

**ARTICLE 11**

RELATING TO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

SECTION 1. Title 23 of the General Laws entitled "HEALTH AND SAFETY" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

CHAPTER 17.39

PRIMARY CARE TRAINING SITES PROGRAM

**23-17.39-1. Short title.**

This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Primary Care Training Sites Program".

**23-17.39-2. Definitions.**

As used in this chapter, the following words and phrases are construed as follows:

(1) "Director" means the director of the department of health;

(2) "Grant" means a sum awarded pursuant to a contract executed pursuant to § 23-17.29-7(b);

(3) "National Committee for Quality Assurance" or "NCQA" means the nonprofit organization headquartered in the District of Columbia working to improve healthcare quality through the administration of evidence-based standards, measures, programs and accreditation;

(4) "Office" means the office of primary care training established pursuant to the provisions of § 23-17.29-3;

(5) "Patient-centered medical home" or "PCMH" means a model of healthcare that puts patients at the forefront of care by providing team-based healthcare delivery led by a healthcare provider to render comprehensive and continuous medical care to patients with a goal to obtain maximal health outcomes;

(6) "Primary care" means day-to-day healthcare provided by a healthcare professional. Typically, the healthcare professional acts as the first contact and principal point of continuing care for patients within a healthcare system, and coordinates other specialist care that the patient may require; and

(7) "Primary care site" means a site, location or medical practice that serves as the patient's entry point into the healthcare system and acts as the continuing focal point for all required healthcare services.

1           **23-17.39-3. Creation of office of primary care training -- Purpose.**

2           There is hereby authorized, created and established an office of primary care training  
3 within the department of health. The purpose of the office shall be to:

4           (1) Assist the director in developing an application and selection process for the awarding  
5 of grants pursuant to the provisions of this chapter;

6           (2) Provide oversight of grant recipients;

7           (3) Coordinate meetings and related logistics to implement the provisions of this chapter;

8           (4) Assist applicants for grants to comply with the process to include providing information  
9 and assistance in processing of grant awards;

10           (5) Recommend acceptance or rejection of proposed contracts and grants to be approved  
11 by the director in accordance with the provisions of § 42-11-11;

12           (6) Coordinate with the approval of the director, and with the director of administration,  
13 the approval of all contracts negotiated pursuant to the provisions of this chapter and the provisions  
14 of § 42-11-11;

15           (7) Establish evidence-based standards to measure the success and performance of all  
16 recipients of grants provided pursuant to the provisions of this chapter; and

17           (8) Perform all other duties as assigned by the director.

18           The office of primary care training shall be staffed by the person or persons assigned by  
19 the director.

20           **23-17.39-4. Contracts.**

21           In compliance with the provisions of § 42-11-11, the director shall have the authority to  
22 enter into contracts, subject to appropriation, for medical education to be conducted at primary care  
23 practice sites. Any contract entered into shall not exceed ninety thousand dollars (\$90,000) per  
24 primary care site contract recipient, per calendar year and shall contain, at a minimum, the  
25 following terms, conditions and provisions:

26           (1) The primary care site shall serve as an enhanced interdisciplinary clinical training site;

27           (2) The primary care site shall have achieved and shall maintain NCQA PCMH distinction;

28           (3) The primary care site shall provide integrated behavioral health services;

29           (4) The primary care site shall provide an agreed curriculum of training for physicians,  
30 nurse practitioners and physician assistants; and

31           (5) Training shall include a minimum of five (5) hours didactic training and shall introduce  
32 the trainees to the concept of PCMH and how the principles of the model have been operationalized  
33 in the primary care delivery setting.

34           **23-17.39-5. Rules and regulations.**

1           The director shall promulgate rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this  
2 chapter.

3           **23-17.39-6. Reports.**

4           The director shall report annually to the general assembly and the governor no later than  
5 December 31 of each year on the status and progress of the primary care training sites program  
6 established and administered pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

7           **23-17.39-7. Severability.**

8           If any provision of this chapter or any rule or regulation promulgated pursuant to the  
9 provisions of this chapter, or its application to any person or circumstance, is held invalid by a court  
10 of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the chapter, rule or regulation and the application of the  
11 provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected by its invalidity. The invalidity of  
12 any section or sections or portion of any section or sections of this chapter shall not affect the  
13 validity of the remainder of this chapter.

14           SECTION 2. Sections 40-5.2-10, 40-5.2-11, and 40-5.2-12 of the General Laws in Chapter  
15 40-5.2 entitled "The Rhode Island Works Program" are hereby amended to read as follows:

16           **40-5.2-10. Necessary requirements and conditions.**

17           The following requirements and conditions shall be necessary to establish eligibility for  
18 the program.

19           (a) **Citizenship, alienage, and residency requirements.**

20           (1) A person shall be a resident of the State of Rhode Island.

21           (2) Effective October 1, 2008, a person shall be a United States citizen, or shall meet the  
22 alienage requirements established in § 402(b) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity  
23 Reconciliation Act of 1996, PRWORA, Pub. L. No. 104-193 and as that section may hereafter be  
24 amended [8 U.S.C. § 1612]; a person who is not a United States citizen and does not meet the  
25 alienage requirements established in PRWORA, as amended, is not eligible for cash assistance in  
26 accordance with this chapter.

27           (b) The family/assistance unit must meet any other requirements established by the  
28 department of human services by rules and regulations adopted pursuant to the Administrative  
29 Procedures Act, as necessary to promote the purpose and goals of this chapter.

30           (c) Receipt of cash assistance is conditional upon compliance with all program  
31 requirements.

32           (d) All individuals domiciled in this state shall be exempt from the application of  
33 subdivision 115(d)(1)(A) of Pub. L. No. 104-193, the Personal Responsibility and Work  
34 Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, PRWORA [21 U.S.C. § 862a], which makes any

1 individual ineligible for certain state and federal assistance if that individual has been convicted  
2 under federal or state law of any offense that is classified as a felony by the law of the jurisdiction  
3 and that has as an element the possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance as defined  
4 in § 102(6) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. § 802(6)).

5 **(e) Individual employment plan as a condition of eligibility.**

6 (1) Following receipt of an application, the department of human services shall assess the  
7 financial conditions of the family, including the non-parent caretaker relative who is applying for  
8 cash assistance for themselves as well as for the minor child(ren), in the context of an eligibility  
9 determination. If a parent or non-parent caretaker relative is unemployed or under-employed, the  
10 department shall conduct an initial assessment, taking into account:

11 (A) The physical capacity, skills, education, work experience, health, safety, family  
12 responsibilities, and place of residence of the individual; and

13 (B) The child care and supportive services required by the applicant to avail themselves of  
14 employment opportunities and/or work readiness programs.

15 (2) On the basis of this assessment, the department of human services and the department  
16 of labor and training, as appropriate, in consultation with the applicant, shall develop an individual  
17 employment plan for the family that requires the individual to participate in the intensive  
18 employment services. Intensive employment services shall be defined as the work requirement  
19 activities in § 40-5.2-12(g) and (i).

20 (3) The director, or the director's designee, may assign a case manager to an  
21 applicant/participant, as appropriate.

22 (4) The department of labor and training and the department of human services in  
23 conjunction with the participant shall develop a revised individual employment plan that shall  
24 identify employment objectives, taking into consideration factors above, and shall include a  
25 strategy for immediate employment and for preparing for, finding, and retaining employment  
26 consistent, to the extent practicable, with the individual's career objectives.

27 (5) The individual employment plan must include the provision for the participant to  
28 engage in work requirements as outlined in § 40-5.2-12.

29 (6)(i) The participant shall attend and participate immediately in intensive assessment and  
30 employment services as the first step in the individual employment plan, unless temporarily exempt  
31 from this requirement in accordance with this chapter. Intensive assessment and employment  
32 services shall be defined as the work requirement activities in § 40-5.2-12(g) and (i).

33 (ii) Parents under age twenty (20) without a high school diploma or general equivalency  
34 diploma (GED) shall be referred to special teen-parent programs that will provide intensive services

1 designed to assist teen parents to complete high school education or GED, and to continue approved  
2 work plan activities in accord with Rhode Island works program requirements.

3 (7) The applicant shall become a participant in accordance with this chapter at the time the  
4 individual employment plan is signed and entered into.

5 (8) Applicants and participants of the Rhode Island works program shall agree to comply  
6 with the terms of the individual employment plan, and shall cooperate fully with the steps  
7 established in the individual employment plan, including the work requirements.

8 (9) The department of human services has the authority under the chapter to require  
9 attendance by the applicant/participant, either at the department of human services or at the  
10 department of labor and training, at appointments deemed necessary for the purpose of having the  
11 applicant enter into and become eligible for assistance through the Rhode Island works program.  
12 The appointments include, but are not limited to: the initial interview, orientation and assessment;  
13 job readiness; and job search. Attendance is required as a condition of eligibility for cash assistance  
14 in accordance with rules and regulations established by the department.

15 (10) As a condition of eligibility for assistance pursuant to this chapter, the  
16 applicant/participant shall be obligated to keep appointments; attend orientation meetings at the  
17 department of human services and/or the Rhode Island department of labor and training; participate  
18 in any initial assessments or appraisals; and comply with all the terms of the individual employment  
19 plan in accordance with department of human services rules and regulations.

20 (11) A participant, including a parent or non-parent caretaker relative included in the cash  
21 assistance payment, shall not voluntarily quit a job or refuse a job unless there is good cause as  
22 defined in this chapter or the department's rules and regulations.

