 - (iii) third grade reading proficiency rates;
 - (iv) eighth grade math proficiency rates;
 - (v) postsecondary readiness rates;
 - (vi) high school graduation rates;
 - (vii) college graduation rates;
 - (viii) employment rates;
 - (ix) the percentage of families meeting self-sufficiency income standards;
 - (x) civic engagement participation rates;
 - (xi) behavioral health service access and outcomes;
 - (xii) housing stability rates;
 - (xiii) health outcomes; and
 - (xiv) median household income and poverty rates.
- (c) "Cross-sector partners" means partners representing multiple stakeholder groups within a community, including stakeholders representing education, health, workforce, housing, businesses, and community development.
- (d) "LEA" means:
 - (i) a school district; or
 - (ii) a charter school.
- (e) "Mobility action plan" means a written plan developed by a partnership that includes:
 - (i) specific, measurable goals for program results and community indicators;
 - (ii) strategies to achieve the goals, aligned to program pillars;

- 64 (iii) a work plan with timelines and designated responsible parties;
65 (iv) a budget and resource allocation;
66 (v) data sharing agreements and performance measurement systems;
67 (vi) a plan for community engagement and partnership sustainability; and
68 (vii) a sustainability and resource leveraging and aligning strategy.
- 69 (f) "Partnership" means a collaborative arrangement established under this section that
70 includes:
71 (i) a backbone organization;
72 (ii) a local government;
73 (iii) an LEA and schools within an LEA;
74 (iv) cross-sector partner organizations; and
75 (v) parents, youths, and other community residents.
- 76 (g) "Program" means the Raising Expectations through Accountability, Community, and
77 Hope initiative established in this section.
- 78 (h) "Program pillars" means the three focus areas of the program:
79 (i) families;
80 (ii) children; or
81 (iii) communities.
- 82 (i) "Program results" means the outcomes that partnerships work to achieve:
83 (i) increased percentage of families with household incomes above self-sufficiency
84 standards;
85 (ii) increased percentage of students completing postsecondary education or
86 workforce training; and
87 (iii) measurable improvement in community indicators.
- 88 (j) "Technical assistance provider" means the entity selected by the office under
89 Subsection (12).
- 90 (2) The office shall contract with a technical assistance provider to establish and administer
91 the program to support community-based partnerships that align community efforts to
92 improve youth and family outcomes by creating pathways from early childhood through
93 postsecondary education and workforce entry.
- 94 (3) The technical assistance provider shall administer the program to:
95 (a) increase economic mobility across the state, including urban, suburban, rural,
96 frontier, and tribal communities;
97 (b) align existing public and private resources to improve outcomes for children and

- 98 families;
- 99 (c) facilitate collaboration across education, health, workforce, housing, and community
- 100 development sectors;
- 101 (d) enable local communities to develop solutions based on local needs and assets;
- 102 (e) leverage state funding to attract private investment; and
- 103 (f) improve measurable outcomes on community indicators.
- 104 (4) The technical assistance provider shall establish a grant program with two tracks:
- 105 (a) partnership development and planning grants; and
- 106 (b) implementation grants.
- 107 (5) The technical assistance provider shall ensure that a partnership development and
- 108 planning grant enables a community to:
- 109 (a) establish the capacity of the backbone organization;
- 110 (b) convene local partners across sectors;
- 111 (c) engage parents, youth, and community leaders;
- 112 (d) train partnership members in communication and collaboration methods;
- 113 (e) collect and analyze existing local data;
- 114 (f) assess community assets and needs;
- 115 (g) develop a written partnership structure and governance framework that includes
- 116 written data sharing agreements among partners;
- 117 (h) set a shared vision and goal; and
- 118 (i) develop a mobility action plan to achieve that vision and goal.
- 119 (6) A community that seeks a partnership development and planning grant shall:
- 120 (a) be located in a county with a population density of fewer than 10 people per square
- 121 mile and limited access to services;
- 122 (b) include a high school that serves a substantial portion of the secondary students
- 123 residing in the community with a four-year cohort graduation rate of 85% or lower;
- 124 (c) demonstrate disparities in prioritized community indicators that exceed 10% below
- 125 the state average;
- 126 (d) demonstrate disparities in prioritized community indicators that exceed 20% between
- 127 subgroups;
- 128 (e) demonstrate initial commitment from partners representing at minimum:
- 129 (i) a community-based nonprofit organization;
- 130 (ii) a local government; and
- 131 (iii) an LEA or public school within the identified community;

