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1  
 2 An act relating to child welfare; creating s. 39.0143,  
 3 F.S.; requiring the Department of Children and  
 4 Families and Department of Juvenile Justice to  
 5 identify and meet the needs of dually-involved  
 6 children within a specified timeframe; requiring a  
 7 quarterly report with specified information to the  
 8 Legislature; amending s. 39.205, F.S.; removing the  
 9 requirement of a specified report; amending s.  
 10 39.4022, F.S.; requiring a representative from the  
 11 Department of Juvenile Justice to be invited to a  
 12 multidisciplinary team staffing under certain  
 13 circumstances; amending s. 39.6035, F.S.; revising  
 14 information that must be included in a transition  
 15 plan; requiring the child to sign a specified  
 16 document; requiring the Department of Children and  
 17 Families or a community-based care lead agency to  
 18 review and, if necessary, update a young adult's  
 19 transition plan after his or her 18th birthday under  
 20 certain circumstances; making technical changes;  
 21 amending s. 383.011, F.S.; requiring prenatal and  
 22 infant health care delivery programs to include  
 23 certain father engagement activities; amending s.  
 24 409.1451, F.S.; increasing the monthly stipend for  
 25 postsecondary education services and supports;

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26 requiring the Department of Children and Families, or  
27 an agency under contract with the department, to  
28 conduct a specified assessment and provide certain  
29 information and referrals to certain young adults;  
30 requiring such assessment be included in the young  
31 adult's transition plan; requiring the department, or  
32 an agency under contract with the department, to work  
33 with young adults to create, review, and update  
34 certain plans; requiring a financial plan be included  
35 in the young adult's transition plan; requiring a  
36 transition plan to include certain information;  
37 amending s. 409.1452, F.S.; requiring the Department  
38 of Children and Families to collaborate with specified  
39 entities for a certain purpose; requiring liaisons and  
40 coaching services to provide specified assistance for  
41 certain students at certain school district programs,  
42 Florida College System institutions, or state  
43 universities; providing requirements for such  
44 liaisons; requiring a liaison's contact information to  
45 be used in certain ways; requiring certain school  
46 district programs, Florida College System  
47 institutions, and state universities to maintain  
48 certain documentation; requiring certain entities to  
49 report certain information annually to the Department  
50 of Children and Families; conforming provisions to

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51 changes made by the act; removing obsolete language;  
 52 creating s. 409.1464, F.S.; requiring the Department  
 53 of Children and Families to contract for the  
 54 development and implementation of the Responsible  
 55 Fatherhood Initiative; providing initiative  
 56 requirements; providing requirements for the entity  
 57 contracting with the Department of Children and  
 58 Families to implement the initiative; requiring  
 59 certain collaboration to implement the initiative;  
 60 creating 409.1465, F.S.; providing legislative intent;  
 61 requiring the Department of Children and Families to  
 62 award specified grants to not-for-profit community-  
 63 based organizations to address the needs of fathers;  
 64 requiring the department to prioritize grant  
 65 applicants in a specified manner; specifying the time  
 66 period for which a grant may be awarded; requiring  
 67 grant recipients to submit certain reports;  
 68 authorizing the Department of Children and Families to  
 69 adopt rules; creating s. 409.1467, F.S.; requiring the  
 70 Department of Children and Families to provide grants  
 71 to community-based not-for-profit organizations to  
 72 offer certain mentorship programs; providing grant  
 73 requirements; providing grant eligibility  
 74 requirements; providing requirements for grant  
 75 recipients; requiring the department to prioritize

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76 grant applicants in a specified manner; providing the  
 77 amounts and duration of the grants; requiring grant  
 78 recipients to submit specified reports to the  
 79 department; requiring the department to contract for  
 80 the provision of technical assistance and certain  
 81 training; requiring grant recipients to complete such  
 82 training within a specified time; amending s. 409.147,  
 83 F.S.; requiring children's initiatives to update  
 84 strategic community plans to include certain  
 85 information; requiring the Ounce of Prevention to  
 86 provide technical assistance to the children's  
 87 initiative corporations; providing requirements for  
 88 children's initiatives to receive state funding;  
 89 amending s. 409.2557, F.S.; requiring the Department  
 90 of Revenue to establish a webpage that contains  
 91 certain information; amending s. 409.2564, F.S.;  
 92 requiring Department of Revenue to provide certain  
 93 written notification to delinquent obligors; requiring  
 94 the written notification to include certain  
 95 information; creating s. 409.25996, F.S.; requiring  
 96 the Department of Economic Opportunity to award grants  
 97 to organizations that assist noncustodial parents in  
 98 meeting their child support obligations; amending s.  
 99 409.988, F.S.; requiring lead agencies to address  
 100 certain needs of fathers served by the lead agency;

