

1 AN ACT relating to families and children and making an appropriation therefor.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 164.2847 is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) Tuition and mandatory student fees for any undergraduate or graduate program of
5 any Kentucky public postsecondary institution, including all four (4) year
6 universities and colleges and institutions of the Kentucky Community and
7 Technical College System, shall be waived for a Kentucky foster or adopted child
8 who is a full-time or part-time student if the student meets all entrance requirements
9 and maintains academic eligibility while enrolled at the postsecondary institution,
10 and if:

11 (a) The student's family receives state-funded adoption assistance under KRS
12 199.555;

13 (b) The student is currently committed to the Cabinet for Health and Family
14 Services under KRS 610.010(5) and placed in a family foster home or is
15 placed in accordance with KRS 605.090(3);

16 (c) The student is in an independent living program and the placement is funded
17 by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services;

18 (d) The student who is an adopted child was in the permanent legal custody of
19 and placed for adoption by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. A
20 student who meets the eligibility criteria of this paragraph and lives outside of
21 Kentucky at the time of application to a Kentucky postsecondary institution
22 may apply for the waiver up to the amount of tuition for a Kentucky resident;
23 or

24 (e) The Cabinet for Health and Family Services was the student's legal custodian
25 on his or her eighteenth birthday.

26 (2) Tuition and mandatory student fees for any undergraduate program of any
27 Kentucky public postsecondary institution, including all four (4) year universities

1 and colleges and institutions of the Kentucky Community and Technical College
2 System, shall be waived for a Department of Juvenile Justice foster child who is a
3 full-time or part-time student if the student meets all entrance requirements and
4 maintains academic eligibility while enrolled at the postsecondary institution and
5 obtains a recommendation for participation from an official from the Department of
6 Juvenile Justice, and if:

- 7 (a) The student has not been sentenced to the Department of Juvenile Justice
8 under KRS Chapter 640;
- 9 (b) The student has been committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice for a
10 period of at least twelve (12) months;
- 11 (c) The student is in an independent living program and placement is funded by
12 the Department of Juvenile Justice;
- 13 (d) The parental rights of the student's biological parents have been terminated; or
14 (e) The student was committed to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services
15 prior to a commitment to the Department of Juvenile Justice.
- 16 (3) Upon request of the postsecondary institution, the Cabinet for Health and Family
17 Services shall confirm the eligibility status under subsection (1) of this section and
18 the Department of Juvenile Justice shall confirm the eligibility status and
19 recommendations under subsection (2) of this section of the student seeking to
20 participate in the waiver program. Release of this information shall not constitute a
21 breach of confidentiality required by KRS 199.570, 610.320, or 620.050.
- 22 (4) The student shall complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid to
23 determine the level of need and eligibility for state and federal financial aid
24 programs. If the sum of the tuition waiver plus other student financial assistance,
25 except loans and the work study program under 42 U.S.C. secs. 2751-2756b, from
26 all sources exceeds the student's total cost of attendance, as defined in 20 U.S.C.
27 sec. 1087II, the tuition waiver shall be reduced by the amount exceeding the total

1 cost of attendance.

2 (5) Except when extended in accordance with subsection (6) of this section, the student
3 shall be eligible for the tuition waiver:

4 (a) For entrance to the institution for a period of no more than four (4) years after
5 the date of graduation from high school or obtaining a high school
6 equivalency diploma; and

7 (b) For one hundred fifty (150) consecutive or nonconsecutive credit hours
8 earned, after first admittance to any Kentucky institution if satisfactory
9 progress is achieved or maintained up to age twenty-eight (28).

10 (6) The expiration of a student's eligibility under subsection (5)(a) of this section shall
11 be extended by the number of academic terms the institution determines the student
12 was unable to enroll for or complete due to serving:

13 (a) On active duty status in the United States Armed Forces;

14 (b) As an officer in the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health
15 Service; or

16 (c) On active service in the Peace Corps Act or the Americorps.

17 The original age limitation under subsection (5)(b) of this section shall be extended
18 by the total number of years during which the student was on active duty status. The
19 number of months served on active duty status shall be rounded up to the next
20 higher year to determine the maximum length of eligibility extension allowed.

21 (7) The Council on Postsecondary Education shall report nonidentifying data on
22 graduation rates of students participating in the tuition waiver program by
23 November 30 each year to the Legislative Research Commission.

