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HOUSE BILL 483

**50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011**

INTRODUCED BY

Alonzo Baldonado

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC ASSISTANCE; REQUIRING THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO DEVOTE A PORTION OF FEDERAL FUNDING TO FAMILY FORMATION AND RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD PROGRAMS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. A new section of the New Mexico Works Act is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] FAMILY FORMATION AND RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD PROGRAMS.--

A. In fiscal year 2012 and each subsequent fiscal year, at least one percent of the federal block grant for the state's temporary assistance for needy families programs, which provides for a portion of the grant to be spent on programs and services that encourage family formation, marriage and responsible fatherhood, shall be spent on programs to enhance

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underscored material = new  
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1 family formation and responsible fatherhood.

2 B. Family formation programs include:

3 (1) educational programs in high schools on  
4 the value of marriage, relationship skills and budgeting;

5 (2) marriage education, marriage skills and  
6 relationship skills programs that may include parenting skills,  
7 financial management, conflict resolution and job and career  
8 advancement for non-married pregnant women and non-married  
9 expectant fathers;

10 (3) premarital education, marriage skills  
11 training and relationship skills programs for engaged couples  
12 and couples or individuals interested in marriage;

13 (4) marriage enhancement and marriage skills  
14 training programs for married couples;

15 (5) divorce reduction programs that teach  
16 relationship skills; and

17 (6) marriage mentoring programs that use  
18 married couples as role models and mentors in at-risk  
19 communities.

20 C. Responsible fatherhood programs include programs  
21 that:

22 (1) promote or sustain marriage, by providing:

23 (a) information about the benefits of  
24 marriage and two-parent involvement for children;

25 (b) information about enhancing

1 relationship skills;

2 (c) education regarding how to control  
3 aggressive behavior;

4 (d) information on domestic violence and  
5 child abuse;

6 (e) marriage preparation programs;

7 (f) premarital counseling;

8 (g) skills-based marriage education; and

9 (h) family financial planning seminars;

10 (2) promote responsible parenting by providing  
11 training such as skills-based parenting education; and

12 (3) foster economic stability by helping  
13 fathers improve their economic status through work first  
14 services, job search, job training, subsidized employment, job  
15 retention and job enhancement.

16 D. The federal funds for family formation and  
17 responsible fatherhood programs shall be administered under  
18 contract with a state public post-secondary educational  
19 institution that has demonstrated success in administering  
20 temporary assistance for needy families programs, such as work  
21 force development programs, in both the north and south of the  
22 state.

23 E. Family formation and responsible fatherhood  
24 programs shall offer at least eight hours of education or  
25 training to individuals or couples, using evidence-based

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