23 (12) A participant who voluntarily quits or refuses a job without good cause, as defined in  
24 § 40-5.2-12(l), while receiving cash assistance in accordance with this chapter, shall be sanctioned  
25 in accordance with rules and regulations promulgated by the department.

26 (f) **Resources.**

27 (1) The family or assistance unit's countable resources shall be less than the allowable  
28 resource limit established by the department in accordance with this chapter.

29 (2) No family or assistance unit shall be eligible for assistance payments if the combined  
30 value of its available resources (reduced by any obligations or debts with respect to such resources)  
31 exceeds five thousand dollars (\$5,000).

32 (3) For purposes of this subsection, the following shall not be counted as resources of the  
33 family/assistance unit in the determination of eligibility for the works program:

34 (i) The home owned and occupied by a child, parent, relative, or other individual;

1 (ii) Real property owned by a husband and wife as tenants by the entirety, if the property  
2 is not the home of the family and if the spouse of the applicant refuses to sell his or her interest in  
3 the property;

4 (iii) Real property that the family is making a good faith effort to dispose of, however, any  
5 cash assistance payable to the family for any such period shall be conditioned upon such disposal  
6 of the real property within six (6) months of the date of application and any payments of assistance  
7 for that period shall (at the time of disposal) be considered overpayments to the extent that they  
8 would not have occurred at the beginning of the period for which the payments were made. All  
9 overpayments are debts subject to recovery in accordance with the provisions of the chapter;

10 (iv) Income-producing property other than real estate including, but not limited to,  
11 equipment such as farm tools, carpenter's tools, and vehicles used in the production of goods or  
12 services that the department determines are necessary for the family to earn a living;

13 (v) One vehicle for each adult household member, but not to exceed two (2) vehicles per  
14 household, and in addition, a vehicle used primarily for income-producing purposes such as, but  
15 not limited to, a taxi, truck, or fishing boat; a vehicle used as a family's home; a vehicle that  
16 annually produces income consistent with its fair market value, even if only used on a seasonal  
17 basis; a vehicle necessary to transport a family member with a disability where the vehicle is  
18 specially equipped to meet the specific needs of the person with a disability or if the vehicle is a  
19 special type of vehicle that makes it possible to transport the person with a disability;

20 (vi) Household furnishings and appliances, clothing, personal effects, and keepsakes of  
21 limited value;

22 (vii) Burial plots (one for each child, relative, and other individual in the assistance unit)  
23 and funeral arrangements;

24 (viii) For the month of receipt and the following month, any refund of federal income taxes  
25 made to the family by reason of § 32 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. § 32 (relating  
26 to earned income tax credit), and any payment made to the family by an employer under § 3507 of  
27 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. § 3507 [repealed] (relating to advance payment of  
28 such earned income credit);

29 (ix) The resources of any family member receiving supplementary security income  
30 assistance under the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 301 et seq.;

31 (x) Any veteran's disability pension benefits received as a result of any disability sustained  
32 by the veteran while in the military service.

33 (g) **Income.**

34 (1) Except as otherwise provided for herein, in determining eligibility for and the amount

1 of cash assistance to which a family is entitled under this chapter, the income of a family includes  
2 all of the money, goods, and services received or actually available to any member of the family.

3 (2) In determining the eligibility for and the amount of cash assistance to which a  
4 family/assistance unit is entitled under this chapter, income in any month shall not include the first  
5 ~~three hundred dollars (\$300)~~ five hundred and twenty-five dollars (\$525) of gross earnings plus  
6 fifty percent (50%) of the gross earnings of the family in excess of ~~three hundred dollars (\$300)~~  
7 five hundred and twenty-five dollars (\$525) earned during the month.

8 (3) The income of a family shall not include:

9 (i) The first fifty dollars (\$50.00) in child support received in any month from each  
10 noncustodial parent of a child plus any arrearages in child support (to the extent of the first fifty  
11 dollars (\$50.00) per month multiplied by the number of months in which the support has been in  
12 arrears) that are paid in any month by a noncustodial parent of a child;

13 (ii) Earned income of any child;

14 (iii) Income received by a family member who is receiving Supplemental Security Income  
15 (SSI) assistance under Title XVI of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1381 et seq.;

16 (iv) The value of assistance provided by state or federal government or private agencies to  
17 meet nutritional needs, including: value of USDA-donated foods; value of supplemental food  
18 assistance received under the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, as amended, and the special food service  
19 program for children under Title VII, nutrition program for the elderly, of the Older Americans Act  
20 of 1965 as amended, and the value of food stamps;

21 (v) Value of certain assistance provided to undergraduate students, including any grant or  
22 loan for an undergraduate student for educational purposes made or insured under any loan program  
23 administered by the United States Commissioner of Education (or the Rhode Island council on  
24 postsecondary education or the Rhode Island division of higher education assistance);

25 (vi) Foster care payments;

26 (vii) Home energy assistance funded by state or federal government or by a nonprofit  
27 organization;

28 (viii) Payments for supportive services or reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses made  
29 to foster grandparents, senior health aides, or senior companions and to persons serving in SCORE  
30 and ACE and any other program under Title II and Title III of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act  
31 of 1973, 42 U.S.C. § 5000 et seq.;

32 (ix) Payments to volunteers under AmeriCorps VISTA as defined in the department's rules  
33 and regulations;

34 (x) Certain payments to native Americans; payments distributed per capita to, or held in

1 trust for, members of any Indian Tribe under P.L. 92-254, 25 U.S.C. § 1261 et seq., P.L. 93-134,  
2 25 U.S.C. § 1401 et seq., or P.L. 94-540; receipts distributed to members of certain Indian tribes  
3 which are referred to in § 5 of P.L. 94-114, 25 U.S.C. § 459d, that became effective October 17,  
4 1975;

5 (xi) Refund from the federal and state earned income tax credit and any federal or state  
6 child tax credits or rebates;

7 (xii) The value of any state, local, or federal government rent or housing subsidy, provided  
8 that this exclusion shall not limit the reduction in benefits provided for in the payment standard  
9 section of this chapter;

10 (xiii) The earned income of any adult family member who gains employment while an  
11 active RI Works household member. This income is excluded for the first six (6) months of  
12 employment in which the income is earned, or until the household's total gross income exceeds  
13 one hundred eighty-five percent (185%) of the federal poverty level, unless the household reaches  
14 its sixty-month (60) time limit first;

15 (xiv) Any veteran's disability pension benefits received as a result of any disability  
16 sustained by the veteran while in the military service.

17 (4) The receipt of a lump sum of income shall affect participants for cash assistance in  
18 accordance with rules and regulations promulgated by the department.

19 **(h) Time limit on the receipt of cash assistance.**

20 (1) On or after January 1, 2020, no cash assistance shall be provided, pursuant to this  
21 chapter, to a family or assistance unit that includes an adult member who has received cash  
22 assistance for a total of sixty (60) months (whether or not consecutive), to include any time  
23 receiving any type of cash assistance in any other state or territory of the United States of America  
24 as defined herein. Provided further, in no circumstances other than provided for in subsection (h)(3)  
25 with respect to certain minor children, shall cash assistance be provided pursuant to this chapter to  
26 a family or assistance unit that includes an adult member who has received cash assistance for a  
27 total of a lifetime limit of sixty (60) months.

28 (2) Cash benefits received by a minor dependent child shall not be counted toward their  
29 lifetime time limit for receiving benefits under this chapter should that minor child apply for cash  
30 benefits as an adult.

31 (3) Certain minor children not subject to time limit. This section regarding the lifetime time  
32 limit for the receipt of cash assistance, shall not apply only in the instances of a minor child(ren)  
33 living with a parent who receives SSI benefits and a minor child(ren) living with a responsible adult  
34 non-parent caretaker relative who is not in the cash assistance payment.



1 (4) Receipt of family cash assistance in any other state or territory of the United States of  
2 America shall be determined by the department of human services and shall include family cash  
3 assistance funded in whole or in part by Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds  
4 [Title IV-A of the federal Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 601 et seq.] and/or family cash assistance  
5 provided under a program similar to the Rhode Island families work and opportunity program or  
6 the federal TANF program.

7 (5)(i) The department of human services shall mail a notice to each assistance unit when  
8 the assistance unit has six (6) months of cash assistance remaining and each month thereafter until  
9 the time limit has expired. The notice must be developed by the department of human services and  
10 must contain information about the lifetime time limit, the number of months the participant has  
11 remaining, the hardship extension policy, the availability of a post-employment-and-closure bonus;  
12 and any other information pertinent to a family or an assistance unit nearing the sixty-month (60)  
13 lifetime time limit.

14 (ii) For applicants who have less than six (6) months remaining in the sixty-month (60)  
15 lifetime time limit because the family or assistance unit previously received cash assistance in  
16 Rhode Island or in another state, the department shall notify the applicant of the number of months  
17 remaining when the application is approved and begin the process required in subsection (h)(5)(i).

18 (6) If a cash assistance recipient family was closed pursuant to Rhode Island's Temporary  
19 Assistance for Needy Families Program (federal TANF described in Title IV-A of the Federal  
20 Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 601 et seq.), formerly entitled the Rhode Island family  
21 independence program, more specifically under § 40-5.1-9(2)(c) [repealed], due to sanction  
22 because of failure to comply with the cash assistance program requirements; and that recipient  
23 family received sixty (60) months of cash benefits in accordance with the family independence  
24 program, then that recipient family is not able to receive further cash assistance for his/her family,  
25 under this chapter, except under hardship exceptions.