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101 requiring lead agencies to conduct an assessment,  
 102 create an action plan, employ certain specialists, and  
 103 prioritize certain individuals for specified purposes;  
 104 requiring the Department of Children and Families to  
 105 annually review lead agencies; amending ss. 409.996  
 106 and 409.997, F.S.; revising when specified reports  
 107 must be submitted to the Governor and Legislature;  
 108 creating s. 683.334, F.S.; designating the month of  
 109 June as "Responsible Fatherhood Month"; providing an  
 110 effective date.

111  
 112 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

113  
 114 Section 1. Section 39.0143, Florida Statutes, is created  
 115 to read:

116 39.0143 Dually-involved children.—Beginning in fiscal year  
 117 2022-2023 through fiscal year 2023-2024, the department and the  
 118 Department of Juvenile Justice shall identify children who are  
 119 dually involved with both systems of care. The department and  
 120 the Department of Juvenile Justice shall collaboratively take  
 121 appropriate action within available resources to meet the needs  
 122 of dually-involved children more effectively, and shall jointly  
 123 submit to the Legislature a quarterly report that includes, at a  
 124 minimum:

125 (1) Data on the number of children who are dually involved

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126 with both systems of care. Such children include, but are not  
 127 limited to, those who are the subject of any proceeding under  
 128 this chapter and, at the same time, are under the supervision of  
 129 the Department of Juvenile Justice under chapter 985, and those  
 130 children who were previously served by either the department or  
 131 the Department of Juvenile Justice and come to the attention of  
 132 either agency after being served.

133 (2) Data on the number of children who are placed in  
 134 licensed care after leaving the custody of the Department of  
 135 Juvenile Justice.

136 (3) Information on how both departments track children who  
 137 are or become dually involved.

138 (4) A summary of the actions taken by both departments to  
 139 better serve dually-involved children.

140 Section 2. Subsection (7) of section 39.205, Florida  
 141 Statutes, is amended to read:

142 39.205 Penalties relating to reporting of child abuse,  
 143 abandonment, or neglect.—

144 (7) The department shall establish procedures for  
 145 determining whether a false report of child abuse, abandonment,  
 146 or neglect has been made and for submitting all identifying  
 147 information relating to such a report to the appropriate law  
 148 enforcement agency ~~and shall report annually to the Legislature~~  
 149 ~~the number of reports referred.~~

150 Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section

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151 39.4022, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

152 39.4022 Multidisciplinary teams; staffings; assessments;  
 153 report.—

154 (4) PARTICIPANTS.—

155 (a) Collaboration among diverse individuals who are part  
 156 of the child's network is necessary to make the most informed  
 157 decisions possible for the child. A diverse team is preferable  
 158 to ensure that the necessary combination of technical skills,  
 159 cultural knowledge, community resources, and personal  
 160 relationships is developed and maintained for the child and  
 161 family. The participants necessary to achieve an appropriately  
 162 diverse team for a child may vary by child and may include  
 163 extended family, friends, neighbors, coaches, clergy, coworkers,  
 164 or others the family identifies as potential sources of support.

165 1. Each multidisciplinary team staffing must invite the  
 166 following members:

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

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

174 c. The current caregiver, provided the caregiver is not a  
 175 parent who meets the criteria of one of the exceptions under

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176 sub-subparagraph b.;

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

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

183 f. The case manager for the child, or his or her case  
 184 manager supervisor.

185 g. A representative from the Department of Juvenile  
 186 Justice if the child is dually involved with both the department  
 187 and the Department of Juvenile Justice.

188 2. The multidisciplinary team must make reasonable efforts  
 189 to have all mandatory invitees attend. However, the  
 190 multidisciplinary team staffing may not be delayed if the  
 191 invitees in subparagraph 1. fail to attend after being provided  
 192 reasonable opportunities.