24 (8) Nothing in this section shall be construed to:

25 (a) Guarantee acceptance of or entrance into any postsecondary institution for a
26 foster or adopted child;

27 (b) Limit the participation of a foster or adopted student in any other program of

- 1 financial assistance for postsecondary education;
- 2 (c) Require any postsecondary institution to waive costs or fees relating to room
3 and board; or
- 4 (d) Restrict any postsecondary institution, the Department of Juvenile Justice, or
5 the Cabinet for Health and Family Services from accessing other sources of
6 financial assistance, except loans, that may be available to a foster or adopted
7 student.

8 **(9) A student who meets the eligibility requirements of subsection (1)(b) or (c), (2)(c),**
9 **or (5) of this section shall receive a monthly stipend from the Cabinet for Health**
10 **and Family Services during the time he or she is eligible for the tuition waiver.**

11 **(10) Before a student is deemed eligible to receive funding under subsection (9) of this**
12 **section, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services shall assess the student's**
13 **financial literacy and executive functioning, self-regulation, and similar skills**
14 **that are important for successful independent living and the completion of**
15 **postsecondary education in order to ensure that the student has the proper skills**
16 **to effectively manage the monthly stipend. Within a reasonable time after**
17 **completing the assessment, the cabinet shall provide information and referrals**
18 **for any voluntary services that are recommended by the assessment to the student**
19 **to assist in strengthening any necessary skills.**

20 **(11) The Cabinet for Health and Family Services shall:**

21 **(a) Work with a student who is eligible to receive funding under subsection (9)**
22 **of this section to create a financial plan that is guided by the student's**
23 **financial goals in meeting his or her needs while in postsecondary**
24 **education;**

25 **(b) Review and, if necessary, update the financial plan with the student every**
26 **six (6) months until funding under this subsection is no longer provided;**
27 **and**

1 (c) Ensure the financial plan includes an assessment of the student's current
2 and future needs and challenges for self-sufficiency and address, at a
3 minimum, how the student will meet his or her financial needs and
4 obligations when funding under this section is no longer provided.

5 ➔SECTION 2. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 199 IS CREATED TO
6 READ AS FOLLOWS:

7 (1) The General Assembly does hereby establish the Mentorship for At-Risk Male
8 Students Grant Program. The program shall be administered by the cabinet to
9 offer grants to nonprofit community-based organizations to offer mentorship
10 programs for at-risk male students. For the purposes of this section, "at-risk male
11 student" means a male student in elementary school, middle school, or high
12 school that has been identified as at risk to become involved in the juvenile justice
13 system.

14 (2) The grants shall:

15 (a) Assist at-risk male students who are in elementary school, middle school, or
16 high school in developing social, emotional, and cognitive skills to prepare
17 them for future success; and

18 (b) Provide an opportunity for small nonprofit organizations to receive training
19 and technical assistance that will strengthen their capacity to provide high-
20 quality, effective services and obtain additional public or private funding in
21 the future.

22 (3) A nonprofit community-based organization shall have organizational
23 management and a board of directors reflective of the community served by the
24 organization in order to be eligible to receive a grant under this section.

25 (4) Grant recipients shall:

26 (a) Recruit and train mentors for eligible at-risk male students;

27 (b) Provide mentorship, social and academic support, life skill development,

- 1 and other opportunities for eligible at-risk male students;
- 2 (c) Use trauma-informed practices and interventions to address adverse
- 3 childhood experiences of eligible at-risk male students; and
- 4 (d) Be inclusive of eligible at-risk male students who have a disability.
- 5 (5) Prioritization of applicants for a grant shall, at a minimum, be based on:
- 6 (a) Unemployment rates, incarceration rates, housing instability, the number of
- 7 single-parent households, the number of public benefit recipients,
- 8 graduation rates, and levels of academic achievement in the geographic
- 9 area in which mentorship services would be provided;
- 10 (b) The number of at-risk male students that the applicant plans to serve
- 11 through the grant and the projected costs for the new or expanded
- 12 mentorship program; and
- 13 (c) The applicant's current revenues and organizational capacity, experience
- 14 and demonstrated effectiveness in serving at-risk male students or providing
- 15 mentorship programs, and commitment to organizational development
- 16 through the training required under subsection (9) of this section in order
- 17 to achieve the goal specified in subsection (2)(b) of this section.
- 18 (6) The cabinet may award grants that are between twenty-five thousand dollars
- 19 (\$25,000) and two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) per year. Grants
- 20 may be awarded to a nonprofit community-based organization for no more than
- 21 three (3) years, contingent on continued eligibility, compliance with grant
- 22 requirements, and adequate performance. The cabinet shall create categories of
- 23 grants based on the annual revenues of the nonprofit community-based
- 24 organizations that are applying in order to maximize the opportunities for small
- 25 nonprofit organizations to receive grants.
- 26 (7) By October 1 of each year, each grant recipient shall submit a report to the
- 27 cabinet, in a format prescribed by the cabinet, which contains, at a minimum the:

- 1 (a) Number and ages of at-risk male students served and which schools they
2 attend;
- 3 (b) Number of mentors providing mentorship services;
- 4 (c) Number of at-risk male students that are involved with the Department of
5 Juvenile Justice within the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet;
- 6 (d) Number of at-risk male students that are planning to enroll in a
7 postsecondary institution; and
- 8 (e) Outcomes of the at-risk male students served, including but not limited to
9 improved academic success, decreased involvement in the juvenile justice
10 system, truancy reports, and enhanced readiness for and involvement in
11 postsecondary education, as appropriate.
- 12 (8) By December 1, 2025, and December 1 of each year thereafter, the cabinet shall
13 submit a report to the Legislative Research Commission for referral to the
14 Interim Joint Committee on Families and Children and the Interim Joint
15 Committee on Education that contains, at a minimum, the information received
16 pursuant to subsection (7) of this section and identifying information about the
17 grant organization recipients, geographic areas served by the grant recipients
18 based on area development district, and the number of grants awarded.
- 19 (9) The cabinet shall contract for the provision of technical assistance and training
20 in nonprofit management, outcomes measurement, and positive youth
21 development to grant recipients. Within six (6) months after receiving a grant, a
22 grant recipient shall complete such training as required by the cabinet in order to
23 achieve the goal specified in subsection (2)(b) of this section. The contracted
24 provider shall determine the specific training needed by grant recipients and
25 directly provide or subcontract for such training and technical assistance.

26 ➔ Section 3. KRS 211.690 is amended to read as follows:

- 27 (1) There is established within the Cabinet for Health and Family Services the Health

1 Access Nurturing Development Services (HANDS) program as a voluntary
 2 statewide home visitation program, for the purpose of providing assistance to at-risk
 3 parents during the prenatal period and until the child's third birthday. The HANDS
 4 program recognizes that parents are the primary decision-makers for their children.
 5 The goals of the HANDS program are to:

- 6 (a) Facilitate safe and healthy delivery of babies;
- 7 (b) Provide information about optimal child growth and human development;
- 8 (c) Facilitate the safety and health of homes; ~~and~~
- 9 (d) Encourage greater self-sufficiency of families; **and**
- 10 **(e) Provide father engagement activities, such as providing individualized**
 11 **support to fathers to increase participation in services that strengthen**
 12 **family and child well-being.**

13 (2) The cabinet shall administer the HANDS program in cooperation with the Cabinet
 14 for Health and Family Services and the local public health departments. The
 15 voluntary home visitation program may supplement, but shall not duplicate, any
 16 existing program that provides assistance to parents of young children.

17 (3) The HANDS program shall include an educational component on the recognition
 18 and prevention of pediatric abusive head trauma, as defined in KRS 620.020.

19 (4) Participants in the HANDS program shall express informed consent to participate
 20 by written agreement on a form promulgated by the Cabinet for Health and Family
 21 Services.

22 ➔SECTION 4. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 199 IS CREATED TO
 23 READ AS FOLLOWS:

24 **(1) The Cabinet for Health and Family Services shall develop, implement, and**
 25 **operate the Responsible Fatherhood Initiative.**

26 **(2) The Responsible Fatherhood Initiative shall:**

27 **(a) Provide an opportunity for every father in the Commonwealth to be able to**

1 obtain information and inspiration that will motivate and enable him to
2 enhance his abilities as a father, recognizing that some fathers have greater
3 challenges than others and would benefit from greater support;

4 (b) Include at a minimum:

5 1. A website and other related electronic resources that will allow a
6 father to obtain information about effective parenting, identify areas
7 in which support would enable him to enhance his ability to be an
8 effective father, and be connected to such support, including but not
9 limited to support provided by organizations receiving grants;

10 2. Use appropriate materials from the fatherhood media campaign
11 available through the National Responsible Fatherhood
12 Clearinghouse; and

13 3. Include print, television, digital, and social media elements and public
14 events, and may include appearances by and involvement from public
15 figures and influencers;

16 (c) Collaborate with other relevant agencies of state government and private
17 organizations to develop and implement the initiative; and

18 (d) Employ a father engagement specialist to, at a minimum, build
19 relationships with fathers, help identify their needs, assist them in accessing
20 services, and communicate with the cabinet about the challenges faced by
21 these fathers and how to appropriately meet their unique needs. The cabinet
22 shall prioritize individuals who have faced experiences similar to the fathers
23 who are being served by the lead agency for selection as a father
24 engagement specialist.