26 (7) The months of state or federally funded cash assistance received by a recipient family  
27 since May 1, 1997, under Rhode Island's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program  
28 (federal TANF described in Title IV-A of the Federal Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 601 et seq.),  
29 formerly entitled the Rhode Island family independence program, shall be countable toward the  
30 time-limited cash assistance described in this chapter.

31 (i) **Time limit on the receipt of cash assistance.**

32 (1) No cash assistance shall be provided, pursuant to this chapter, to a family assistance  
33 unit in which an adult member has received cash assistance for a total of sixty (60) months (whether  
34 or not consecutive) to include any time receiving any type of cash assistance in any other state or

1 territory of the United States as defined herein effective August 1, 2008. Provided further, that no  
2 cash assistance shall be provided to a family in which an adult member has received assistance for  
3 twenty-four (24) consecutive months unless the adult member has a rehabilitation employment plan  
4 as provided in § 40-5.2-12(g)(5).

5 (2) Effective August 1, 2008, no cash assistance shall be provided pursuant to this chapter  
6 to a family in which a child has received cash assistance for a total of sixty (60) months (whether  
7 or not consecutive) if the parent is ineligible for assistance under this chapter pursuant to subsection  
8 (a)(2) to include any time they received any type of cash assistance in any other state or territory  
9 of the United States as defined herein.

10 (j) **Hardship exceptions.**

11 (1) The department may extend an assistance unit's or family's cash assistance beyond the  
12 time limit, by reason of hardship; provided, however, that the number of families to be exempted  
13 by the department with respect to their time limit under this subsection shall not exceed twenty  
14 percent (20%) of the average monthly number of families to which assistance is provided for under  
15 this chapter in a fiscal year; provided, however, that to the extent now or hereafter permitted by  
16 federal law, any waiver granted under § 40-5.2-34, for domestic violence, shall not be counted in  
17 determining the twenty percent (20%) maximum under this section.

18 (2) Parents who receive extensions to the time limit due to hardship must have and comply  
19 with employment plans designed to remove or ameliorate the conditions that warranted the  
20 extension.

21 (k) **Parents under eighteen (18) years of age.**

22 (1) A family consisting of a parent who is under the age of eighteen (18), and who has  
23 never been married, and who has a child; or a family consisting of a person under the age of eighteen  
24 (18) from onset of pregnancy shall be eligible for cash assistance only if the family resides in the  
25 home of an adult parent, legal guardian, or other adult relative. The assistance shall be provided to  
26 the adult parent, legal guardian, or other adult relative on behalf of the individual and child unless  
27 otherwise authorized by the department.

28 (2) This subsection shall not apply if the minor parent or pregnant minor has no parent,  
29 legal guardian, or other adult relative who is living and/or whose whereabouts are unknown; or the  
30 department determines that the physical or emotional health or safety of the minor parent, or his or  
31 her child, or the pregnant minor, would be jeopardized if he or she was required to live in the same  
32 residence as his or her parent, legal guardian, or other adult relative (refusal of a parent, legal  
33 guardian, or other adult relative to allow the minor parent or his or her child, or a pregnant minor,  
34 to live in his or her home shall constitute a presumption that the health or safety would be so

1 jeopardized); or the minor parent or pregnant minor has lived apart from his or her own parent or  
2 legal guardian for a period of at least one year before either the birth of any child to a minor parent  
3 or the onset of the pregnant minor's pregnancy; or there is good cause, under departmental  
4 regulations, for waiving the subsection; and the individual resides in a supervised supportive-living  
5 arrangement to the extent available.

6 (3) For purposes of this section, "supervised supportive-living arrangement" means an  
7 arrangement that requires minor parents to enroll and make satisfactory progress in a program  
8 leading to a high school diploma or a general education development certificate, and requires minor  
9 parents to participate in the adolescent parenting program designated by the department, to the  
10 extent the program is available; and provides rules and regulations that ensure regular adult  
11 supervision.

12 (l) **Assignment and cooperation.** As a condition of eligibility for cash and medical  
13 assistance under this chapter, each adult member, parent, or caretaker relative of the  
14 family/assistance unit must:

15 (1) Assign to the state any rights to support for children within the family from any person  
16 that the family member has at the time the assignment is executed or may have while receiving  
17 assistance under this chapter;

18 (2) Consent to and cooperate with the state in establishing the paternity and in establishing  
19 and/or enforcing child support and medical support orders for all children in the family or assistance  
20 unit in accordance with title 15 of the general laws, as amended, unless the parent or caretaker  
21 relative is found to have good cause for refusing to comply with the requirements of this subsection.

22 (3) Absent good cause, as defined by the department of human services through the  
23 rulemaking process, for refusing to comply with the requirements of subsections (l)(1) and (l)(2),  
24 cash assistance to the family shall be reduced by twenty-five percent (25%) until the adult member  
25 of the family who has refused to comply with the requirements of this subsection consents to and  
26 cooperates with the state in accordance with the requirements of this subsection.

27 (4) As a condition of eligibility for cash and medical assistance under this chapter, each  
28 adult member, parent, or caretaker relative of the family/assistance unit must consent to and  
29 cooperate with the state in identifying and providing information to assist the state in pursuing any  
30 third party who may be liable to pay for care and services under Title XIX of the Social Security  
31 Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1396 et seq.

32 **40-5.2-11. Cash assistance.**

33 (a) A family or assistance unit found by the department to meet the eligibility criteria set  
34 forth in this chapter shall be eligible to receive cash assistance as of the date a signed, written

1 application, signed under a penalty of perjury, is received by the department.

2 (b) The family members or assistance unit shall be eligible for cash assistance for so long  
3 as they continue to meet the eligibility criteria outlined in accordance with this chapter. Parents and  
4 adult non-parent caretaker relatives receiving cash assistance shall be eligible so long as they meet  
5 the terms and conditions of the work requirements of § 40-5.2-12. An adult caretaker relative shall  
6 be eligible for assistance as a member of the assistance unit so long as he or she meets all the  
7 eligibility requirements of this chapter.

8 (c) The monthly amount of cash assistance shall be equal to the payment standard for the  
9 family minus the countable income of the family in that month. The department is authorized to  
10 reduce the amount of assistance in the month of application to reflect the number of the days  
11 between the first day of the month and the effective date of the application.

12 (d) A decision on the application for assistance shall be made or rejected by the department  
13 no later than thirty (30) days following the date submitted and shall be effective as of the date of  
14 application.

15 (e) The payment standard is equal to the sum of the following: ~~four hundred twenty-five~~  
16 ~~dollars (\$425)~~ five hundred ten dollars (\$510) ~~(three hundred sixty dollars (\$360))~~ (four hundred  
17 forty-five dollars (\$445)) for a family residing in subsidized housing) for the first person; ~~one~~  
18 ~~hundred fifty-nine dollars (\$159)~~ one hundred ninety-one dollars (\$191) for the second person; ~~one~~  
19 ~~hundred thirty-seven dollars (\$137)~~ one hundred sixty-four dollars (\$164) for the third person; and  
20 ~~one hundred four dollars (\$104)~~ one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125) for each additional person.

21 **40-5.2-12. Work requirements for receipt of cash assistance.**

22 (a) The department of human services and the department of labor and training shall assess  
23 the applicant/parent or non-parent caretaker relative's work experience, educational, and vocational  
24 abilities, and the department, together with the parent, shall develop and enter into a mandatory,  
25 individual employment plan in accordance with § 40-5.2-10(e).

26 (b) In the case of a family including two (2) parents, at least one of the parents shall be  
27 required to participate in an employment plan leading to full-time employment. The department  
28 may also require the second parent in a two-parent (2) household to develop an employment plan  
29 if, and when, the youngest child reaches six (6) years of age or older.

30 (c) The written, individual employment plan shall specify, at minimum, the immediate  
31 steps necessary to support a goal of long-term, economic independence.

32 (d) All applicants and participants in the Rhode Island works employment program must  
33 attend and participate in required appointments, employment plan development, and employment-  
34 related activities, unless temporarily exempt for reasons specified in this chapter.

1 (e) A recipient/participant temporarily exempted from the work requirements may  
2 participate in an individual employment plan on a voluntary basis, however, the individual remains  
3 subject to the same program compliance requirements as a participant without a temporary  
4 exemption.

5 (f) The individual employment plan shall specify the participant's work activity(ies) and  
6 the supportive services that will be provided by the department to enable the participant to engage  
7 in the work activity(ies).

8 (g) Work requirements for single-parent families. In single-parent households, the  
9 participant parent or non-parent caretaker relative in the cash assistance payment, shall participate  
10 as a condition of eligibility, for a minimum of twenty (20) hours per week if the youngest child in  
11 the home is under the age of six (6), and for a minimum of thirty (30) hours per week if the youngest  
12 child in the home is six (6) years of age or older, in one or more of their required work activities,  
13 as appropriate, in order to help the parent obtain stable, full-time, paid employment, as determined  
14 by the department of human services and the department of labor and training; provided, however,  
15 that he or she shall begin with intensive employment services as the first step in the individual  
16 employment plan. Required work activities are as follows:

17 (1) At least twenty (20) hours per week must come from participation in one or more of  
18 the following ten (10) work activities:

19 (i) Unsubsidized employment;

20 (ii) Subsidized private-sector employment;

21 (iii) Subsidized public-sector employment;

22 (iv) Work experience;

23 (v) On-the-job training;

24 (vi) Job search and job readiness;

25 (vii) Community service programs;

26 (viii) Vocational educational training not to exceed twelve (12) months; provided,  
27 however, that a participant who successfully completes their first year of education at the  
28 community college of Rhode Island may participate in vocational education training for an  
29 additional twelve (12) months;

30 (ix) Providing childcare services to another participant parent who is participating in an  
31 approved community service program; and

32 (x) Adult education in an intensive work-readiness program.

