

**CHAPTER 148-A****SOCIAL SERVICES PLANNING AND EXPENDITURES****§1641. Legislative findings and intent**

The Legislature finds that the many social service needs of the citizens of this State are varied and often complex. State Government agencies have been organized to provide the most efficient delivery system possible to meet these social service needs. The Legislature recognizes that any governmental structure requires a coordinated and cooperative effort on the part of the various state agencies to ensure that the social services programs of the State adequately meet the social services needs of the citizens and to avoid needless duplication of effort on the part of these agencies. [PL 1985, c. 96 (RPR).]

The Legislature further finds that, because of the complexity of the social service needs of the citizens and the multiplicity of funding sources available to meet those needs, it is difficult to gain a complete understanding of the overall scope of the social service system and of the specific programs within that system. Without this understanding, the legislative and executive branches of government are hindered in their efforts to provide a coordinated social services program. [PL 1985, c. 96 (NEW).]

It is the intent of this chapter to make available the necessary factual and fiscal information that will assist the Governor, the executive agencies, the Legislature, the recipients of social services, the providers of social services and the general public in reviewing and evaluating the overall scope of the social services system in this State and in participating on an informed basis in developing public policy concerning the social services needs of our citizens. [PL 1985, c. 96 (NEW).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1983, c. 495 (NEW). PL 1985, c. 96 (RPR).

**§1642. Definitions**

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings. [PL 1985, c. 96 (RPR).]

**1. Department.** "Department" means the Department of Health and Human Services. [RR 2003, c. 2, §3 (COR).]

**2. Division.** "Division" means the Executive Department, Division of Community Services. [PL 1985, c. 96 (RPR).]

**3. Income supplementation programs.** "Income supplementation programs" means programs designed to supplement the income of a person or family and includes Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, food distribution, general assistance, supplemental security income or any other income related program utilizing state-administered funds. [PL 2023, c. 405, Pt. C, §1 (AMD).]

**4. Related health and medical services.** "Related health and medical services" means all health or medical services utilizing state-administered funds, including Medicaid and health block grants. [PL 1985, c. 96 (RPR).]

**5. Report.** "Report" means the State's social services report. [PL 1985, c. 96 (RPR).]

**6. Social service.** "Social service" means any children's, youth, adult or elderly service and substance use disorder, community action, developmental disability, home-heating assistance, juvenile, mental health, intellectual disability, older Americans, poverty, rehabilitation, transportation, weatherization or other social service that may be defined in the future and that is operated by the

departments or the division utilizing state-administered funds, including related health and medical services and income supplementation programs.

[PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §6 (AMD).]

**7. State - administered funds.** "State - administered funds" means all General Fund money, dedicated funds, federal funds, fees, grants, 3rd-party reimbursements, vendor payments or other funds or revenues available for expenditure by the departments or the division in support of the provision of a social service.

[PL 1985, c. 96 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1983, c. 495 (NEW). PL 1985, c. 96 (RPR). PL 1995, c. 560, §K82 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 560, §K83 (AFF). PL 1997, c. 530, §A34 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 354, §3 (AMD). RR 2003, c. 2, §3 (COR). PL 2011, c. 542, Pt. A, §2 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §6 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 405, Pt. C, §1 (AMD).

#### §1643. State's social services report

The departments and the division shall prepare a written report of the State's social service programs. This report shall be presented to the Governor and the Legislature, widely distributed to community social service agencies and made available to the public no later than December 1st of each year. [PL 1985, c. 96 (RPR).]

The report in each even-numbered year shall provide an update of information for the current biennium, indicating adjustments, additions and anticipated changes in programs and service delivery to the extent that information is available. [PL 1985, c. 96 (RPR).]

**1. General.** The report shall be a single, concise document presenting a descriptive and fiscal summary of social service programs in an easily understood manner.

[PL 1985, c. 96 (RPR).]

**2. Format.** The report shall utilize a uniform format focusing on target populations grouped by major program areas. Characteristic data of the target populations shall be included to the extent that information is available. The report shall contain an integrated description of the operations of the departments and the division in each program area, describing the social services as a coordinated and cooperative plan when a service is provided by more than one department or division. When appropriate, the fiscal information shall be displayed by account by department, and when applicable by subdivision of that department, and by the division and shall also be displayed as a total expenditure. [PL 1985, c. 96 (RPR).]

**3. Contents.** The report shall contain:

A. Program descriptions, including the social service need being met, the goals and objectives of the program, the services provided and the priorities for those services; [PL 1985, c. 96 (RPR).]

B. State-administered funds expended during the immediately preceding biennium; [PL 1985, c. 96 (RPR).]

C. State-administered funds available for the current biennium, including anticipated federal funding to the extent that information is available or can be anticipated; [PL 1985, c. 96 (NEW).]

D. Policy issues including major changes in program emphasis and trends and continuum of care offered; and [PL 1985, c. 96 (NEW).]

E. Fiscal information and service statistics for each fiscal year of the current biennium, compared with the corresponding information of each fiscal year of the immediately preceding biennium.

[PL 1985, c. 96 (NEW).]

[PL 1985, c. 96 (RPR).]

**4. Other state agencies.** The report shall include social service programs administered by state agencies other than the departments and the division to the extent that those social services are related to the programs described in the report. Those agencies shall participate in preparing the report to the extent necessary to ensure the program descriptions accurately portray how those services fit into the overall social service system and to provide the necessary fiscal information.

[PL 1985, c. 96 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1983, c. 495 (NEW). PL 1985, c. 96 (RPR).

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