193 Section 4. Section 39.6035, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 194 to read:

195 39.6035 Transition plan.—

196 (1) During the year after a child reaches 16 years of age,  
 197 the department and the community-based care lead agency  
 198 ~~provider~~, in collaboration with the caregiver and any other  
 199 individual whom the child would like to include, shall assist  
 200 the child in developing a transition plan. The required



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201 transition plan is in addition to standard case management  
 202 requirements. The transition plan must address specific options  
 203 for the child to use in obtaining services, including housing,  
 204 health insurance, education, financial literacy, a driver  
 205 license, and workforce support and employment services. The plan  
 206 must also include tasks to establish and maintain naturally  
 207 occurring mentoring relationships and other personal support  
 208 services. The transition plan may be as detailed as the child  
 209 chooses. This plan must ~~shall~~ be updated as needed before the  
 210 child reaches 18 years of age and after the child reaches 18  
 211 years of age if he or she is receiving funding under s.  
 212 409.1451(2). In developing and updating the transition plan, the  
 213 department and the community-based care lead agency shall:  
 214 (a) Provide the child with the documentation required  
 215 under s. 39.701(3).  
 216 (b) Coordinate the transition plan with the independent  
 217 living provisions in the case plan and, for a child with  
 218 disabilities, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act  
 219 transition plan.  
 220 (c) Provide information for the financial literacy  
 221 curriculum for youth offered by the Department of Financial  
 222 Services.  
 223 (d) Provide information about independent living services  
 224 and programs which is tailored to the individual needs and plans  
 225 of the child, including, at a minimum, the specific benefits of

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226 each program and how such benefits meet the needs and plans of  
 227 the child, the advantages and disadvantages of participation in  
 228 each program considering the needs and plans of the child, and  
 229 the financial value of each program to the child. The community-  
 230 based care lead agency shall discuss this information with the  
 231 child, and the child must sign a document indicating that he or  
 232 she:

- 233 1. Received such information.
- 234 2. Discussed such information with the community-based  
 235 care lead agency representative.
- 236 3. Understands how such services and benefits would meet  
 237 his or her individual needs.
- 238 4. Understands how such services would assist him or her  
 239 in accomplishing future plans.

240 (2) The department and the child shall schedule a time,  
 241 date, and place for a meeting to assist the child in drafting  
 242 the transition plan. The time, date, and place must be  
 243 convenient for the child and any individual whom the child would  
 244 like to include. This meeting must ~~shall~~ be conducted in the  
 245 child's primary language.

246 (3) The transition plan shall be reviewed periodically  
 247 with the child, the department, and other individuals of the  
 248 child's choice and updated when necessary before each judicial  
 249 review so long as the child or young adult remains in care.

250 (4) The transition plan must be approved by the court

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251 before the child's 18th birthday and must be attached to the  
 252 case plan and updated before each judicial review.

253 (5) The department or community-based care lead agency  
 254 shall continue to periodically meet with a young adult to review  
 255 and, if necessary, update the transition plan beyond his or her  
 256 18th birthday if the young adult receives funding under s.  
 257 409.1451(2).

258 Section 5. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of section  
 259 383.011, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

260 383.011 Administration of maternal and child health  
 261 programs.—

262 (1) The Department of Health is designated as the state  
 263 agency for:

264 (d) Administering and providing for prenatal and infant  
 265 health care delivery services through county health departments  
 266 or subcontractors for the provision of the following enhanced  
 267 services for medically and socially high-risk clients, subject  
 268 to the availability of moneys and the limitations established by  
 269 the General Appropriations Act or chapter 216:

- 270 1. Case finding or outreach.
- 271 2. Assessment of health, social, environmental, and  
 272 behavioral risk factors.
- 273 3. Case management utilizing a service delivery plan.
- 274 4. Home visiting to support the delivery of and  
 275 participation in prenatal and infant primary health care

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276 services.

277 5. Childbirth and parenting education, including  
278 encouragement of breastfeeding.

279 6. Father engagement activities, such as providing  
280 individualized support to fathers to increase participation in  
281 services that strengthen family and child well-being.

282 Section 6. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section  
283 409.1451, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph (e),  
284 paragraph (b) and present paragraph (d) of that subsection are  
285 amended, and a new paragraph (d) is added to that subsection, to  
286 read:

287 409.1451 The Road-to-Independence Program.—

288 (2) POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION SERVICES AND SUPPORT.—

289 (b) The amount of the financial assistance shall be as  
290 follows:

291 1. For a young adult who does not remain in foster care  
292 and is attending a postsecondary school as provided in s.  
293 1009.533, the amount is \$1,720 ~~\$1,256~~ monthly.

294 2. For a young adult who remains in foster care, is  
295 attending a postsecondary school, as provided in s. 1009.533,  
296 and continues to reside in a licensed foster home, the amount is  
297 the established room and board rate for foster parents. This  
298 takes the place of the payment provided for in s. 409.145(3).