33 (2) Above twenty (20) hours per week, the parent may participate in one or more of the  
34 following three (3) activities in order to satisfy a thirty-hour (30) requirement:

1 (i) Job skills training directly related to employment;  
2 (ii) Education directly related to employment; and  
3 (iii) Satisfactory attendance at a secondary school or in a course of study leading to a  
4 certificate of general equivalence if it is a teen parent under the age of twenty (20) who is without  
5 a high school diploma or General Equivalence Diploma (GED).

6 (3) In the case of a parent under the age of twenty (20), attendance at a secondary school  
7 or the equivalent during the month, or twenty (20) hours per week on average for the month in  
8 education directly related to employment, will be counted as engaged in work.

9 (4) A parent who participates in a work experience or community service program for the  
10 maximum number of hours per week allowable by the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) is deemed  
11 to have participated in his or her required minimum hours per week in core activities if actual  
12 participation falls short of his or her required minimum hours per week.

13 (5) A parent who has been determined to have a physical or mental impairment affecting  
14 employment, but who has not been found eligible for Social Security Disability benefits or  
15 Supplemental Security Income must participate in his or her rehabilitation employment plan as  
16 developed with the office of rehabilitation services that leads to employment and/or to receipt of  
17 disability benefits through the Social Security Administration.

18 (6) A required work activity may be any other work activity permissible under federal  
19 TANF provisions or state-defined Rhode Island works program activity, including up to ten (10)  
20 hours of activities required by a parent's department of children, youth and families service plan.

21 (h) Exemptions from work requirements for the single-parent family. Work requirements  
22 outlined in subsection (g) shall not apply to a single parent if (and for so long as) the department  
23 finds that he or she is:

24 (1) Caring for a child below the age of one; provided, however, that a parent may opt for  
25 the deferral from an individual employment plan for a maximum of twelve (12) months during the  
26 twenty-four (24) months of eligibility for cash assistance and provided, further, that a minor parent  
27 without a high school diploma or the equivalent, and who is not married, shall not be exempt for  
28 more than twelve (12) weeks from the birth of the child;

29 (2) Caring for a disabled family member who resides in the home and requires full-time  
30 care;

31 (3) A recipient of Social Security Disability benefits or Supplemental Security Income or  
32 other disability benefits that have the same standard of disability as defined by the Social Security  
33 Administration;

34 (4) An individual receiving assistance who is a victim of domestic violence as determined

1 by the department in accordance with rules and regulations;

2 (5) An applicant for assistance in her third trimester or a pregnant woman in her third  
3 trimester who is a recipient of assistance and has medical documentation that she cannot work;

4 (6) An individual otherwise exempt by the department as defined in rules and regulations  
5 promulgated by the department.

6 (i) Work requirement for two-parent families.

7 (1) In families consisting of two (2) parents, one or both parents are required, and shall be  
8 engaged in, work activities as defined below, for an individual or combined total of at least thirty-  
9 five (35) hours per week during the month, not fewer than thirty (30) hours per week of which are  
10 attributable to one or more of the following listed work activities; provided, however, that he or she  
11 shall begin with intensive employment services as the first step in the individual employment plan.

12 Two-parent work requirements shall be defined as the following:

13 (i) Unsubsidized employment;

14 (ii) Subsidized private-sector employment;

15 (iii) Subsidized public-sector employment;

16 (iv) Work experience;

17 (v) On-the-job training;

18 (vi) Job search and job readiness;

19 (vii) Community service program;

20 (viii) Vocational educational training not to exceed twelve (12) months; provided,  
21 however, that a participant who successfully completes their first year of education at the  
22 community college of Rhode Island may participate in vocational education training for an  
23 additional twelve (12) months;

24 (ix) The provision of childcare services to a participant individual who is participating in a  
25 community service program; and

26 (x) Adult education in an intensive work-readiness program.

27 (2) Above thirty (30) hours per week, the following three (3) activities may also count for  
28 participation:

29 (i) Job skills training directly related to employment;

30 (ii) Education directly related to employment; and

31 (iii) Satisfactory attendance at secondary school or in a course of study leading to a  
32 certificate of general equivalence.

33 (3) A family with two (2) parents, in which one or both parents participate in a work  
34 experience or community service program, shall be deemed to have participated in core work

1 activities for the maximum number of hours per week allowable by the Fair Labor Standards Act  
2 (FLSA) if actual participation falls short of his or her required minimum hours per week.

3 (4) If the family receives childcare assistance and an adult in the family is not disabled or  
4 caring for a severely disabled child, then the work-eligible individuals must be participating in work  
5 activities for an average of at least fifty-five (55) hours per week to count as a two-parent family  
6 engaged in work for the month.

7 (5) At least fifty (50) of the fifty-five (55) hours per week must come from participation in  
8 the activities listed in subsection (i)(1).

9 Above fifty (50) hours per week, the three (3) activities listed in subsection (i)(2) may also  
10 count as participation.

11 (6) A family with two (2) parents receiving child care in which one or both parents  
12 participate in a work experience or community service program for the maximum number of hours  
13 per week allowable by the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) will be considered to have met their  
14 required core hours if actual participation falls short of the required minimum hours per week. For  
15 families that need additional hours beyond the core activity requirement, these hours must be  
16 satisfied in some other TANF work activity.

17 (j) Exemptions from work requirements for two-parent families. Work requirements  
18 outlined in subsection (i) shall not apply to two-parent families if (and for so long as) the department  
19 finds that:

20 (1) Both parents receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI);

21 (2) One parent receives SSI, and the other parent is caring for a disabled family member  
22 who resides in the home and who requires full-time care; or

23 (3) The parents are otherwise exempt by the department as defined in rules and regulations.

24 (k) Failure to comply with work requirements — Sanctions ~~and terminations~~.

25 (1) The cash assistance to which an otherwise eligible family/assistance unit is entitled  
26 under this chapter shall be reduced ~~for three (3) months, whether or not consecutive~~, in accordance  
27 with rules and regulations promulgated by the department, whenever any participant, without good  
28 cause as defined by the department in its rules and regulations, has failed to enter into an individual  
29 employment plan; has failed to attend a required appointment; has refused or quit employment; or  
30 has failed to comply with any other requirements for the receipt of cash assistance under this  
31 chapter. The reduction in cash assistance shall not exceed the share of the payment made to the  
32 participant, i.e., the amount paid in addition to the payment for the dependent children. If the  
33 family's benefit has been reduced, benefits shall be restored to the full amount beginning with the  
34 initial payment made on the first of the month following the month in which the parent: (i) Enters



1 into an individual employment plan ~~or rehabilitation plan~~ and demonstrates compliance with the  
2 terms thereof; or (ii) Demonstrates compliance with the terms of his or her existing individual  
3 employment plan ~~or rehabilitation plan~~, as such plan may be amended by agreement of the parent  
4 and the department.

5 (2) In the case where appropriate child care has been made available in accordance with  
6 this chapter, a participant's failure, without good cause, to accept a bona fide offer of work,  
7 including full-time, part-time, and/or temporary employment, or unpaid work experience or  
8 community service, shall be deemed a failure to comply with the work requirements of this section  
9 and shall result in reduction or termination of cash assistance, as defined by the department in rules  
10 and regulations duly promulgated.

11 ~~(3) If the family/assistance unit's benefit has been reduced for a total of three (3) months,~~  
12 ~~whether or not consecutive in accordance with this section due to the failure by one or more parents~~  
13 ~~to enter into an individual employment plan, or failure to comply with the terms of his or her~~  
14 ~~individual employment plan, or the failure to comply with the requirements of this chapter, cash~~  
15 ~~assistance to the entire family shall end. The family/assistance unit may reapply for benefits, and~~  
16 ~~the benefits shall be restored to the family/assistance unit in the full amount the family/assistance~~  
17 ~~unit is otherwise eligible for under this chapter beginning on the first of the month following the~~  
18 ~~month in which all parents in the family/assistance unit who are subject to the employment or~~  
19 ~~rehabilitation plan requirements under this chapter: (i) Enter into an individual employment or~~  
20 ~~rehabilitation plan as applicable, and demonstrate compliance with the terms thereof, or (ii)~~  
21 ~~Demonstrate compliance with the terms of the parent's individual employment or rehabilitation~~  
22 ~~employment plan in effect at the time of termination of benefits, as such plan may be amended by~~  
23 ~~agreement of the parent and the department.~~

24 ~~(4)~~(3) Up to ten (10) days following a notice of adverse action to reduce ~~or terminate~~  
25 benefits under this subsection, the client may request the opportunity to meet with a social worker  
26 to identify the reasons for non-compliance, establish good cause, and seek to resolve any issues  
27 that have prevented the parent from complying with the employment plan requirements.

28 ~~(5)~~(4) Participants whose cases had closed in sanction status pursuant to Rhode Island's  
29 prior Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program (federal TANF described in Title IV-A  
30 of the federal Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 601 et seq.), the family independence program, more  
31 specifically, § 40-5.1-9(2)(c) [repealed], due to failure to comply with the cash assistance program  
32 requirements, but who had received less than forty-eight (48) months of cash assistance at the time  
33 of closure, and who reapply for cash assistance under the Rhode Island works program, must  
34 demonstrate full compliance, as defined by the department in its rules and regulations, before they

1 shall be eligible for cash assistance pursuant to this chapter.

