

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 48

FINAL READING
(SECOND)

Introduced by McKinney, 11.

Read first time January 09, 2025

Committee: Health and Human Services

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to public health and welfare; to amend section
- 2 68-996, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; to establish a
- 3 Family Resource and Juvenile Assessment Center Pilot Program as
- 4 prescribed; to change provisions relating to the Medicaid Managed
- 5 Care Excess Profit Fund; to provide an operative date; to repeal the
- 6 original section; and to declare an emergency.
- 7 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 **Section 1.** (1)(a) The Department of Health and Human Services shall
2 establish a Family Resource and Juvenile Assessment Center Pilot Program
3 in cities of the metropolitan class areas.

4 (b) The pilot program shall: (i) Operate twenty-four hours a day,
5 seven days a week, (ii) be developed in partnership with local grassroots
6 organizations, community stakeholders, and advisors representing youth
7 and families impacted by the juvenile justice system, and (iii) terminate
8 five years after the operative date of this act.

9 (2) A Family Resource and Juvenile Assessment Center means a
10 facility designed to provide support, assessment, and intervention
11 services for youth and families involved in, or at risk of, entering the
12 juvenile justice system. The goal of the centers is to offer
13 comprehensive, community-based solutions that address underlying issues
14 contributing to juvenile delinquency, including family dynamics, mental
15 health, substance abuse, and educational challenges.

16 **Sec. 2.** The pilot program established pursuant to section 1 of this
17 act shall:

18 (1) Provide comprehensive support resources to prevent youth from
19 entering or escalating within the juvenile justice system;

20 (2) Minimize individual and community harm by addressing issues
21 before they lead to greater involvement with social services, family
22 services, and adult criminal justice systems; and

23 (3) Foster community trust and engagement by integrating culturally
24 relevant services delivered by, and for, the communities served.

25 **Sec. 3.** (1) The Department of Health and Human Services shall
26 designate a designation process for family resource and juvenile
27 assessment centers to ensure adherence to high-quality standards in
28 service delivery, staff qualifications, and organizational effectiveness.

29 (2) A center seeking designation shall complete a comprehensive
30 self-assessment based on the national Standards of Quality for Family
31 Strengthening and Support or a similar benchmark framework and shall

1 submit an application and the self-assessment to the department for
2 review.

3 (3) The department shall conduct site visits and staff interviews as
4 part of the review process to verify self-assessment findings and confirm
5 compliance with designation standards.

6 (4) A center that meets the designation criteria will receive
7 official designation. A center that does not meet the designation
8 criteria shall receive feedback and technical assistance so that such
9 center may improve and reapply for designation.

10 (5) Two centers shall be selected for the pilot program established
11 pursuant to section 1 of this act.

12 **Sec. 4.** To receive designation as a family resource and juvenile
13 assessment center under section 3 of this act, an applicant shall meet
14 the following criteria: (1) Offer a range of core services, including
15 parenting support, youth counseling, economic success initiatives, early
16 childhood programs, conflict resolution, mental health services, and
17 substance abuse prevention; (2) employ professionals trained in family
18 support principles, cultural competency, trauma-informed care, and the
19 strengthening families framework; (3) develop partnerships with local
20 grassroots organizations to provide culturally relevant services,
21 outreach, and trust-building within the community; (4) demonstrate a
22 clear, effective organizational framework that supports service delivery,
23 continuous quality improvement, and sustainable operations; and (5)
24 implement data collection processes to assess service impact and outcomes
25 for youth and families, ensuring program adjustments based on feedback.

26 **Sec. 5.** (1) Each family resource and juvenile assessment center
27 shall host multiple community providers, grassroots organizations, and
28 embedded community navigators to assess and serve the immediate and
29 ongoing needs of youth and families.

30 (2) Each center shall provide assessments and services free of
31 charge to families and maintain active membership in the National

1 Assessment Center Association.

2 (3) The purpose of the assessment shall be to (a) enable youth and
3 families to discuss a family's unique dynamic, challenges, and goals in a
4 safe, culturally respectful environment, (b) identify the origin of
5 presenting issues and provide comprehensive service referrals in
6 partnership with local organizations and businesses, and (c) engage youth
7 and families in creating tailored action plans for long-term success.