299 3. For a young adult who remains in foster care, but  
300 temporarily resides away from a licensed foster home for

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301 purposes of attending a postsecondary school as provided in s.  
 302 1009.533, the amount is \$1,720 ~~\$1,256~~ monthly. This takes the  
 303 place of the payment provided for in s. 409.145(3).

304 4. For a young adult who remains in foster care, is  
 305 attending a postsecondary school as provided in s. 1009.533, and  
 306 continues to reside in a licensed group home, the amount is  
 307 negotiated between the community-based care lead agency and the  
 308 licensed group home provider.

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

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

317 (d) Before a young adult receives funding under this  
 318 subsection, the department, or an agency under contract with the  
 319 department, shall assess the young adult's financial literacy  
 320 and executive functioning, self-regulation, and similar skills  
 321 that are important for successful independent living and the  
 322 completion of postsecondary education. The assessment must be  
 323 included as part of the transition plan required under s.  
 324 39.6035. Within a reasonable time after completing the  
 325 assessment, the department, or an agency under contract with the

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326 department, must provide information and referrals for any  
 327 voluntary services that are recommended by the assessment to the  
 328 young adult to assist in strengthening any necessary skills.

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

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

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

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

348 b. Maintain standards of academic progress as defined by  
 349 the education institution, except that if the young adult's  
 350 progress is insufficient to renew the award at any time during

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351 the eligibility period, the young adult may continue to be  
 352 enrolled for additional terms while attempting to restore  
 353 eligibility as long as progress towards the required level is  
 354 maintained.

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

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

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

371 7. The department, or an agency under contract with the  
 372 department, shall work with the young adult to create a  
 373 financial plan that is guided by the young adult's financial  
 374 goals in meeting his or her needs while in postsecondary  
 375 education. The financial plan must be included in the transition

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376 plan required under s. 39.6035. The department, or an agency  
377 under contract with the department, shall review and, if  
378 necessary, update the financial plan with the young adult every  
379 6 months until funding under this subsection is no longer  
380 provided.

381 8. The department, or an agency under contract with the  
382 department, shall review with the young adult the transition  
383 plan required under s. 39.6035 during the year before the young  
384 adult graduates from postsecondary education or the year before  
385 the young adult reaches 23 years of age, whichever occurs first.  
386 The transition plan must include an assessment of the young  
387 adult's current and future needs and challenges for self-  
388 sufficiency and address, at a minimum, how the young adult will  
389 meet his or her financial needs and obligations when funding  
390 under this subsection is no longer provided.

391 Section 7. Section 409.1452, Florida Statutes, is amended  
392 to read:

393 409.1452 Collaboration with State University System Board  
394 of Governors, Florida College System, and Department of  
395 Education to assist children and young adults who have been or  
396 are in foster care or are experiencing homelessness;  
397 documentation regarding eligibility for tuition and fee  
398 exemptions.—The department shall collaborate with the State  
399 University System, the Florida College System, and the  
400 Department of Education to address the need for a comprehensive



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401 support structure in the academic arena to assist children and  
402 young adults who have been or remain in the foster care system  
403 in making the transition from a structured care system into an  
404 independent living setting.

405 (1) (a) Each school district program, Florida College  
406 System institution, or state university at which a student is  
407 exempt from the payment of tuition and fees under s. 1009.25  
408 must have, at a minimum, a knowledgeable, accessible, and  
409 responsive employee who acts as a liaison and provides  
410 assistance to those students who are exempt from the payment of  
411 tuition and fees to assist in resolving any problems related to  
412 such exemption. The liaisons shall provide such students with  
413 on-campus support and must be employees of the program,  
414 institution, or university. The name and contact information of  
415 the liaison must be:

416 1. Provided to each student who is exempt from the payment  
417 of tuition and fees and who is attending that program,  
418 institution, or university.

419 2. Published on the website of the program, institution,  
420 or university.

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

423 (b) Each school district program, Florida College System  
424 institution, and state university must maintain the original  
425 documentation submitted by the student regarding his or her

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426 eligibility for the tuition and fee exemption under s. 1009.25  
427 and may not make additional requests for such documentation.