2 (l) Good cause. Good cause for failing to meet any program requirements including leaving  
3 employment, and failure to fulfill documentation requirements, shall be outlined in rules and  
4 regulations promulgated by the department of human services.

5 SECTION 3. Section 40-5.2-20 of the General Laws in Chapter 40-5.2 entitled "The Rhode  
6 Island Works Program" is hereby amended to read as follows:

7 **40-5.2-20. Childcare assistance — Families or assistance units eligible.**

8 (a) The department shall provide appropriate child care to every participant who is eligible  
9 for cash assistance and who requires child care in order to meet the work requirements in  
10 accordance with this chapter.

11 (b) **Low-income child care.** The department shall provide child care to all other working  
12 families with incomes at or below ~~two hundred percent (200%)~~ two hundred sixty-one percent  
13 (261%) of the federal poverty level if, and to the extent, these other families require child care in  
14 order to work at paid employment as defined in the department's rules and regulations. The  
15 department shall also provide child care to families with incomes below two hundred percent  
16 (200%) of the federal poverty level if, and to the extent, these families require child care to  
17 participate on a short-term basis, as defined in the department's rules and regulations, in training,  
18 apprenticeship, internship, on-the-job training, work experience, work immersion, or other job-  
19 readiness/job-attachment program sponsored or funded by the human resource investment council  
20 (governor's workforce board) or state agencies that are part of the coordinated program system  
21 pursuant to § 42-102-11. Effective from January 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, the department  
22 shall also provide childcare assistance to families with incomes below one hundred eighty percent  
23 (180%) of the federal poverty level when such assistance is necessary for a member of these  
24 families to enroll or maintain enrollment in a Rhode Island public institution of higher education  
25 provided that eligibility to receive funding is capped when expenditures reach \$200,000 for this  
26 provision. Effective July 1, 2022 through December 31, 2024, the department shall also provide  
27 childcare assistance to families with incomes below two hundred percent (200%) of the federal  
28 poverty level when such assistance is necessary for a member of these families to enroll or maintain  
29 enrollment in a Rhode Island public institution of higher education. Effective January 1, 2025, the  
30 department shall also provide childcare assistance to families with incomes below two hundred  
31 sixty-one percent (261%) of the federal poverty level when such assistance is necessary for a  
32 member of these families to enroll or maintain enrollment in a Rhode Island public institution of  
33 higher education.

34 (c) No family/assistance unit shall be eligible for childcare assistance under this chapter if

1 the combined value of its liquid resources exceeds one million dollars (\$1,000,000), which  
2 corresponds to the amount permitted by the federal government under the state plan and set forth  
3 in the administrative rulemaking process by the department. Liquid resources are defined as any  
4 interest(s) in property in the form of cash or other financial instruments or accounts that are readily  
5 convertible to cash or cash equivalents. These include, but are not limited to: cash, bank, credit  
6 union, or other financial institution savings, checking, and money market accounts; certificates of  
7 deposit or other time deposits; stocks; bonds; mutual funds; and other similar financial instruments  
8 or accounts. These do not include educational savings accounts, plans, or programs; retirement  
9 accounts, plans, or programs; or accounts held jointly with another adult, not including a spouse.  
10 The department is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to determine the ownership and  
11 source of the funds in the joint account.

12 (d) As a condition of eligibility for childcare assistance under this chapter, the parent or  
13 caretaker relative of the family must consent to, and must cooperate with, the department in  
14 establishing paternity, and in establishing and/or enforcing child support and medical support  
15 orders for any children in the family receiving appropriate child care under this section in  
16 accordance with the applicable sections of title 15, as amended, unless the parent or caretaker  
17 relative is found to have good cause for refusing to comply with the requirements of this subsection.

18 (e) For purposes of this section, “appropriate child care” means child care, including infant,  
19 toddler, preschool, nursery school, and school-age, that is provided by a person or organization  
20 qualified, approved, and authorized to provide the care by the state agency or agencies designated  
21 to make the determinations in accordance with the provisions set forth herein.

22 (f)(1) Families with incomes below one hundred percent (100%) of the applicable federal  
23 poverty level guidelines shall be provided with free child care. Families with incomes greater than  
24 one hundred percent (100%) and less than two hundred percent (200%) of the applicable federal  
25 poverty guideline shall be required to pay for some portion of the child care they receive, according  
26 to a sliding-fee scale adopted by the department in the department’s rules, not to exceed seven  
27 percent (7%) of income as defined in subsection (h) of this section.

28 (2) Families who are receiving childcare assistance and who become ineligible for  
29 childcare assistance as a result of their incomes exceeding ~~two hundred percent (200%)~~ [two](#)  
30 [hundred sixty-one percent \(261%\)](#) of the applicable federal poverty guidelines shall continue to be  
31 eligible for childcare assistance until their incomes exceed three hundred percent (300%) of the  
32 applicable federal poverty guidelines. To be eligible, the families must continue to pay for some  
33 portion of the child care they receive, as indicated in a sliding-fee scale adopted in the department’s  
34 rules, not to exceed seven percent (7%) of income as defined in subsection (h) of this section, and

1 in accordance with all other eligibility standards.

2 (g) In determining the type of child care to be provided to a family, the department shall  
3 take into account the cost of available childcare options; the suitability of the type of care available  
4 for the child; and the parent's preference as to the type of child care.

5 (h) For purposes of this section, "income" for families receiving cash assistance under §  
6 40-5.2-11 means gross, earned income and unearned income, subject to the income exclusions in  
7 §§ 40-5.2-10(g)(2) and 40-5.2-10(g)(3), and income for other families shall mean gross, earned and  
8 unearned income as determined by departmental regulations.

9 (i) The caseload estimating conference established by chapter 17 of title 35 shall forecast  
10 the expenditures for child care in accordance with the provisions of § 35-17-1.

11 (j) In determining eligibility for childcare assistance for children of members of reserve  
12 components called to active duty during a time of conflict, the department shall freeze the family  
13 composition and the family income of the reserve component member as it was in the month prior  
14 to the month of leaving for active duty. This shall continue until the individual is officially  
15 discharged from active duty.

16 (k) Effective from August 1, 2023, through July 31, ~~2024~~ 2025, the department shall  
17 provide funding for child care for eligible childcare educators, and childcare staff, who work at  
18 least twenty (20) hours a week in licensed childcare centers and licensed family childcare homes  
19 as defined in the department's rules and regulations. Eligibility is limited to qualifying childcare  
20 educators and childcare staff with family incomes up to three hundred percent (300%) of the  
21 applicable federal poverty guidelines and will have no copayments. Qualifying participants may  
22 select the childcare center or family childcare home for their children. The department shall  
23 promulgate regulations necessary to implement this section, and will collect applicant and  
24 participant data to report estimated demand for state-funded child care for eligible childcare  
25 educators and childcare staff. The report shall be due to the governor and the general assembly by  
26 November 1, 2024.

27 **40-5.2-10. Necessary requirements and conditions.**

28 The following requirements and conditions shall be necessary to establish eligibility for  
29 the program.

30 (a) **Citizenship, alienage, and residency requirements.**

31 (1) A person shall be a resident of the State of Rhode Island.

32 (2) Effective October 1, 2008, a person shall be a United States citizen, or shall meet the  
33 alienage requirements established in § 402(b) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity  
34 Reconciliation Act of 1996, PRWORA, Pub. L. No. 104-193 and as that section may hereafter be

1 amended [8 U.S.C. § 1612]; a person who is not a United States citizen and does not meet the  
2 alienage requirements established in PRWORA, as amended, is not eligible for cash assistance in  
3 accordance with this chapter.

4 (b) The family/assistance unit must meet any other requirements established by the  
5 department of human services by rules and regulations adopted pursuant to the Administrative  
6 Procedures Act, as necessary to promote the purpose and goals of this chapter.

7 (c) Receipt of cash assistance is conditional upon compliance with all program  
8 requirements.

9 (d) All individuals domiciled in this state shall be exempt from the application of  
10 subdivision 115(d)(1)(A) of Pub. L. No. 104-193, the Personal Responsibility and Work  
11 Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, PRWORA [21 U.S.C. § 862a], which makes any  
12 individual ineligible for certain state and federal assistance if that individual has been convicted  
13 under federal or state law of any offense that is classified as a felony by the law of the jurisdiction  
14 and that has as an element the possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance as defined  
15 in § 102(6) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. § 802(6)).

16 (e) **Individual employment plan as a condition of eligibility.**

17 (1) Following receipt of an application, the department of human services shall assess the  
18 financial conditions of the family, including the non-parent caretaker relative who is applying for  
19 cash assistance for themselves as well as for the minor child(ren), in the context of an eligibility  
20 determination. If a parent or non-parent caretaker relative is unemployed or under-employed, the  
21 department shall conduct an initial assessment, taking into account:

22 (A) The physical capacity, skills, education, work experience, health, safety, family  
23 responsibilities, and place of residence of the individual; and

24 (B) The child care and supportive services required by the applicant to avail themselves of  
25 employment opportunities and/or work readiness programs.

26 (2) On the basis of this assessment, the department of human services and the department  
27 of labor and training, as appropriate, in consultation with the applicant, shall develop an individual  
28 employment plan for the family that requires the individual to participate in the intensive  
29 employment services. Intensive employment services shall be defined as the work requirement  
30 activities in § 40-5.2-12(g) and (i).

31 (3) The director, or the director's designee, may assign a case manager to an  
32 applicant/participant, as appropriate.

