

MORE OPTIONS FOR MATERNAL SUPPORT PROGRAM

2023 Legislative Session

BACKGROUND

During the 89th Legislative Session, the General Assembly passed the Health and Human Services (HHS) Appropriations Bill (HF2578) and Governor Reynolds signed it into law on June 14, 2022. The bill established the More Options for Maternal Support Program (MOMS) to promote healthy pregnancies and childbirth through a network of nonprofit organizations that provide pregnancy support services; and appropriated \$500,000 in HHS' General Fund for program administration and pregnancy support services. Governor Reynolds requested additional funds for this program in her 2023 Condition of the State address.

The MOMS program is designed to:

- Provide personalized support to pregnant women to provide stabilization to families.
- Promote improved pregnancy outcomes, including reducing abortions, by helping women practice sound health-related behaviors and improve prenatal nutrition
- Improve child health and development by helping parents provide responsible and competent care for their children.
- Improve family economic self-sufficiency by linking parents to services that address individual economic and social needs.

In SFY23, HHS will issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) to select a program administrator to establish and manage, a statewide network of subcontractors to provide pregnancy support services. Pregnancy support services mean “nonmedical services that promote childbirth by providing information, counseling, and support services that assist pregnant women or women who believe they may be pregnant to choose childbirth and to make informed decisions regarding the choice of adoption or parenting with respect to their children”.

In addition, per the establishing legislation, HHS will adopt program rules regarding provision of technical assistance to the program administrator, the monitoring of the program administrator for adherence to state and federal requirements, and the collection and maintenance of program data. The rules will be narrow in scope and the rule process will occur parallel to the RFP process.

FUNDING

HF 2578 appropriated \$500,000 to HHS for the purposes of initial program administration and provision of pregnancy support services through the MOMS Program. HHS will use a portion of these funds to hire a program manager dedicated to the establishment and operation of the program.

PROGAM GOALS

Empower Women and Protect Children

Through MOMS, HHS will promote healthy pregnancies and childbirth by:

- Providing personalized, confidential, and comprehensive support for women so they can make informed life choices for themselves and their babies, based on their needs and situation, regarding their decision to parent or place their baby for adoption.
- Ensuring access to quality prenatal and postpartum care and supporting women to practice sound health-related behaviors throughout their pregnancies and after delivery so their babies can thrive.

Promote Strong and Healthy Families

Through MOMS, HHS will strengthen family wellbeing and protection by:

- Connecting expectant parents to education and support services so they are better equipped to provide loving, responsible, and competent care for their children.
- Improving family economic self-sufficiency by linking parents to housing, education, and employment assistance.

Increase Compassionate Care

Through MOMS, HHS will provide enhanced resources and improve service delivery by:

- Engaging and mobilizing, community-based, social service providers to increase the scale and effectiveness of pregnancy support services for women and their families.
- Streamlining and leveraging current resources and programming to promote the best possible outcomes for women and their families.
- Generating and using evidence-informed, best practices.

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