

Lincoln Fillmore proposes the following substitute bill:

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 (the office) 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, 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;
 - (iii) a work plan with timelines and designated responsible parties;
 - (iv) a budget and resource allocation;
 - (v) data sharing agreements and performance measurement systems;
 - (vi) a plan for community engagement and partnership sustainability; and
 - (vii) strategies for resource leveraging and alignment.
- (f) "Partnership" means a collaborative arrangement established under this section that includes:
- (i) a backbone organization;
 - (ii) a local government;
 - (iii) an LEA and schools within an LEA;
 - (iv) cross-sector partner organizations; and
 - (v) parents, youths, and other community residents.
- (g) "Program" means the Raising Expectations through Accountability, Community, and Hope initiative established in this section.
- (h) "Program pillars" means the three focus areas of the program:
- (i) families;
 - (ii) children; and
 - (iii) communities.
- (i) "Program results" means the outcomes that partnerships work to achieve:
- (i) increased percentage of families with household incomes above self-sufficiency standards;
 - (ii) increased percentage of students completing postsecondary education or workforce training; or
 - (iii) measurable improvement in community indicators.
- (j) "Technical assistance provider" means the entity selected by the office under Subsection (12).
- (2) The office shall contract with a technical assistance provider to establish and administer the program to support community-based partnerships that align community efforts to improve youth and family outcomes by creating pathways from early childhood through postsecondary education and workforce entry.
- (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) meet one or more of the following criteria:
- 121 (i) be located in a county with a population density of fewer than 10 people per
122 square mile and limited access to services;
- 123 (ii) include a high school that serves a substantial portion of the secondary students
124 residing in the community with a four-year cohort graduation rate of 85% or lower;
- 125 (iii) demonstrate disparities in prioritized community indicators that exceed 10%
126 below the state average;
- 127 (iv) demonstrate disparities in prioritized community indicators that exceed 20%
128 between subgroups;

- (b) demonstrate initial commitment from partners representing at minimum:
- (i) a community-based nonprofit organization;
 - (ii) a local government; and
 - (iii) an LEA or public school within the identified community;
- (c) 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;
- (d) identify the designated backbone organization;
- (e) provide evidence of community interest in partnership development;
- (f) 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
- (g) include a timeline for advancing to implementation grant readiness.
- (7) A community that seeks an implementation grant shall meet the requirements described in Subsection (6)(a).
- (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:

- 163 (a) provide documentation of partnership governance and a history of:
164 (i) convening local partners across sectors;
165 (ii) engaging parents, youth, and community leaders; and
166 (iii) training partnership members in communication and collaboration methods;
167 (b) provide a completed mobility action plan that commits to achieving in the initial five
168 -year grant period:
169 (i) measurable improvement in prioritized community indicators;
170 (ii) increased coordination across sectors; and
171 (iii) leveraging and aligning of additional public and private resources;
172 (c) sign a memorandum of understanding that provides evidence that the following
173 individuals agree to the mobility action plan:
174 (i) a majority of the local governing board members of the participating LEA;
175 (ii) the superintendent of the participating LEA;
176 (iii) school administrators;
177 (iv) the mayor or chief executive and at least one member of the legislative body of
178 the local government;
179 (v) the board of directors of the backbone organization; and
180 (vi) leaders representing partner organizations across sectors; and
181 (d) include a budget that identifies:
182 (i) the total amount of funds requested not to exceed \$2,500,000 annually;
183 (ii) the percentage of total funds allocated to backbone work and to each entity or
184 activity in the mobility action plan;
185 (iii) any aligned existing funding;
186 (iv) strategies for leveraging additional public and private funding; and
187 (v) proposed uses for the funds, including administrative costs not to exceed 15% of
188 the total grant.
189 (10) The technical assistance provider shall ensure that implementation grant funds may
190 support strategies aligned with the program pillars, which may include:
191 (a) for the families pillar:
192 (i) programs that address needs of both parents and children;
193 (ii) parenting education programs;
194 (iii) workforce development for parents;
195 (iv) community-building initiatives;
196 (v) asset-building programs;

- 197 (vi) contributions to My529 accounts;
198 (vii) family engagement strategies; and
199 (viii) 211 service navigation;
200 (b) for the children pillar:
201 (i) early childhood programs;
202 (ii) partnerships with community-based organizations that address barriers to learning;
203 (iii) literacy and math interventions;
204 (iv) classroom instruction improvements;
205 (v) career pathways connected to local employment opportunities;
206 (vi) student mentoring and support services;
207 (vii) expanded learning opportunities;
208 (viii) youth development programming;
209 (ix) postsecondary preparation and transition supports;
210 (x) scholarship programs; and
211 (xi) work-based learning and apprenticeship opportunities; and
212 (c) for the communities pillar:
213 (i) housing initiatives;
214 (ii) child care programs;
215 (iii) transportation solutions;
216 (iv) substance abuse and violence prevention programs;
217 (v) mental health and behavioral health services;
218 (vi) basic needs support and service navigation, including food security initiatives;
219 (vii) civic engagement and community leadership development;
220 (viii) place-based initiatives; and
221 (ix) coordination and integration of services.
222 (11) The technical assistance provider shall, for each grant:
223 (a) develop application guidelines, selection criteria, and processes;
224 (b) review proposals for compliance with this section;
225 (c) evaluate proposals based on:
226 (i) eligibility;
227 (ii) partnership readiness;
228 (iii) quality and feasibility of proposed strategies or plans;
229 (iv) alignment with program pillars and program results;
230 (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) ensure a minimum of 20 percent of funds go to rural, frontier, or tribal communities;
- (g) monitor grantee progress and compliance; and
- (h) 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 planning, implementation, and evaluation of partnerships, including cross-agency coordination and collaborative improvement efforts:

(i) the Department of Health and Human Services;

(ii) the Department of Workforce Services;

(iii) the Division of Juvenile Justice Services;

(iv) the State Board of Education;

(v) the Utah Board of Higher Education;

(vi) the Office of Guardian ad Litem;

(vii) the Administrative Office of the Courts; and

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

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

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

(ii) outcome and performance measurement data; and

(iii) demographic data.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(15) A partnership may:

(a) accept private grants, gifts, donations, endowments, devices, or bequests to support

implementation of the partnership's work;

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

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

(16) Upon request of the Economic Development and Workforce Services Interim

Committee or the Education Interim Committee, the office shall collaborate with the

technical assistance provider to report to the committee on:

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

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

(c) strategies and practices emerging from partnerships;

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

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

(f) evidence of cross-sector collaboration; and

(g) recommendations for sustaining and scaling approaches.

Section 2. Effective Date.

This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.