

POVERTY MITIGATION PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

2023 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Norman K Thurston

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill modifies provisions related to poverty mitigation programs.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ requires the Department of Workforce Services (department) to use federal funds for awarding grants to counties that develop and administer certain poverty mitigation programs;
- ▶ provides for a county's use of grant funds and the department's determination of grant amounts;
- ▶ requires a county to enter into a contract with the department before receiving a grant; and
- ▶ requires the department to make rules and report annually to the Legislature in relation to grants to counties.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

This bill appropriates in fiscal year 2024:

- ▶ to Department of Workforce Services -- Operations and Policy, as a one-time appropriation:
 - from Federal Funds, \$35,000,000.

Other Special Clauses:



28 None

29 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

30 ENACTS:

31 **35A-3-316**, Utah Code Annotated 1953



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

34 Section 1. Section **35A-3-316** is enacted to read:

35 **35A-3-316. Use of federal funds for grants to counties administering qualified**
36 **county poverty mitigation programs.**

37 (1) As used in this section:

38 (a) "Eligible county" means a county that develops and administers a qualified county
39 poverty mitigation program.

40 (b) "Eligible department" means a department of county government that is responsible
41 for oversight, improvement, and capacity building for the county's social services delivery
42 system, and is capable of developing and administering a qualified county poverty mitigation
43 program.

44 (c) "Person-centered approach" means an approach by which customized care is
45 delivered to a family through partnership with a program mentor.

46 (d) "Qualified county poverty mitigation program" means a program administered by
47 an eligible department that:

48 (i) provides comprehensive and synchronized support services to needy families in the
49 county, using both public and private service providers, in accordance with an action plan that:

50 (A) is tailored to meet the specific needs of the family receiving assistance, with a
51 focus on children;

52 (B) utilizes a person-centered approach to build social capital and reduce bureaucratic
53 hurdles and inefficiencies;

54 (C) promotes the goal of attaining financial self-sufficiency;

55 (D) is designed in a manner that differentiates between outputs and outcomes; and

56 (E) is designed so that services are provided in a timely manner and for a duration that
57 is deemed appropriate to be effective;

58 (ii) maintains a database to document and report outcomes;

- 59 (iii) serves the purposes described in Section [35A-3-301](#);
60 (iv) aligns with community-based strategic plans approved by the county legislative
61 body for promoting the general welfare of the county's residents; and
62 (v) is consistent with the duties of the department under this chapter.
63 (e) "Social capital" means psychological, social, and economic resources acquired by a
64 family from networks and relationships with others.
- 65 (2) Subject to availability of funds, the department shall use funds obtained by the
66 department under the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant for
67 awarding grants to eligible counties.
- 68 (3) An eligible county that receives a grant may only use grant funds for costs
69 associated with implementing a qualified county poverty mitigation program.
- 70 (4) The department shall determine grant amounts by prorating available funds on a per
71 capita basis by county as described in department rule.
- 72 (5) Before receiving the grant, an eligible county shall enter into a written agreement
73 with the department that specifies:
- 74 (a) the grant amount;
75 (b) the time period for distribution of the grant, not to exceed a period of three years;
76 (c) the terms and conditions that the county shall meet to receive the grant, including:
77 (i) program eligibility requirements; and
78 (ii) reporting requirements; and
79 (d) the expenses for which the county may use grant funds.
- 80 (6) The department may award a grant under this section for the support of a qualified
81 county poverty mitigation program that serves two or more counties.
- 82 (7) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the
83 department shall make rules to establish:
- 84 (a) criteria and procedures for applying for and awarding grants; and
85 (b) the method and formula for determining grant amounts.
- 86 (8) The department shall include in the annual written report described in Section
87 [35A-1-109](#), a report that provides:
- 88 (a) a complete accounting of the funds expended by the department on grant awards to
89 counties each year;

90 (b) the grant amount provided to each eligible county that received a grant; and
 91 (c) information regarding the qualified county poverty mitigation programs funded by
 92 grants, including the outcomes and effectiveness of each program.

93 **Section 2. Appropriation.**

94 The following sums of money are appropriated for the fiscal year beginning July 1,
 95 2023, and ending June 30, 2024. These are additions to amounts previously appropriated for
 96 fiscal year 2024. Under the terms and conditions of Title 63J, Chapter 1, Budgetary Procedures
 97 Act, the Legislature appropriates the following sums of money from the funds or accounts
 98 indicated for the use and support of the government of the state of Utah.

99 ITEM 1

100 To Department of Workforce Services -- Operations and Policy

101 From Federal Funds, One-time 35,000,000

102 Schedule of Programs:

103 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families 35,000,000

104 The Legislature intends that:

105 (1) the Department of Workforce Services use appropriations under this item to
 106 provide grants to counties under Section [35A-3-316](#);

107 (2) the use of appropriations under this item is dependent upon the availability of
 108 TANF federal funds and the qualification of the program to receive TANF federal funds; and

109 (3) under Section [63J-1-603](#), appropriations under this item not lapse at the close of
 110 fiscal year 2024.