- (f) include a planning workplan that:
- (i) establishes a process for completing a written assessment of community assets and needs;
 - (ii) provides a timeline for developing the mobility action plan;
 - (iii) describes strategies for community engagement;
 - (iv) identifies data sources and sharing mechanisms; and
 - (v) describes a sustainability planning approach;
- (g) identify the designated backbone organization;
- (h) provide evidence of community interest in partnership development;
- (i) include a budget that identifies:
- (i) the total amount of funds requested, not to exceed \$300,000;
 - (ii) the allocation of funds across backbone work and partnership and planning activities; and
 - (iii) any aligned contributions from partners; and
- (j) include a timeline for advancing to implementation grant readiness.
- (7) A community that seeks an implementation grant shall meet the requirements described in Subsections (6)(a) through (6)(d).
- (8) The technical assistance provider shall ensure that an implementation grant enables a community that has a mobility action plan developed independently or through the partnership development and planning grant process to:
- (a) implement strategies outlined in the approved mobility action plan;
 - (b) deliver services and supports aligned with the program pillars;
 - (c) coordinate and integrate resources across partners;
 - (d) monitor progress using shared data and performance measures;
 - (e) engage in continuous improvement processes;
 - (f) sustain community engagement and partnership collaboration;
 - (g) leverage additional funding from public and private sources; and
 - (h) scale strategies within the community.
- (9) A backbone organization and community partnership that seek an implementation grant shall:
- (a) provide documentation of partnership governance and a history of:
 - (i) convening local partners across sectors;
 - (ii) engaging parents, youth, and community leaders; and
 - (iii) training partnership members in communication and collaboration methods;

(b) provide a completed mobility action plan that commits to achieving in the initial five -year grant period:

(i) measurable improvement in prioritized community indicators;

(ii) increased coordination across sectors; and

(iii) leveraging and aligning of additional public and private resources;

(c) sign memorandum of understanding that provides evidence that the following individuals agree to the mobility action plan:

(i) a majority of the local governing board members of the participating LEA;

(ii) the superintendent of the participating LEA;

(iii) school administrators;

(iv) the mayor or chief executive and at least one member of the legislative body of the local government;

(v) the board of directors of the backbone organization; and

(vi) leaders representing partner organizations across sectors; and

(d) include a budget that identifies:

(i) the total amount of funds requested not to exceed \$2,500,000 annually;

(ii) the percentage of total funds allocated to backbone work and to each entity or activity in the mobility action plan;

(iii) any aligned existing funding;

(iv) strategies for leveraging additional public and private funding; and

(v) proposed uses for the funds, including administrative costs not to exceed 15% of the total grant.

(10) The technical assistance provider shall ensure that implementation grant funds may support strategies aligned with the program pillars, including:

(a) for the families pillar:

(i) programs that address needs of both parents and children;

(ii) parenting education programs;

(iii) workforce development for parents;

(iv) community-building initiatives;

(v) asset-building programs;

(vi) contributions to My529 accounts;

(vii) family engagement strategies; and

(viii) 211 service navigation;

(b) for the children pillar:

- (i) early childhood programs;
 - (ii) partnerships with community-based organizations that address barriers to learning;
 - (iii) literacy and math interventions;
 - (iv) classroom instruction improvements;
 - (v) career pathways connected to local employment opportunities;
 - (vi) student mentoring and support services;
 - (vii) expanded learning opportunities;
 - (viii) youth development programming;
 - (ix) postsecondary preparation and transition supports;
 - (x) scholarship programs; and
 - (xi) work-based learning and apprenticeship opportunities; and
- (c) for the communities pillar:
 - (i) housing initiatives;
 - (ii) child care programs;
 - (iii) transportation solutions;
 - (iv) substance abuse and violence prevention programs;
 - (v) mental health and behavioral health services;
 - (vi) basic needs support and service navigation;
 - (vii) civic engagement and community leadership development;
 - (viii) place-based initiatives; and
 - (ix) coordination and integration of services.
- (11) The technical assistance provider shall, for each grant:
 - (a) develop application guidelines, selection criteria, and processes;
 - (b) review proposals for compliance with this section;
 - (c) evaluate proposals based on:
 - (i) eligibility;
 - (ii) partnership readiness;
 - (iii) quality and feasibility of proposed strategies or plans;
 - (iv) alignment with program pillars and program results;
 - (v) commitment to family and community engagement;
 - (vi) evidence of cross-sector collaboration;
 - (vii) sustainability and resource leveraging potential; and
 - (viii) geographic diversity;
 - (d) subject to legislative appropriations, award grants on a competitive basis;