428 (2) A school district program, Florida College System  
429 institution, or state university may also provide campus  
430 coaching services and other support to a student who is exempt  
431 from the payment of tuition and fees under s. 1009.25 to promote  
432 his or her successful completion of postsecondary education and  
433 transition to independent living. Effective July 1, 2013, the  
434 ~~Department of Children and Families shall work in collaboration~~  
435 ~~with the Board of Governors, the Florida College System, and the~~  
436 ~~Department of Education to help address the need for a~~  
437 ~~comprehensive support structure in the academic arena to assist~~  
438 ~~children and young adults who have been or continue to remain in~~  
439 ~~the foster care system in making the transition from a~~  
440 ~~structured care system into an independent living setting. The~~  
441 ~~State University System of Florida and the Florida College~~  
442 ~~System shall provide postsecondary educational campus coaching~~  
443 ~~positions that will be integrated into Florida College System~~  
444 ~~institutions' and university institutions' general support~~  
445 ~~services structure to provide current and former foster care~~  
446 ~~children and young adults with dedicated, on-campus support. The~~  
447 ~~Department of Children and Families has the sole discretion to~~  
448 ~~determine which state college or university will offer a campus~~  
449 ~~coaching position, based on departmental demographic data~~  
450 ~~indicating greatest need. These campus coaching positions shall~~

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451 ~~be employees of the selected educational institutions, focused~~  
 452 ~~on supporting children and young adults who have been or~~  
 453 ~~continue to remain in the foster care system.~~

454 (3) The Chancellors of the Division of Career and Adult  
 455 Education, the Florida College System, and the State University  
 456 System Board of Governors shall report annually to the  
 457 Department of Children and Families specific data, subject to  
 458 privacy laws, about the students ~~children and young adults~~  
 459 served by the campus liaisons ~~coaches~~, including academic  
 460 progress, retention rates for students enrolled in the program,  
 461 financial aid requested and received, and information required  
 462 by the National Youth in Transition Database.

463 Section 8. Section 409.1464, Florida Statutes, is created  
 464 to read:

465 409.1464 Responsible Fatherhood Initiative.—

466 (1) The department shall contract for the development and  
 467 implementation of the Responsible Fatherhood Initiative. The  
 468 initiative must provide an opportunity for every father in the  
 469 state to be able to obtain information and inspiration that will  
 470 motivate and enable him to enhance his abilities as a father,  
 471 recognizing that some fathers have greater challenges than  
 472 others and would benefit from greater support.

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

474 (a) Include a website and other related electronic  
 475 resources that will allow a father to obtain information about

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476 effective parenting, identify areas in which support would  
477 enable him to enhance his ability to be an effective father, and  
478 be connected to such support, including but not limited to,  
479 support provided by organizations receiving grants under s.  
480 409.1465.

481 (b) Use appropriate materials from the fatherhood media  
482 campaign available through the National Responsible Fatherhood  
483 Clearinghouse.

484 (c) Include print, television, digital, and social media  
485 elements and public events, and may include appearances by and  
486 involvement from public figures and influencers.

487 (3)(a) The entity with which the department contracts for  
488 the Responsible Fatherhood Initiative must be a not-for-profit  
489 organization that:

490 1. Has a history of focusing on responsible fatherhood,  
491 including providing online resources to fathers, and engaging  
492 fathers, father figures, and children through community-based  
493 and school-based events to encourage responsible fatherhood.

494 2. Has the organizational capacity to manage a statewide  
495 initiative and successfully carry out the requirements of this  
496 section.

497 (b) The entity must collaborate with other relevant  
498 agencies of state government and private organizations to  
499 develop and implement the initiative. Such agencies of state  
500 government must collaborate with the entity with which the

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501 department contracts to carry out the initiative.

502 Section 9. Section 409.1465, Florida Statutes, is created  
503 to read:

504 409.1465 Grants to address the needs of fathers.—

505 (1) The Legislature recognizes that families are stronger  
506 when both parents act responsibly in caring for their children.  
507 It is the intent of the Legislature to recognize and support the  
508 important and unique role that fathers play in ensuring the  
509 physical, emotional, and economic well-being of their children  
510 and families.

511 (2) The department shall award grants to not-for-profit  
512 community-based organizations to address the needs of fathers.  
513 The department shall award the following types of grants:

514 (a) Grants that comprehensively address the needs of  
515 fathers, such as assisting them in finding employment, managing  
516 child support obligations, transitioning from a period of  
517 incarceration, accessing health care, understanding child  
518 development, and enhancing parenting skills. Services provided  
519 must be tailored to the needs of the father being served. Case  
520 management services must be provided by the grant recipient,  
521 either directly or by subcontract, to the fathers who are served  
522 by the grants under this paragraph. If the father receiving case  
523 management services through a grant awarded under this paragraph  
524 has a child receiving case management services from a community-  
525 based care lead agency because the child is the subject of a

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526 dependency proceeding under chapter 39, the case management  
 527 services may be coordinated.