33 (4) The department of labor and training and the department of human services in  
34 conjunction with the participant shall develop a revised individual employment plan that shall

1 identify employment objectives, taking into consideration factors above, and shall include a  
2 strategy for immediate employment and for preparing for, finding, and retaining employment  
3 consistent, to the extent practicable, with the individual's career objectives.

4 (5) The individual employment plan must include the provision for the participant to  
5 engage in work requirements as outlined in § 40-5.2-12.

6 (6)(i) The participant shall attend and participate immediately in intensive assessment and  
7 employment services as the first step in the individual employment plan, unless temporarily exempt  
8 from this requirement in accordance with this chapter. Intensive assessment and employment  
9 services shall be defined as the work requirement activities in § 40-5.2-12(g) and (i).

10 (ii) Parents under age twenty (20) without a high school diploma or general equivalency  
11 diploma (GED) shall be referred to special teen-parent programs that will provide intensive services  
12 designed to assist teen parents to complete high school education or GED, and to continue approved  
13 work plan activities in accord with Rhode Island works program requirements.

14 (7) The applicant shall become a participant in accordance with this chapter at the time the  
15 individual employment plan is signed and entered into.

16 (8) Applicants and participants of the Rhode Island works program shall agree to comply  
17 with the terms of the individual employment plan, and shall cooperate fully with the steps  
18 established in the individual employment plan, including the work requirements.

19 (9) The department of human services has the authority under the chapter to require  
20 attendance by the applicant/participant, either at the department of human services or at the  
21 department of labor and training, at appointments deemed necessary for the purpose of having the  
22 applicant enter into and become eligible for assistance through the Rhode Island works program.  
23 The appointments include, but are not limited to: the initial interview, orientation and assessment;  
24 job readiness; and job search. Attendance is required as a condition of eligibility for cash assistance  
25 in accordance with rules and regulations established by the department.

26 (10) As a condition of eligibility for assistance pursuant to this chapter, the  
27 applicant/participant shall be obligated to keep appointments; attend orientation meetings at the  
28 department of human services and/or the Rhode Island department of labor and training; participate  
29 in any initial assessments or appraisals; and comply with all the terms of the individual employment  
30 plan in accordance with department of human services rules and regulations.

31 (11) A participant, including a parent or non-parent caretaker relative included in the cash  
32 assistance payment, shall not voluntarily quit a job or refuse a job unless there is good cause as  
33 defined in this chapter or the department's rules and regulations.

34 (12) A participant who voluntarily quits or refuses a job without good cause, as defined in

1 § 40-5.2-12(l), while receiving cash assistance in accordance with this chapter, shall be sanctioned  
2 in accordance with rules and regulations promulgated by the department.

3 (f) **Resources.**

4 (1) The family or assistance unit's countable resources shall be less than the allowable  
5 resource limit established by the department in accordance with this chapter.

6 (2) No family or assistance unit shall be eligible for assistance payments if the combined  
7 value of its available resources (reduced by any obligations or debts with respect to such resources)  
8 exceeds five thousand dollars (\$5,000).

9 (3) For purposes of this subsection, the following shall not be counted as resources of the  
10 family/assistance unit in the determination of eligibility for the works program:

11 (i) The home owned and occupied by a child, parent, relative, or other individual;

12 (ii) Real property owned by a husband and wife as tenants by the entirety, if the property  
13 is not the home of the family and if the spouse of the applicant refuses to sell his or her interest in  
14 the property;

15 (iii) Real property that the family is making a good faith effort to dispose of, however, any  
16 cash assistance payable to the family for any such period shall be conditioned upon such disposal  
17 of the real property within six (6) months of the date of application and any payments of assistance  
18 for that period shall (at the time of disposal) be considered overpayments to the extent that they  
19 would not have occurred at the beginning of the period for which the payments were made. All  
20 overpayments are debts subject to recovery in accordance with the provisions of the chapter;

21 (iv) Income-producing property other than real estate including, but not limited to,  
22 equipment such as farm tools, carpenter's tools, and vehicles used in the production of goods or  
23 services that the department determines are necessary for the family to earn a living;

24 (v) One vehicle for each adult household member, but not to exceed two (2) vehicles per  
25 household, and in addition, a vehicle used primarily for income-producing purposes such as, but  
26 not limited to, a taxi, truck, or fishing boat; a vehicle used as a family's home; a vehicle that  
27 annually produces income consistent with its fair market value, even if only used on a seasonal  
28 basis; a vehicle necessary to transport a family member with a disability where the vehicle is  
29 specially equipped to meet the specific needs of the person with a disability or if the vehicle is a  
30 special type of vehicle that makes it possible to transport the person with a disability;

31 (vi) Household furnishings and appliances, clothing, personal effects, and keepsakes of  
32 limited value;

33 (vii) Burial plots (one for each child, relative, and other individual in the assistance unit)  
34 and funeral arrangements;

1 (viii) For the month of receipt and the following month, any refund of federal income taxes  
2 made to the family by reason of § 32 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. § 32 (relating  
3 to earned income tax credit), and any payment made to the family by an employer under § 3507 of  
4 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. § 3507 [repealed] (relating to advance payment of  
5 such earned income credit);

6 (ix) The resources of any family member receiving supplementary security income  
7 assistance under the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 301 et seq.;

8 (x) Any veteran's disability pension benefits received as a result of any disability sustained  
9 by the veteran while in the military service.

10 (g) **Income.**

11 (1) Except as otherwise provided for herein, in determining eligibility for and the amount  
12 of cash assistance to which a family is entitled under this chapter, the income of a family includes  
13 all of the money, goods, and services received or actually available to any member of the family.

14 (2) In determining the eligibility for and the amount of cash assistance to which a  
15 family/assistance unit is entitled under this chapter, income in any month shall not include the first  
16 three hundred dollars (\$300) of gross earnings plus fifty percent (50%) of the gross earnings of the  
17 family in excess of three hundred dollars (\$300) earned during the month.

18 (3) The income of a family shall not include:

19 (i) The first fifty dollars (\$50.00) in child support received in any month from each  
20 noncustodial parent of a child plus any arrearages in child support (to the extent of the first fifty  
21 dollars (\$50.00) per month multiplied by the number of months in which the support has been in  
22 arrears) that are paid in any month by a noncustodial parent of a child;

23 (ii) Earned income of any child;

24 (iii) Income received by a family member who is receiving Supplemental Security Income  
25 (SSI) assistance under Title XVI of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1381 et seq.;

26 (iv) The value of assistance provided by state or federal government or private agencies to  
27 meet nutritional needs, including: value of USDA-donated foods; value of supplemental food  
28 assistance received under the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, as amended, and the special food service  
29 program for children under Title VII, nutrition program for the elderly, of the Older Americans Act  
30 of 1965 as amended, and the value of food stamps;

31 (v) Value of certain assistance provided to undergraduate students, including any grant or  
32 loan for an undergraduate student for educational purposes made or insured under any loan program  
33 administered by the United States Commissioner of Education (or the Rhode Island council on  
34 postsecondary education or the Rhode Island division of higher education assistance);



- 1 (vi) Foster care payments;
- 2 (vii) Home energy assistance funded by state or federal government or by a nonprofit  
3 organization;
- 4 (viii) Payments for supportive services or reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses made  
5 to foster grandparents, senior health aides, or senior companions and to persons serving in SCORE  
6 and ACE and any other program under Title II and Title III of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act  
7 of 1973, 42 U.S.C. § 5000 et seq.;
- 8 (ix) Payments to volunteers under AmeriCorps VISTA as defined in the department's rules  
9 and regulations;
- 10 (x) Certain payments to native Americans; payments distributed per capita to, or held in  
11 trust for, members of any Indian Tribe under P.L. 92-254, 25 U.S.C. § 1261 et seq., P.L. 93-134,  
12 25 U.S.C. § 1401 et seq., or P.L. 94-540; receipts distributed to members of certain Indian tribes  
13 which are referred to in § 5 of P.L. 94-114, 25 U.S.C. § 459d, that became effective October 17,  
14 1975;
- 15 (xi) Refund from the federal and state earned income tax credit and any federal or state  
16 child tax credits or rebates;
- 17 (xii) The value of any state, local, or federal government rent or housing subsidy, provided  
18 that this exclusion shall not limit the reduction in benefits provided for in the payment standard  
19 section of this chapter;
- 20 (xiii) The earned income of any adult family member who gains employment while an  
21 active RI Works household member. This income is excluded for the first six (6) months of  
22 employment in which the income is earned, or until the household's total gross income exceeds  
23 one hundred eighty-five percent (185%) of the federal poverty level, unless the household reaches  
24 its sixty-month (60) time limit first;
- 25 (xiv) Any veteran's disability pension benefits received as a result of any disability  
26 sustained by the veteran while in the military service.
- 27 (4) The receipt of a lump sum of income shall affect participants for cash assistance in  
28 accordance with rules and regulations promulgated by the department.
- 29 **(h) Time limit on the receipt of cash assistance.**
- 30 (1) On or after January 1, 2020, no cash assistance shall be provided, pursuant to this  
31 chapter, to a family or assistance unit that includes an adult member who has received cash  
32 assistance for a total of sixty (60) months (whether or not consecutive), to include any time  
33 receiving any type of cash assistance in any other state or territory of the United States of America  
34 as defined herein. Provided further, in no circumstances other than provided for in subsection (h)(3)

1 with respect to certain minor children, shall cash assistance be provided pursuant to this chapter to  
2 a family or assistance unit that includes an adult member who has received cash assistance for a  
3 total of a lifetime limit of sixty (60) months.