8 **Sec. 6.** (1) Each family resource and juvenile assessment center
9 shall integrate culturally relevant and trauma-informed services,
10 including (a) tutoring, (b) mentoring from community leaders, including
11 those with lived experience in the justice system, (c) conflict
12 resolution and anger management training, (d) mental health and wellness
13 services provided by culturally sensitive professionals, (e) social
14 skills and job-readiness training, (f) financial literacy programs, (g)
15 youth and family counseling, (h) cognitive behavioral therapy, (i) drug
16 and substance abuse prevention and intervention, and (j) food and
17 clothing assistance and resource navigation.

18 (2) Each center shall establish community partnerships to provide
19 apprenticeships, vocational training, and mentorship opportunities with
20 local businesses, trades, and community organizations.

21 **Sec. 7.** Each family resource and juvenile assessment center shall
22 (1) have a youth advisory council and parent advisory board composed of
23 community members to provide ongoing feedback to ensure services remain
24 relevant, effective, and responsive, (2) host regular outreach events,
25 workshops, and open houses in partnership with schools, faith-based
26 groups, and community organizations, to create a bridge for preventive
27 engagement with at-risk youth and their families, and (3) employ
28 individuals with established community ties and lived experience to guide
29 youth and families through available services, act as mentors, and assist
30 with follow-up to ensure sustained engagement.

31 **Sec. 8.** Each family resource and juvenile assessment center shall

1 implement a data collection system to assess program effectiveness, track
2 youth and family outcomes, and incorporate feedback directly from those
3 served. The data collected shall be used to adjust and refine services,
4 with a focus on measuring progress toward keeping youth out of the
5 juvenile justice system and achieving positive life outcomes.

6 **Sec. 9.** Each family resource and juvenile assessment center shall
7 offer ongoing support to youth after they complete the initial service
8 period. This support may include alumni mentoring programs, periodic
9 check-ins, or additional family resources as youth transition into
10 adulthood or exit from other systems of care.

11 **Sec. 10.** Funding for family resource and juvenile assessment
12 centers shall be allocated to prioritize partnerships with local
13 grassroots organizations and businesses to sustain services and provide
14 direct community investment. Subject to available funds, each designated
15 center shall receive up to five hundred thousand dollars per center
16 annually from the Medicaid Managed Care Excess Profit Fund. If such funds
17 are not available from the Medicaid Managed Care Excess Profit Fund, no
18 General Funds may be used. No more than ten percent of funds appropriated
19 for the Family Resource and Juvenile Assessment Center Pilot Program, up
20 to fifty thousand dollars per year, shall be used to administer the pilot
21 program.

22 **Sec. 11.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall conduct
23 an annual evaluation of the Family Resource and Juvenile Assessment
24 Center Pilot Program's impact on youth and family well-being, community
25 trust, and reduction in juvenile justice system involvement to inform
26 future program developments under sections 1 to 11 of this act.

27 **Sec. 12.** Section 68-996, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
28 2024, is amended to read:

29 68-996 (1) The Medicaid Managed Care Excess Profit Fund is created.
30 The fund shall contain money returned to the State Treasurer pursuant to
31 subdivision (3) of section 68-995.

1 (2) The fund shall first be used to offset any losses under
2 subdivision (2) of section 68-995 and then to provide for (a) services
3 addressing the health needs of adults and children under the Medical
4 Assistance Act, including filling service gaps, (b) providing system
5 improvements, (c) providing evidence-based early intervention home
6 visitation programs, (d) providing medical respite services, (e)
7 translation and interpretation services, (f) providing coverage for
8 continuous glucose monitors as described in section 68-911, (g) providing
9 other services sustaining access to care, (h) services under the Nebraska
10 Prenatal Plus Program, (i) and providing grants pursuant to the
11 Intergenerational Care Facility Incentive Grant Program, and (j) the
12 Family Resource and Juvenile Assessment Center Pilot Program as
13 determined by the Legislature. The fund shall only be used for the
14 purposes described in this section.

15 (3) Any money in the fund available for investment shall be invested
16 by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital
17 Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act. Beginning
18 October 1, 2024, any investment earnings from investment of money in the
19 fund shall be credited to the General Fund.

20 **Sec. 13.** This act becomes operative on September 1, 2025.

21 **Sec. 14.** Original section 68-996, Revised Statutes Cumulative
22 Supplement, 2024, is repealed.

23 **Sec. 15.** Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when
24 passed and approved according to law.