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

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

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

- 535 1. Unemployment rates.
- 536 2. Incarceration rates.
- 537 3. Housing instability.
- 538 4. The number of single-parent households.
- 539 5. The number of public benefit recipients.
- 540 6. Graduation rates.
- 541 7. Levels of academic achievement.

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

545 (c) Applicant current and historical involvement in the  
 546 community being served.

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

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

553 (f) Applicant organizational capacity to effectively meet  
 554 the requirements of the grant and to deliver the programs  
 555 proposed by the applicant. The department may offer technical  
 556 assistance to applicants and grant recipients that have lower  
 557 organizational capacity as long as such organizations have, or  
 558 the organization's leadership has, significant experience  
 559 servng fathers.

560 (4) Grants shall be awarded for no more than 3 years, with  
 561 subsequent year funding contingent on compliance with grant  
 562 requirements and adequate performance. Grant recipients must  
 563 submit reports to the department in a format and at intervals,  
 564 which must be at least annually, prescribed by the department.

565 (5) The department may adopt rules to implement this  
 566 section.

567 Section 10. Section 409.1467, Florida Statutes, is created  
 568 to read:

569 409.1467 Mentorship for at-risk male students.—

570 (1) The department must award grants to community-based  
 571 not-for-profit organizations incorporated under chapter 617 to  
 572 offer mentorship programs for at-risk male students. These  
 573 grants must:

574 (a) Assist at-risk male students who are in middle school  
 575 or high school in developing social, emotional, and cognitive

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576 | skills to prepare them for future success.

577 |       (b) Provide an opportunity for small not-for-profit  
578 | organizations to receive training and technical assistance that  
579 | will strengthen their capacity to provide high-quality,  
580 | effective services and obtain additional nonstate funding in the  
581 | future.

582 |       (2) A community-based not-for-profit organization must  
583 | have organizational management and a board of directors  
584 | reflective of the community served by the organization in order  
585 | to be eligible to receive a grant under this section.

586 |       (3) Grant recipients must:

587 |       (a) Recruit and train mentors for eligible at-risk male  
588 | students.

589 |       (b) Provide mentorship, social and academic support, life  
590 | skill development, and other opportunities for eligible at-risk  
591 | male students.

592 |       (c) Use trauma-informed practices and interventions to  
593 | address adverse childhood experiences of eligible at-risk male  
594 | students.

595 |       (d) Be inclusive of eligible at-risk male students who  
596 | have a disability.

597 |       (4) Prioritization of applicants for a grant must, at a  
598 | minimum, be based on:

599 |       (a) Unemployment rates; incarceration rates; housing  
600 | instability; the number of single-parent households; the number



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601 of public benefit recipients; graduation rates; and levels of  
 602 academic achievement in the geographic area in which mentorship  
 603 services would be provided.

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

607 (c) The applicant's current revenues and organizational  
 608 capacity, experience and demonstrated effectiveness in serving  
 609 at-risk male students or providing mentorship programs, and  
 610 commitment to organizational development through the training  
 611 required under subsection (7) in order to achieve the goal  
 612 specified in paragraph (1)(b).

613 (5) The department may award grants that are between  
 614 \$25,000 and \$250,000 per year and the grants may be awarded to a  
 615 community-based not-for-profit organization for no more than 3  
 616 years, contingent on continued eligibility, compliance with  
 617 grant requirements, and adequate performance. The department  
 618 shall create categories of grants based on the annual revenues  
 619 of the community-based not-for-profit organizations that are  
 620 applying in order to maximize the opportunities for small not-  
 621 for-profit organizations to receive grants.

622 (6) Grant recipients must submit reports to the department  
 623 in a format and at intervals prescribed by the department. At a  
 624 minimum, grant recipients must report on the number of at-risk  
 625 male students served and their ages, the number of mentors

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626 providing mentorship services, and the outcomes of the at-risk  
627 students served, including, but not limited to, improved  
628 academic success, decreased involvement in the juvenile justice  
629 system, and enhanced readiness for and involvement in  
630 postsecondary education, as appropriate.