25 (3) The cabinet shall annually review how the Responsible Fatherhood Initiative is
26 meeting the needs of fathers, including, at a minimum, how the initiative is
27 helping fathers establish positive, stable relationships with their children and

1 assisting fathers in receiving needed services. The initiative shall provide any
2 relevant information on how it is meeting the needs of these fathers to the
3 cabinet.

4 ➔SECTION 5. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 199 IS CREATED TO
5 READ AS FOLLOWS:

6 (1) The General Assembly recognizes that families are stronger when both parents
7 act responsibly in caring for their children. It is the intent of the General
8 Assembly to recognize and support the important and unique role that fathers
9 play in ensuring the physical, emotional, and economic well-being of their
10 children and families.

11 (2) The General Assembly does hereby establish the Responsible Fatherhood
12 Initiative Grant Program. The program shall be administered by the Cabinet for
13 Health and Family Services to offer grants to nonprofit community-based
14 organizations to address the needs of fathers.

15 (3) The cabinet shall award the following types of grants:

16 (a) Grants that comprehensively address the needs of fathers, such as assisting
17 them in finding employment, managing child support obligations,
18 transitioning from a period of incarceration, accessing health care,
19 understanding child development, and enhancing parenting skills. Grants
20 provided under this paragraph shall:

- 21 1. Provide services tailored to the needs of the father being served;
- 22 2. Provide case management services by the grant recipient, either
23 directly or by subcontract, to the fathers who are served by the grants
24 under this paragraph; and
- 25 3. Allow for the case management services to be coordinated if the father
26 receiving case management services through a grant awarded under
27 this subsection has a child receiving case management services from

- 1 *the Department for Community Based Services because the child is*
2 *the subject of a dependency proceeding under KRS Chapter 620; and*
3 ***(b) Grants that provide evidence-based parenting education specifically for***
4 *fathers. The grants under this paragraph do not require case management*
5 *services.*
- 6 ***(4) The cabinet shall prioritize applicants for a grant specified under subsection (2)***
7 *of this section based on:*
- 8 ***(a) Need in a geographic area and the population to be served by the grant as***
9 *indicated by, at a minimum:*
- 10 *1. Unemployment rates;*
11 *2. Incarceration rates;*
12 *3. Housing instability;*
13 *4. The number of single-parent households;*
14 *5. The number of public benefit recipients;*
15 *6. Graduation rates; and*
16 *7. Levels of academic achievement;*
- 17 ***(b) If an applicant has a primary mission of, or a history of a significant focus***
18 *on and effective work towards, addressing the needs of men in their role as*
19 *fathers;*
- 20 ***(c) An applicant's current and historical involvement in the community being***
21 *served;*
- 22 ***(d) An applicant's commitment and capability to employ competent staff who***
23 *can effectively engage with the fathers being served, including at a*
24 *minimum, those individuals who share a similar background as the fathers*
25 *being served;*
- 26 ***(e) The number of individuals the applicant plans to serve through the grant***
27 *and the projected costs for the program; and*

- 1 (f) An applicant's organizational capacity to effectively meet the requirements
2 of the grant and to deliver the programs proposed by the applicant. The
3 department may offer technical assistance to applicants and grant recipients
4 that have lower organizational capacity so long as such organizations have,
5 or the organization's leadership has, significant experience serving fathers.
- 6 (5) Grants shall be awarded for no more than three (3) years, with subsequent year
7 funding contingent on compliance with grant requirements and adequate
8 performance. Grant recipients shall submit reports to the department in a format
9 and at intervals, which must be at least annually, prescribed by the department.
- 10 (6) By October 1 of each year, each grant recipient shall submit a report to the
11 cabinet, in a format prescribed by the cabinet, which contains, at a minimum,
12 the:
- 13 (a) Number and ages of fathers served;
14 (b) Geographic areas served; and
15 (c) Outcomes of the fathers served, including but not limited to finding
16 employment, managing child support obligations, transitioning from a
17 period of incarceration, accessing health care, understanding child
18 development, and enhancing parenting skills.
- 19 (7) By December 1, 2025, and December 1 of each year thereafter, the cabinet shall
20 submit a report to the Legislative Research Commission for referral to the
21 Interim Joint Committee on Families and Children and the Interim Joint
22 Committee on Education that contains, at a minimum, the information received
23 pursuant to subsection (6) of this section and identifying information about the
24 grant organization recipients, geographic areas served by the grant recipients
25 based on area development district, and the number of grants awarded.
- 26 (8) The cabinet shall promulgate administrative regulations in accordance with KRS
27 Chapter 13A to implement this section.

