
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL
No. 1955 Session of
1995

INTRODUCED BY DeWEESE, JUNE 29, 1995

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
JUNE 29, 1995

AN ACT

1 Providing for the establishment of a demonstration program to be
2 conducted in selected counties to coordinate, consolidate or
3 integrate the provision of human services; providing for the
4 decategorization of funding for human services in counties
5 participating in the demonstration program; providing for
6 powers and duties of the Department of Public Welfare;
7 creating a fund; and requiring reports.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. Short title.

11 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Innovation in
12 Delivery of Human Services Demonstration Act.

13 Section 2. Legislative findings.

14 The General Assembly finds that various governments have
15 experimented with coordinating, consolidating and integrating
16 human service programs in a comprehensive manner and that these
17 experiments have reduced the duplication of effort often
18 encountered by applicants for and providers of human services.
19 The General Assembly further finds that a demonstration program
20 should be conducted in selected counties of this Commonwealth to

1 determine if social and financial benefits may be derived
2 through the coordination, consolidation, integration and
3 alternative funding of human service programs.

4 Section 3. Definitions.

5 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
6 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
7 context clearly indicates otherwise:

8 "Decategorize." The merging of resources initially divided
9 among various service and funding categories and the subsequent
10 reallocation of the resources pursuant to a county plan based
11 upon local needs.

12 "Demonstration program." The Innovation in Delivery of Human
13 Services Program established in section 4.

14 "Department." The Department of Public Welfare of the
15 Commonwealth.

16 "Fund." The Innovation in Delivery of Human Services Fund
17 created in section 6.

18 "Human services." Services designed to meet the needs of
19 persons eligible for the following programs:

20 (1) Categorical programs, including, but not limited to,
21 programs to assist the following:

22 (i) Low-income adults.

23 (ii) Children, including children receiving medical
24 assistance services pursuant to 42 C.F.R. § 431.53
25 (relating to assurance of transportation).

26 (iii) Homeless persons.

27 (iv) Drug dependent and alcohol dependent persons
28 under the act of April 14, 1972 (P.L.221, No.63), known
29 as the Pennsylvania Drug and Alcohol Abuse Control Act.

30 (v) Persons with mental health problems under the

1 act of October 20, 1966 (3rd Sp.Sess., P.L.96, No.6),
2 known as the Mental Health and Mental Retardation Act of
3 1966.

4 (vi) Persons with mental retardation under the
5 Mental Health and Mental Retardation Act of 1966.

6 (vii) Dependent and delinquent children as defined
7 in 42 Pa.C.S. § 6302 (relating to definitions).

8 (2) County-based social services approved by the
9 department and provided by or in consort with county
10 governments, including, but not limited to, services designed
11 to meet the needs of low-income adults, children, homeless
12 persons, individuals dependent on drugs or alcohol,
13 individuals with mental illness or mental retardation and
14 dependent and delinquent children as defined in 42 Pa.C.S. §
15 6302.

16 (3) Generic services provided to meet the needs of two
17 or more client populations.

18 (4) Job training programs, including, but not limited
19 to, employment-related education and training provided under
20 section 405.2 of the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21),
21 known as the Public Welfare Code, the act of December 20,
22 1985 (P.L.492, No.116), known as the Customized Job Training
23 Act, or the Job Training Partnership Act (Public Law 97-300,
24 96 Stat 1322).

25 (5) Specialized services consisting of new services or a
26 combination of services designed to meet the unique needs of
27 a client population that are unmet by current categorical
28 programs.

29 (6) Transportation assistance programs.

30 "Secretary." The Secretary of Public Welfare of the

1 Commonwealth.

2 "Selected counties." Counties of this Commonwealth not to
3 exceed ten that volunteer to participate in the demonstration
4 program and which are selected for participation by the
5 Department of Public Welfare pursuant to approved plans
6 submitted by the counties under guidelines or regulations
7 established and administered under section 5(d) and (e).

8 Section 4. Establishment of demonstration program.

9 (a) Department to establish.--Subject to Federal approval,
10 the department, in cooperation with other departments
11 administering human services, shall establish, by January 1,
12 1996, or as soon thereafter as practicable, a demonstration
13 program to be known as the Innovation in Delivery of Human
14 Services Program. The demonstration program shall expire five
15 years from the date of its implementation.

16 (b) Projects in selected counties.--The department shall
17 provide for the establishment of coordinated, consolidated or
18 integrated human service projects in selected counties, the
19 participation of which has been approved by the respective
20 county boards of commissioners.

21 Section 5. Powers and duties of department.

22 (a) Request for waivers.--Within 60 days of the effective
23 date of this act, the secretary, in cooperation with other
24 departments administering human services, shall submit to the
25 appropriate Federal agency or agencies a request for any and all
26 waivers of regulations and for any other approvals by the
27 Federal Government that may be necessary for the implementation
28 of this act. It shall be the obligation of the secretary to
29 enter into good faith negotiations with the appropriate Federal
30 officials and to make every effort to obtain the necessary

1 Federal waivers and approvals.

2 (b) Components of program.--The department, in cooperation
3 with other departments administering human services, shall
4 identify all human services that may be included in the
5 demonstration program, including, but not limited to, human
6 services as defined by this act.