631 (7) The department shall contract for the provision of  
632 technical assistance and training in nonprofit management,  
633 outcomes measurement, and positive youth development for grant  
634 recipients. Within 6 months after receiving a grant, a grant  
635 recipient must complete such training as required by the  
636 department in order to achieve the goal specified in paragraph  
637 (1)(b). The contracted provider shall determine the specific  
638 training needed by grant recipients and directly provide or  
639 subcontract for such training and technical assistance.

640 Section 11. Subsections (8) through (13) of section  
641 409.147, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (9)  
642 through (14), respectively, subsection (7) is amended, and a new  
643 subsection (8) is added to that section, to read:

644 409.147 Children's initiatives.—

645 (7) CHILDREN'S INITIATIVE CORPORATION.—

646 (a) After the governing body adopts the resolution  
647 described in subsection (4), establishes the planning team as  
648 provided in subsection (5), and develops and adopts the  
649 strategic community plan as provided in subsection (6), the  
650 county or municipality shall create a corporation not for profit

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651 | which shall be registered, incorporated, organized, and operated  
 652 | in compliance with chapter 617. The purpose of the corporation  
 653 | is to facilitate fundraising, to secure broad community  
 654 | ownership of the children's initiative, and, if the area  
 655 | selected by the governing body is designated as a children's  
 656 | initiative, to:

657 |     ~~1.(a)~~ Begin to transfer responsibility for planning from  
 658 | the planning team to the corporation.

659 |     ~~2.(b)~~ Begin the implementation and governance of the  
 660 | children's initiative community plan.

661 |     3. Update the strategic community plan every 5 years to  
 662 | reflect, at a minimum, the current status of the area served by  
 663 | the children's initiative; the goals, objectives, and strategies  
 664 | for each focus area; and the tasks required to implement the  
 665 | strategies for the upcoming year.

666 |     (b) The Ounce of Prevention must provide technical  
 667 | assistance to the corporation to facilitate achievement of the  
 668 | plans created under subsection (6).

669 |     (8) REQUIREMENTS FOR RECEIVING STATE FUNDING.-Unless  
 670 | otherwise specified in the general appropriations act:

671 |     (a) State funding for children's initiatives must be  
 672 | awarded through a performance-based contract that links payments  
 673 | to achievement of outcomes directly related to the goals,  
 674 | objectives, strategies, and tasks outlined in the strategic  
 675 | community plan.

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

679 Section 12. Subsection (4) is added to section 409.2557,  
 680 Florida Statutes, to read:

681 409.2557 State agency for administering child support  
 682 enforcement program.—

683 (4) The department shall establish on its website a  
 684 dedicated webpage that provides information to obligors who have  
 685 difficulty paying child support due to economic hardship. There  
 686 must be a link to such webpage on the main child support  
 687 webpage. The webpage must be in plain language and include, at a  
 688 minimum, information on how an obligor can modify a child  
 689 support order, information on how to access services from  
 690 CareerSource Florida and the organizations awarded grants under  
 691 s. 409.25996, and a link to the website for CareerSource  
 692 Florida.

693 Section 13. Subsection (9) of section 409.2564, Florida  
 694 Statutes, is amended to read:

695 409.2564 Actions for support.—

696 (9)(a) For the purpose of securing delinquent support, the  
 697 department may increase the amount of the monthly support  
 698 obligation to include amounts for delinquencies, subject to such  
 699 conditions or limitations as set forth in paragraph (b).

700 (b) In support obligations not subject to income

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701 deduction, the department shall notify the obligor in writing of  
 702 his or her delinquency and of the department's intent to require  
 703 an additional 20 percent of the monthly obligation amount to  
 704 allow for collection of the delinquency unless, within 20 days,  
 705 the obligor:

- 706 ~~1.~~ pays the delinquency in full; or
- 707 ~~2.~~ files a petition with the circuit court to contest the  
 708 delinquency action.

709 (c) All written notices provided to an obligor regarding  
 710 delinquent support must include information on how the obligor  
 711 can access the webpage required under s. 409.2557(4) and how to  
 712 access services through CareerSource Florida and the  
 713 organizations that are awarded grants under s. 409.25996.

714 Section 14. Section 409.25996, Florida Statutes, is  
 715 created to read:

716 409.25996 Organizations that assist noncustodial parents.—  
 717 The Department of Economic Opportunity shall award grants to  
 718 organizations that assist noncustodial parents who are  
 719 unemployed or underemployed and have difficulty meeting child  
 720 support obligations to become self-sufficient and establish a  
 721 successful pattern of paying child support obligations.