1 ➔SECTION 6. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 600 IS CREATED TO
2 READ AS FOLLOWS:

3 *The Department of Juvenile Justice and the cabinet shall:*

4 *(1) Identify children who are dually involved with the Department of Juvenile Justice*
5 *and the cabinet;*

6 *(2) Collaboratively take appropriate action within available resources to meet the*
7 *needs of dually involved children more effectively; and*

8 *(3) By December 1 of each year, submit to the Legislative Research Commission for*
9 *referral to the Interim Joint Committee on Families and Children and the*
10 *Interim Joint Committee on Judiciary a quarterly report that includes, at a*
11 *minimum, the following:*

12 *(a) Data on the number of children who are involved with both systems of care,*
13 *including but not limited to those children who are the subject of any*
14 *investigation by the cabinet and, at the same time, are under the supervision*
15 *of the Department of Juvenile Justice, and those children who were*
16 *previously served by either the cabinet or the Department of Juvenile*
17 *Justice, and come to the attention of either agency after being served;*

18 *(b) Data on the number of children who are placed in licensed care by the*
19 *cabinet after leaving the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice;*

20 *(c) Information on how both agencies track children who are or become dually*
21 *involved; and*

22 *(d) A summary of the actions taken by both agencies to better serve dually*
23 *involved children.*

24 ➔Section 7. KRS 625.025 is amended to read as follows:

25 *(1)* In the case of a child who has become a ward of the Cabinet for Health and Family
26 Services as a result of a termination of parental rights judgment entered against the
27 child's parents, and who remains a ward of the cabinet upon attainment of his or her

1 eighteenth birthday, the cabinet, in its discretion, upon request of the ward, may
2 extend its wardship to age twenty-one (21) for the purpose of the child's
3 participating in state or federal educational programs or to assist the child in
4 establishing independent living arrangements.

5 **(2) The cabinet shall provide an eligible youth who is requesting to extend or**
6 **reinstate his or her commitment to the cabinet in order to participate in state or**
7 **federal educational programs or to establish independent living arrangements**
8 **information about independent living arrangements and programs that are**
9 **tailored to the individual needs and plans of the eligible youth. The information**
10 **shall include, at a minimum, the specific benefits of each program and how such**
11 **benefits meet the needs and plans of the eligible youth, the advantages and**
12 **disadvantages of participation in each program considering the needs and plans**
13 **of the eligible youth, and the financial value of each program to the eligible**
14 **youth. The cabinet shall discuss this information with the eligible youth, and he**
15 **or she shall sign a document indicating that he or she:**

16 **(a) Received the information;**

17 **(b) Discussed the information with the cabinet representative;**

18 **(c) Understands how the services and benefits would meet his or her individual**
19 **needs; and**

20 **(d) Understands how the services would assist him or her in accomplishing**
21 **future plans.**

22 ➔Section 8. There is hereby appropriated to the Cabinet for Health and Family
23 Services General Fund moneys in the amount of \$500,000 in fiscal year 2024-2025 and
24 \$500,000 in fiscal year 2025-2026 for the costs incurred by the cabinet in carrying out its
25 duties described in Sections 2 and 5 of this Act. Notwithstanding KRS 45.229, these
26 funds shall not lapse and shall carry forward with the stipulation that no more than
27 \$500,000 in grants shall be offered in fiscal year 2024-2025 or any subsequent fiscal

1 year.

2 ➔Section 9. (1) The General Assembly declares the month of June as
3 "Responsible Fatherhood Month" to recognize the importance of fathers in their
4 children's lives, how fathers contribute to their children's safety and stability, and the
5 direct link between positive father involvement and child well-being.

6 (2) The Cabinet for Health and Family Services is encouraged to sponsor events to
7 promote awareness of responsible fatherhood engagement and the contributions fathers
8 make in the lives of their children.