- (e) distribute awarded funds to the grantee;
(f) monitor grantee progress and compliance; and
(g) provide technical assistance for capacity building support, peer learning, and knowledge sharing across partnerships.
- (12) The office shall select an in-state-based technical assistance provider through a competitive procurement process that demonstrates adequate capacity to provide statewide technical assistance and support to partnerships, including:
- (a) demonstrated ability and commitment to fundraise private dollars from national and local philanthropic entities, hold private funding in a fund, and disperse private dollars in alignment to public dollars allocated to support implementation grants;
(b) 20 or more years of experience in grantmaking;
(c) at least five years of experience in supporting community-based, cross-sector partnerships in the state;
(d) expertise in backbone organization development and support;
(e) knowledge of evidence-based practices for improving educational and economic outcomes;
(f) experience with data collection, analysis, and performance measurement;
(g) experience with engagement of families, youth, and underserved communities in planning and implementation; and
(h) having relationships with national organizations with the ability to align technical assistance and support to community-based partnerships within the state.
- (13) The office shall require the technical assistance provider to:
- (a) coordinate with the office to ensure technical assistance activities align with statewide priorities, performance measures, and reporting requirements;
(b) submit annual reports to the office that document:
- (i) technical assistance provided to each partnership;
(ii) grantee progress and challenges;
(iii) lessons learned and practices; and
(iv) recommendations for improving partnership efforts; and
- (c) maintain confidentiality of individual-level data in accordance with applicable privacy laws.
- (14)(a) In accordance with state and federal data privacy laws and upon request of the office or the technical assistance provider, the following state agencies shall provide access to relevant aggregate and individual-level data necessary to support the

268 planning, implementation, and evaluation of partnerships, including cross-agency
269 coordination and collaborative improvement efforts:

270 (i) the Department of Health and Human Services;

271 (ii) the Department of Workforce Services;

272 (iii) the Division of Juvenile Justice Services;

273 (iv) the State Board of Education;

274 (v) the Utah Board of Higher Education;

275 (vi) the Office of Guardian ad Litem;

276 (vii) the Administrative Office of the Courts; and

277 (viii) any other state agency or department with programs or services affecting
278 children, youth, or families.

279 (b) An agency or department described in Subsection (14)(a) that provides data shall
280 provide:

281 (i) enrollment, participation, and service utilization data;

282 (ii) outcome and performance measurement data; and

283 (iii) demographic data.

284 (c) An agency or department described in Subsection (14)(a) that provides data shall:

285 (i) ensure that data sharing complies with all applicable state and federal privacy laws;

286 (ii) ensure that the data is used solely for purposes authorized under this section;

287 (iii) ensure that the data does not result in disclosure of individual-level information
288 in any manner that would identify a participant, except as authorized by law; and

289 (iv) follow standardized formats, data definitions, and reporting schedules that the
290 office establishes in coordination with the technical assistance provider.

291 (d) The office shall allow the technical assistance provider and partnerships to use data
292 provided under this section to:

293 (i) inform technical assistance, coaching, and capacity-building;

294 (ii) analyze trends, identify gaps, and recommend improvements to policies or
295 services;

296 (iii) monitor progress on community indicators and partnership outcomes; and

297 (iv) report aggregated findings publicly while maintaining confidentiality protections.

298 (15) A partnership may:

299 (a) accept private grants, gifts, donations, endowments, devises, or bequests to support
300 implementation of the partnership's work;

301 (b) leverage funding from multiple public sources to support integrated strategies; and

302 (c) pursue outcome-based funding arrangements or models to attract private investment.

303 (16) Upon request of the Economic Development and Workforce Services Interim
304 Committee or the Education Interim Committee, the office shall collaborate with the
305 technical assistance provider to report to the committee on:

306 (a) the number and characteristics of communities participating in each grant track;

307 (b) progress toward program results and improvement in community indicators;

308 (c) strategies and practices emerging from partnerships;

309 (d) challenges that partnerships face and recommendations for addressing the challenges;

310 (e) the extent of private and philanthropic investment that state funding leverages;

311 (f) evidence of cross-sector collaboration; and

312 (g) recommendations for sustaining and scaling approaches.

313 Section 2. **Effective Date.**

314 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.