4 (2) Cash benefits received by a minor dependent child shall not be counted toward their  
5 lifetime time limit for receiving benefits under this chapter should that minor child apply for cash  
6 benefits as an adult.

7 (3) Certain minor children not subject to time limit. This section regarding the lifetime time  
8 limit for the receipt of cash assistance, shall not apply only in the instances of a minor child(ren)  
9 living with a parent who receives SSI benefits and a minor child(ren) living with a responsible adult  
10 non-parent caretaker relative who is not in the cash assistance payment.

11 (4) Receipt of family cash assistance in any other state or territory of the United States of  
12 America shall be determined by the department of human services and shall include family cash  
13 assistance funded in whole or in part by Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds  
14 [Title IV-A of the federal Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 601 et seq.] and/or family cash assistance  
15 provided under a program similar to the Rhode Island families work and opportunity program or  
16 the federal TANF program.

17 (5)(i) The department of human services shall mail a notice to each assistance unit when  
18 the assistance unit has six (6) months of cash assistance remaining and each month thereafter until  
19 the time limit has expired. The notice must be developed by the department of human services and  
20 must contain information about the lifetime time limit, the number of months the participant has  
21 remaining, the hardship extension policy, the availability of a post-employment-and-closure bonus;  
22 and any other information pertinent to a family or an assistance unit nearing the sixty-month (60)  
23 lifetime time limit.

24 (ii) For applicants who have less than six (6) months remaining in the sixty-month (60)  
25 lifetime time limit because the family or assistance unit previously received cash assistance in  
26 Rhode Island or in another state, the department shall notify the applicant of the number of months  
27 remaining when the application is approved and begin the process required in subsection (h)(5)(i).

28 (6) If a cash assistance recipient family was closed pursuant to Rhode Island's Temporary  
29 Assistance for Needy Families Program (federal TANF described in Title IV-A of the Federal  
30 Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 601 et seq.), formerly entitled the Rhode Island family  
31 independence program, more specifically under § 40-5.1-9(2)(c) [repealed], due to sanction  
32 because of failure to comply with the cash assistance program requirements; and that recipient  
33 family received sixty (60) months of cash benefits in accordance with the family independence  
34 program, then that recipient family is not able to receive further cash assistance for his/her family,

1 under this chapter, except under hardship exceptions.

2 (7) The months of state or federally funded cash assistance received by a recipient family  
3 since May 1, 1997, under Rhode Island's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program  
4 (federal TANF described in Title IV-A of the Federal Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 601 et seq.),  
5 formerly entitled the Rhode Island family independence program, shall be countable toward the  
6 time-limited cash assistance described in this chapter.

7 (i) **Time limit on the receipt of cash assistance.**

8 (1) No cash assistance shall be provided, pursuant to this chapter, to a family assistance  
9 unit in which an adult member has received cash assistance for a total of sixty (60) months (whether  
10 or not consecutive) to include any time receiving any type of cash assistance in any other state or  
11 territory of the United States as defined herein effective August 1, 2008. Provided further, that no  
12 cash assistance shall be provided to a family in which an adult member has received assistance for  
13 twenty-four (24) consecutive months unless the adult member has a rehabilitation employment plan  
14 as provided in § 40-5.2-12(g)(5).

15 (2) Effective August 1, 2008, no cash assistance shall be provided pursuant to this chapter  
16 to a family in which a child has received cash assistance for a total of sixty (60) months (whether  
17 or not consecutive) if the parent is ineligible for assistance under this chapter pursuant to subsection  
18 (a)(2) to include any time they received any type of cash assistance in any other state or territory  
19 of the United States as defined herein.

20 (j) **Hardship exceptions.**

21 (1) The department may extend an assistance unit's or family's cash assistance beyond the  
22 time limit, by reason of hardship; provided, however, that the number of families to be exempted  
23 by the department with respect to their time limit under this subsection shall not exceed twenty  
24 percent (20%) of the average monthly number of families to which assistance is provided for under  
25 this chapter in a fiscal year; provided, however, that to the extent now or hereafter permitted by  
26 federal law, any waiver granted under § 40-5.2-34, for domestic violence, shall not be counted in  
27 determining the twenty percent (20%) maximum under this section.

28 (2) Parents who receive extensions to the time limit due to hardship must have and comply  
29 with employment plans designed to remove or ameliorate the conditions that warranted the  
30 extension.

31 (k) **Parents under eighteen (18) years of age.**

32 (1) A family consisting of a parent who is under the age of eighteen (18), and who has  
33 never been married, and who has a child; or a family consisting of a person under the age of eighteen  
34 (18) from onset of pregnancy shall be eligible for cash assistance only if the family resides in the

1 home of an adult parent, legal guardian, or other adult relative. The assistance shall be provided to  
2 the adult parent, legal guardian, or other adult relative on behalf of the individual and child unless  
3 otherwise authorized by the department.

4 (2) This subsection shall not apply if the minor parent or pregnant minor has no parent,  
5 legal guardian, or other adult relative who is living and/or whose whereabouts are unknown; or the  
6 department determines that the physical or emotional health or safety of the minor parent, or his or  
7 her child, or the pregnant minor, would be jeopardized if he or she was required to live in the same  
8 residence as his or her parent, legal guardian, or other adult relative (refusal of a parent, legal  
9 guardian, or other adult relative to allow the minor parent or his or her child, or a pregnant minor,  
10 to live in his or her home shall constitute a presumption that the health or safety would be so  
11 jeopardized); or the minor parent or pregnant minor has lived apart from his or her own parent or  
12 legal guardian for a period of at least one year before either the birth of any child to a minor parent  
13 or the onset of the pregnant minor's pregnancy; or there is good cause, under departmental  
14 regulations, for waiving the subsection; and the individual resides in a supervised supportive-living  
15 arrangement to the extent available.

16 (3) For purposes of this section, "supervised supportive-living arrangement" means an  
17 arrangement that requires minor parents to enroll and make satisfactory progress in a program  
18 leading to a high school diploma or a general education development certificate, and requires minor  
19 parents to participate in the adolescent parenting program designated by the department, to the  
20 extent the program is available; and provides rules and regulations that ensure regular adult  
21 supervision.

22 (l) **Assignment and cooperation.** As a condition of eligibility for cash and medical  
23 assistance under this chapter, each adult member, parent, or caretaker relative of the  
24 family/assistance unit must:

25 (1) Assign to the state any rights to support for children within the family from any person  
26 that the family member has at the time the assignment is executed or may have while receiving  
27 assistance under this chapter;

28 (2) Consent to and cooperate with the state in establishing the paternity and in establishing  
29 and/or enforcing child support and medical support orders for all children in the family or assistance  
30 unit in accordance with title 15 of the general laws, as amended, unless the parent or caretaker  
31 relative is found to have good cause for refusing to comply with the requirements of this subsection.

32 (3) Absent good cause, as defined by the department of human services through the  
33 rulemaking process, for refusing to comply with the requirements of subsections (l)(1) and (l)(2),  
34 cash assistance to the family shall be reduced by twenty-five percent (25%) until the adult member

1 of the family who has refused to comply with the requirements of this subsection consents to and  
2 cooperates with the state in accordance with the requirements of this subsection.

3 (4) As a condition of eligibility for cash and medical assistance under this chapter, each  
4 adult member, parent, or caretaker relative of the family/assistance unit must consent to and  
5 cooperate with the state in identifying and providing information to assist the state in pursuing any  
6 third party who may be liable to pay for care and services under Title XIX of the Social Security  
7 Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1396 et seq.

8 SECTION 4. Section 40-6.2-1.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 40-6.2 entitled "Child  
9 Care — State Subsidies" is hereby amended to read as follows:

10 **40-6.2-1.1. Rates established.**

11 (a) Through June 30, 2015, subject to the payment limitations in subsection (c), the  
12 maximum reimbursement rates to be paid by the departments of human services and children, youth  
13 and families for licensed childcare centers and licensed family childcare providers shall be based  
14 on the following schedule of the 75th percentile of the 2002 weekly market rates adjusted for the  
15 average of the 75th percentile of the 2002 and the 2004 weekly market rates:

16 Licensed Childcare Centers	75th Percentile of Weekly
	Market Rate
18 Infant	\$182.00
19 Preschool	\$150.00
20 School-Age	\$135.00
21 Licensed Family Childcare	75th Percentile of Weekly
22 Providers	Market Rate
23 Infant	\$150.00
24 Preschool	\$150.00
25 School-Age	\$135.00

26 Effective July 1, 2015, subject to the payment limitations in subsection (c), the maximum  
27 reimbursement rates to be paid by the departments of human services and children, youth and  
28 families for licensed childcare centers and licensed family childcare providers shall be based on the  
29 above schedule of the 75th percentile of the 2002 weekly market rates adjusted for the average of  
30 the 75th percentile of the 2002 and the 2004 weekly market rates. These rates shall be increased by  
31 ten dollars (\$10.00) per week for infant/toddler care provided by licensed family childcare  
32 providers and license-exempt providers and then the rates for all providers for all age groups shall  
33 be increased by three percent (3%). For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, licensed childcare  
34 centers shall be reimbursed a maximum weekly rate of one hundred ninety-three dollars and sixty-

1 four cents (\$193.64) for infant/toddler care and one hundred sixty-one dollars and seventy-one  
2 cents (\$161.71) for preschool-age children.

