

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
 Enrolled - Revised

House Bill 513
 Ways and Means

(Delegate Ebersole, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
 and Budget and Taxation

**Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Support Services Program -
 Established**

This bill establishes the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) Support Services Program, administered by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). The program is intended to promote positive mental and behavioral health practices for young children who may have developmental, social, emotional, or behavioral issues. Beginning in fiscal 2024, the Governor must include an appropriation of \$3.0 million in the annual State budget for the program. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2022.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$1.4 million annually beginning in FY 2024, including costs for MSDE to hire one staff specialist to administer the expanded program, as described below. **This bill establishes a mandated appropriation beginning in FY 2024.** Revenues are not directly affected.

(\$ in millions)	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	0	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36
Net Effect	\$0.00	(\$1.36)	(\$1.36)	(\$1.36)	(\$1.36)

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

Local Effect: The bill expands funding to service providers, as described below. Local government expenditures may increase to the extent the expanded program further involves local government agencies.

Small Business Effect: Small businesses that provide social/emotional health services for children and families may benefit.

Analysis

Bill Summary: Initially eligible children under the program are children younger than age six who are enrolled in specified child care or publicly funded full-day prekindergarten programs. The program must aid enrolled children by:

- referring children and families in need of intensive mental or behavioral health services to appropriate clinics or programs;
- training, coaching, and mentoring teachers and caregivers to address challenging behaviors;
- building partnerships with community resources;
- working to ensure children have stable, quality child care programs; and
- awarding grants to carry out the program.

MSDE may designate specific regions in the State and create unique approaches in each designated region. MSDE must utilize additional available funding to support the program.

If the program is able to serve all of the initially eligible children (as described above), and has remaining funds for the program, MSDE must consider children who are at least age six and enrolled in kindergarten, first grade, or second grade who may have developmental, social, emotional, or behavioral issues for enrollment in the program. The program must aid these children in the same manner as described above, except that ensuring stable, quality child care services for these children is not required.

MSDE may accept for enrollment in the program referrals from child care providers and self-referrals from families.

Current Law: Chapter 430 of 2021 required MSDE to conduct a study of the IECMH Consultation Project. The [study](#), among other things, entailed a review of the goals of the project, assessment of the need for new services, a report on progress the project has made, and consideration of ways to integrate the project with other specified services.

The Infants and Toddlers Program within MSDE provides early intervention services for children with developmental delays and disabilities and their families beginning at birth until the child reaches kindergarten age. The purpose of the program is to provide a statewide, community-based interagency system of comprehensive early intervention services to eligible children and their families.

Judy Centers provide early childhood education programs and comprehensive support services for children, from birth through kindergarten, and their families who reside in specific low-income school districts. Under Chapter 36 of 2021, funding is provided for

9 additional Judy Centers annually in each of fiscal 2021 through 2025, and for 18 additional centers annually in fiscal 2026 through 2030, culminating in 135 new Judy Centers by fiscal 2030. The State must prioritize increasing the number of Judy Centers in Title I communities.

Family Support Centers provide parents and their children with a hospitable and constructive environment and services that (1) improve parenting skills; (2) develop the family as a functioning unit; and (3) promote the growth and development of their children. Chapter 36 provides for 30 additional centers and designates the centers (including existing centers) as Patty Centers, after Patricia H. Kirwan.

The Head Start Program aims to promote the school readiness of low-income children by enhancing their cognitive, social, and emotional development. Funding for Head Start comes largely from the federal government, though the State provides supplemental funding. State funding may be used for the expansion and improvement of services, including expanding the hours of services, increasing the number of children served, and developing quality improvement measures such as staff development and program improvement.

State Expenditures: MSDE currently operates the IECMH program. The program includes 12 agencies operating in 12 regional licensing centers with 35 consultants serving 343 classrooms per year, on average. The program also utilizes the University of Maryland School of Social Work, which provides professional development to the consultants serving children, families, and providers in the program, and collects analytical data regarding all aspects of the program. Funds are distributed to community providers who coordinate with providers and hire the practitioners to deliver services directly to providers, students, and/or families.

Beginning in fiscal 2024, general fund expenditures increase by \$1.4 million to fund the program at the level required by the bill's mandated appropriation. This estimate assumes that, in the absence of the bill, the program would have been funded at approximately \$1.6 million annually (consistent with the amount included in the fiscal 2023 budget) and, therefore, accounts only for the increase over the funding amount provided in recent fiscal years. Also beginning in fiscal 2024, the pool of potentially eligible children to be served by the program is expanded to include elementary school children through second grade.

As a result of the expanded scope of the program, MSDE administrative costs increase by \$155,600 in fiscal 2024 to hire one program specialist to assist in administering the expanded program. This estimate assumes that because the annual State funding requirement begins in fiscal 2024, associated expenditures commence at the beginning of fiscal 2024. As shown below, along with estimated increased funding to community

partners, the estimate includes the salary and fringe benefits for the position, one-time start-up costs, and other ongoing operating expenses.

Position	1.0
Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$107,953
One-time Start-up Costs	6,548
Other Ongoing Operating Expenses	1,060
Increased Funding to Community Providers	<u>1,241,607</u>
Total FY 2024 Expenditures	\$1,357,168

Future year expenditures reflect continuation of the mandated appropriation of \$3.0 million annually.

Local Fiscal Effect: MSDE advises that IECMH is operated within local Child Care and Resource and Referral programs and various public and nonprofit agencies. Accordingly, increased funding and identification of more children for relevant services may increase operating costs for local governments.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Budget and Management; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: rh/jkb
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