7 (c) Decategorization and disbursement of funds.--Pursuant to
8 the creation of the fund under section 6, the department and
9 other departments administering human services shall cooperate
10 with the State Treasurer in developing a system by which Federal
11 and State funds allocated for human services included in the
12 demonstration program shall be decategorized and disbursed to
13 selected counties.

14 (d) Establishment of requirements for plan approval.--The
15 department, in cooperation with other departments administering
16 human services, shall establish through guidelines or regulation
17 minimum requirements for approval of a county plan to implement
18 a human services demonstration project under this act.

19 (e) Submission of plans.--Within 90 days of the effective
20 date of this act, the department shall commence discussions with
21 the county boards of commissioners in counties volunteering to
22 participate in the demonstration program regarding plans that
23 must be submitted by the counties for implementation of a human
24 services demonstration project. The plans shall include, but not
25 be limited to, provisions for the following:

26 (1) Alternative intake procedures that eliminate the
27 need for clients eligible for two or more human services to
28 apply to two or more agencies to receive the services.

29 (2) Alternative funding mechanisms for human services
30 included in the county project.

1 (3) Alternative reimbursement systems for service
2 providers that recognize the need for transition support.

3 (4) Training of personnel providing coordinated,
4 consolidated or integrated human services.

5 (5) Procurement and use of data processing and
6 communications equipment to facilitate the sharing of
7 information among the providers of human services included in
8 the county demonstration project.

9 (6) Hiring of county workers through a bona fide merit
10 system that permits generic qualifications and positions
11 related to the provision of coordinated, consolidated or
12 integrated human services.

13 (7) Submission of reports to the department regarding
14 the funding and ongoing operation of the county demonstration
15 project.

16 (f) Procedure for approval of plans.--The department shall
17 approve or disapprove a county plan for a human services
18 demonstration project within 60 days of its submission. If
19 disapproved, the department shall assist the county, upon
20 request of the county, in revising the plan to comply with the
21 minimum requirements established under subsection (d). If a
22 revised plan is disapproved, the county may choose to revise and
23 resubmit its plan for a third and final review, but, if the
24 revised plan is again disapproved, the county shall withdraw its
25 application to participate in the demonstration program. In
26 reviewing county plans, the department shall not require that
27 all county plans be uniform but shall allow for alternative
28 methods of coordinating, consolidating, integrating and funding
29 human services that best meet the individual counties' needs.

30 (g) Performance measures.--The department, in cooperation

1 with other departments administering human services, shall
2 establish through guidelines or regulation performance measures
3 to be applied to selected counties participating in the
4 demonstration program.

5 (h) Report to Governor and committees.--On or before March
6 15 following the first full year of implementation of this act
7 and on or before that date in each succeeding year of the
8 demonstration program, the department shall provide a report
9 covering the preceding year to the Governor and the chairman and
10 minority chairman of the Public Health and Welfare Committee of
11 the Senate and the chairman and minority chairman of the Health
12 and Human Services Committee of the House of Representatives.
13 The report shall provide an evaluation of the ongoing
14 effectiveness of the demonstration program. The report shall
15 contain, but not be limited to, the following information,
16 provided for each selected county participating in the
17 demonstration program:

18 (1) The number of service recipients affected by the
19 demonstration program.

20 (2) The number of service recipients receiving two or
21 more services through a county demonstration project.

22 (3) The number of employees who have been trained in
23 alternative methods of providing services through county
24 human services demonstration projects.

25 (4) The amount of funds expended on installing or
26 updating electronic equipment to facilitate data processing
27 and information sharing among service providers in selected
28 counties.

29 (5) A county-by-county comparison of allocation of
30 resources among the services provided by selected counties.

1 (6) A comparison of allocation of resources among
2 services provided by selected counties and counties not
3 participating in the demonstration program.

4 (7) An overall statement of the progress of the
5 demonstration program during the preceding year, along with
6 recommendations for improvement.

7 (i) Assistance from professionals and organizations.--In
8 implementing the provisions of this act, the department may
9 consult with human service professionals and request technical
10 assistance from the National Conference of State Legislatures
11 and the National Center for Service Integration, where possible.

12 Section 6. Innovation in Delivery of Human Services Fund.

13 (a) Fund created.--By January 1, 1996, or as soon thereafter
14 as practicable, the State Treasurer shall establish the
15 Innovation in Delivery of Human Services Fund for selected
16 counties participating in the demonstration program. The fund
17 shall be composed of Federal and State funds that would
18 otherwise be allocated to the selected counties for funding
19 human services identified by the department under section 5(b).
20 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the State Treasurer
21 shall establish this fund by transferring funds from affected
22 budgets and identifying the transferred funds as necessary for
23 auditing purposes.

24 (b) Disbursements to counties.--Annual disbursements from
25 the fund shall be made to selected counties in amounts no less
26 than current budgetary levels, subject to approval of plans
27 submitted to the department by selected counties under section
28 5(f).

29 Section 7. Report to Governor and committees.

30 Within six months of the conclusion of the demonstration

1 program established by this act, the department shall make a
2 report to the Governor and the chairman and minority chairman of
3 the Public Health and Welfare Committee of the Senate and the
4 chairman and minority chairman of the Health and Human Services
5 Committee of the House of Representatives. The report shall
6 include information regarding the advantages and disadvantages
7 of coordinated, consolidated or integrated human service systems
8 and recommendations regarding the continuation of these systems
9 and their expansion to other counties of the Commonwealth.

10 Section 8. Effective date.

11 This act shall take effect in 60 days.