722 Section 15. Paragraph (n) is added to subsection (1) of  
 723 section 409.988, Florida Statutes, is to read:

724 409.988 Community-based care lead agency duties; general  
 725 provisions.—

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726 (1) DUTIES.—A lead agency:  
 727 (n) Shall ensure that it is addressing the unique needs of  
 728 the fathers of children who are served by the lead agency.  
 729 1. The lead agency shall:  
 730 a. Conduct an initial assessment of its engagement with  
 731 such fathers and provision of and referral to father-oriented  
 732 services.  
 733 b. Create an action plan to address any gaps identified  
 734 through the assessment and implement the action plan.  
 735 c. Employ a father-engagement specialist to, at a minimum,  
 736 build relationships with fathers, help identify their needs,  
 737 assist them in accessing services, and communicate with the lead  
 738 agency about the challenges faced by these fathers and how to  
 739 appropriately meet their unique needs. The lead agency shall  
 740 prioritize individuals who have faced experiences similar to the  
 741 fathers who are being served by the lead agency for selection as  
 742 a father-engagement specialist.  
 743 2. The department shall annually review how the lead  
 744 agency is meeting the needs of fathers, including, at a minimum,  
 745 how the lead agency is helping fathers establish positive,  
 746 stable relationships with their children and assisting fathers  
 747 in receiving needed services. The lead agency shall provide any  
 748 relevant information on how it is meeting the needs of these  
 749 fathers to the department, which must be included in the report  
 750 required under s. 409.997.

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751 Section 16. Subsection (3) of section 409.996, Florida  
 752 Statutes, is amended to read:

753 409.996 Duties of the Department of Children and  
 754 Families.—The department shall contract for the delivery,  
 755 administration, or management of care for children in the child  
 756 protection and child welfare system. In doing so, the department  
 757 retains responsibility for the quality of contracted services  
 758 and programs and shall ensure that, at a minimum, services are  
 759 delivered in accordance with applicable federal and state  
 760 statutes and regulations and the performance standards and  
 761 metrics specified in the strategic plan created under s.  
 762 20.19(1).

763 (3) The department shall annually conduct a comprehensive,  
 764 multiyear review of the revenues, expenditures, and financial  
 765 position of all community-based care lead agencies which must  
 766 cover the most recent 2 consecutive fiscal years. The review  
 767 must include a comprehensive system-of-care analysis. All  
 768 community-based care lead agencies must develop and maintain a  
 769 plan to achieve financial viability. The department's review and  
 770 the agency's plan shall be submitted to the Governor, the  
 771 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
 772 Representatives by December 1 ~~November 1~~ of each year.

773 Section 17. Paragraph (g) of subsection (2) of section  
 774 409.997, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

775 409.997 Child welfare results-oriented accountability

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776 | program.—

777 |       (2) The purpose of the results-oriented accountability  
 778 | program is to monitor and measure the use of resources, the  
 779 | quality and amount of services provided, and child and family  
 780 | outcomes. The program includes data analysis, research review,  
 781 | and evaluation. The program shall produce an assessment of  
 782 | individual entities' performance, as well as the performance of  
 783 | groups of entities working together on a local, judicial  
 784 | circuit, regional, and statewide basis to provide an integrated  
 785 | system of care. Data analyzed and communicated through the  
 786 | accountability program shall inform the department's development  
 787 | and maintenance of an inclusive, interactive, and evidence-  
 788 | supported program of quality improvement which promotes  
 789 | individual skill building as well as organizational learning.  
 790 | The department may use data generated by the program regarding  
 791 | performance drivers, process improvements, short-term and long-  
 792 | term outcomes, and quality improvement efforts to determine  
 793 | contract compliance and as the basis for payment of performance  
 794 | incentives if funds for such payments are made available through  
 795 | the General Appropriations Act. The information compiled and  
 796 | utilized in the accountability program must incorporate, at a  
 797 | minimum:

798 |       (g) An annual performance report that is provided to  
 799 | interested parties including the dependency judge or judges in  
 800 | the community-based care service area. The report shall be



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801 submitted to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the  
802 Speaker of the House of Representatives by November 15 ~~October 1~~  
803 of each year.

804 Section 18. Section 683.334, Florida Statutes, is created  
805 to read:

806 683.334 Responsible Fatherhood Month.—

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

812 (2) The Department of Children and Families, the  
813 Department of Health, local governments, and other agencies are  
814 encouraged to sponsor events to promote awareness of responsible  
815 fatherhood engagement and the contributions fathers make in the  
816 lives of their children.

817 Section 19. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.