3 (b) Effective July 1, 2018, subject to the payment limitations in subsection (c), the  
4 maximum infant/toddler and preschool-age reimbursement rates to be paid by the departments of  
5 human services and children, youth and families for licensed childcare centers shall be  
6 implemented in a tiered manner, reflective of the quality rating the provider has achieved within  
7 the state's quality rating system outlined in § 42-12-23.1.

8 (1) For infant/toddler child care, tier one shall be reimbursed two and one-half percent  
9 (2.5%) above the FY 2018 weekly amount, tier two shall be reimbursed five percent (5%) above  
10 the FY 2018 weekly amount, tier three shall be reimbursed thirteen percent (13%) above the FY  
11 2018 weekly amount, tier four shall be reimbursed twenty percent (20%) above the FY 2018 weekly  
12 amount, and tier five shall be reimbursed thirty-three percent (33%) above the FY 2018 weekly  
13 amount.

14 (2) For preschool reimbursement rates, tier one shall be reimbursed two and one-half  
15 (2.5%) percent above the FY 2018 weekly amount, tier two shall be reimbursed five percent (5%)  
16 above the FY 2018 weekly amount, tier three shall be reimbursed ten percent (10%) above the FY  
17 2018 weekly amount, tier four shall be reimbursed thirteen percent (13%) above the FY 2018  
18 weekly amount, and tier five shall be reimbursed twenty-one percent (21%) above the FY 2018  
19 weekly amount.

20 (c) [Deleted by P.L. 2019, ch. 88, art. 13, § 4.]

21 (d) By June 30, 2004, and biennially through June 30, 2014, the department of labor and  
22 training shall conduct an independent survey or certify an independent survey of the then-current  
23 weekly market rates for child care in Rhode Island and shall forward the weekly market rate survey  
24 to the department of human services. The next survey shall be conducted by June 30, 2016, and  
25 triennially thereafter. The departments of human services and labor and training will jointly  
26 determine the survey criteria including, but not limited to, rate categories and sub-categories.

27 (e) In order to expand the accessibility and availability of quality child care, the department  
28 of human services is authorized to establish, by regulation, alternative or incentive rates of  
29 reimbursement for quality enhancements, innovative or specialized child care, and alternative  
30 methodologies of childcare delivery, including nontraditional delivery systems and collaborations.

31 (f) Effective January 1, 2007, all childcare providers have the option to be paid every two  
32 (2) weeks and have the option of automatic direct deposit and/or electronic funds transfer of  
33 reimbursement payments.

34 (g) Effective July 1, 2019, the maximum infant/toddler reimbursement rates to be paid by

1 the departments of human services and children, youth and families for licensed family childcare  
 2 providers shall be implemented in a tiered manner, reflective of the quality rating the provider has  
 3 achieved within the state's quality rating system outlined in § 42-12-23.1. Tier one shall be  
 4 reimbursed two percent (2%) above the prevailing base rate for step 1 and step 2 providers, three  
 5 percent (3%) above prevailing base rate for step 3 providers, and four percent (4%) above the  
 6 prevailing base rate for step 4 providers; tier two shall be reimbursed five percent (5%) above the  
 7 prevailing base rate; tier three shall be reimbursed eleven percent (11%) above the prevailing base  
 8 rate; tier four shall be reimbursed fourteen percent (14%) above the prevailing base rate; and tier  
 9 five shall be reimbursed twenty-three percent (23%) above the prevailing base rate.

10 (h) Through December 31, 2021, the maximum reimbursement rates paid by the  
 11 departments of human services, and children, youth and families to licensed childcare centers shall  
 12 be consistent with the enhanced emergency rates provided as of June 1, 2021, as follows:

	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Tier 5
14 Infant/Toddler	\$257.54	\$257.54	\$257.54	\$257.54	\$273.00
15 Preschool Age	\$195.67	\$195.67	\$195.67	\$195.67	\$260.00
16 School Age	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$245.00

17 The maximum reimbursement rates paid by the departments of human services, and  
 18 children, youth and families to licensed family childcare providers shall be consistent with the  
 19 enhanced emergency rates provided as of June 1, 2021, as follows:

	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Tier 5
21 Infant/Toddler	\$224.43	\$224.43	\$224.43	\$224.43	\$224.43
22 Preschool Age	\$171.45	\$171.45	\$171.45	\$171.45	\$171.45
23 School Age	\$162.30	\$162.30	\$162.30	\$162.30	\$162.30

24 (i) Effective January 1, 2022, the maximum reimbursement rates to be paid by the  
 25 departments of human services and children, youth and families for licensed childcare centers shall  
 26 be implemented in a tiered manner, reflective of the quality rating the provider has achieved within  
 27 the state's quality rating system outlined in § 42-12-23.1. Maximum weekly rates shall be  
 28 reimbursed as follows:

29 Licensed Childcare Centers

	Tier One	Tier Two	Tier Three	Tier Four	Tier Five
30 Infant/Toddler	\$236.36	\$244.88	\$257.15	\$268.74	\$284.39
31 Preschool	\$207.51	\$212.27	\$218.45	\$223.50	\$231.39
32 School-Age	\$180.38	\$182.77	\$185.17	\$187.57	\$189.97

34 The maximum reimbursement rates for licensed family childcare providers paid by the

1 departments of human services, and children, youth and families is determined through collective  
 2 bargaining. The maximum reimbursement rates for infant/toddler and preschool age children paid  
 3 to licensed family childcare providers by both departments is implemented in a tiered manner that  
 4 reflects the quality rating the provider has achieved in accordance with § 42-12-23.1.

5 (j) Effective July 1, 2022, the maximum reimbursement rates to be paid by the departments  
 6 of human services and children, youth and families for licensed childcare centers shall be  
 7 implemented in a tiered manner, reflective of the quality rating the provider has achieved within  
 8 the state's quality rating system outlined in § 42-12-23.1. Maximum weekly rates shall be  
 9 reimbursed as follows:

10 Licensed Childcare Centers

	Tier One	Tier Two	Tier Three	Tier Four	Tier Five
11 Infant/Toddler	\$265	\$270	\$282	\$289	\$300
12 <del>Infant/Toddler</del>					
13 <u>Preschool</u>	\$225	\$235	\$243	\$250	\$260
14 School-Age	\$200	\$205	\$220	\$238	\$250

16 (k) Effective July 1, 2025, the maximum reimbursement rates to be paid by the departments  
 17 of human services and children, youth and families for licensed childcare centers shall be  
 18 implemented in a tiered manner, reflective of the quality rating the provider has achieved within  
 19 the state's quality rating system outlined in § 42-12-23.1. Maximum weekly rates shall be  
 20 reimbursed as follows:

21 Licensed Childcare Centers

	<u>Tier One</u>	<u>Tier Two</u>	<u>Tier Three</u>	<u>Tier Four</u>	<u>Tier Five</u>
22 <u>Infant/Toddler</u>	<u>\$278</u>	<u>\$284</u>	<u>\$296</u>	<u>\$303</u>	<u>\$315</u>
23 <u>Preschool</u>	<u>\$236</u>	<u>\$247</u>	<u>\$255</u>	<u>\$263</u>	<u>\$273</u>
24 <u>School-Age</u>	<u>\$210</u>	<u>\$215</u>	<u>\$231</u>	<u>\$250</u>	<u>\$263</u>

26 SECTION 5. Title 42 of the General Laws entitled "STATE AFFAIRS AND  
 27 GOVERNMENT" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

28 CHAPTER 166

29 THE LADDERS TO LICENSURE PROGRAM

30 **42-166-1. The ladders to licensure grant program.**

31 The executive office of health and human services is hereby directed to establish the ladders  
 32 to licensure grant program, a public-private partnership to:

- 33 (1) Increase the number of licensed health professionals;  
 34 (2) Increase racial, ethnic, cultural and linguistic diversity of health professionals;



1 (3) Provide academic, financial and wrap around supports to enable working adults to  
2 obtain health professional higher education degrees and license;

3 (4) Leverage employer support for academic, financial and wraparound supports;

4 (5) Align with existing state workforce and higher education initiatives;

5 (6) Develop and implement career ladders with tiered training and education requirements  
6 and corresponding salary increases;

7 (7) Develop and implement interscholastic and interdepartmental agreements that accept  
8 prior learning, credentials, work experience, and academic credits towards requirement for higher  
9 education health professional degrees;

10 (8) Establish policies and initiatives to counter systemic racism and other institutional  
11 barriers to participation and advancement of underrepresented populations;

12 (9) Establish policies and initiatives that provide flexible scheduling of work hours and/or  
13 academic programs to reduce barriers to participation; and

14 (10) Identify state policy barriers to entry and advancement in the field.

15 **42-166-2. Use of appropriated funds.**

16 Any appropriated funds shall be used to provide grants to three (3) or four (4) grantee  
17 partnerships, consisting of multiple private sector health and human services employer  
18 organizations and education grantee partnerships (with at least one focused on behavioral health  
19 and one focused on nursing). Employers will be required to contribute a twenty-five percent (25%)  
20 in-kind match and a ten percent (10%) cash match.

21 **42-166-3. Oversight.**

22 The executive office of health and human services shall collaborate and coordinate with  
23 the department of labor and training and the office of the postsecondary commissioner in the  
24 development, implementation and oversight of the program.

25 **42-166-4. Reporting.**

26 The executive office of health and human services shall provide quarterly reports to the  
27 speaker of the house of representatives and senate president documenting the progress of the  
28 implementation of the program.

29 SECTION 6. Section 2 of this article shall take effect January 1, 2025. The remainder of  
30 this article shall take effect July 1, 2025.