

LD 296: An Act to Create the Family Caregiver Grant Pilot Program

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

22 MRSA §7308-A is enacted to read:

§7308-A Family Caregiver Grant Pilot Program established. The department shall establish the Family Caregiver Grant Pilot Program in cooperation with the Area Agencies on Aging to expand the uses of the Respite Care Fund established at section 7308 to cover costs associated with providing in-home care of an adult in accordance with this section. The purpose of the pilot is to increase the number of families served by the Respite Care Fund, provide a family caregiver grant to increase economic security for family caregivers, and examine the needs and preferences of families served by the Respite Care Fund.

1. **Definitions.** The following words shall have the following meanings.
 - a. “Department” means the Maine Department of Health and Human Services
 - b. “Family Caregiver” means an individual eligible and certified to participate in the program in accordance with rules adopted by the Department which must include but is not limited to:
 - i. Adult family members or other informal caregivers age 18 and older providing care to individuals 60 years of age and older
 - ii. Adult family members or other informal caregivers age 18 and older providing care to individuals of any age with Alzheimer’s disease and related disorders
 - iii. Older relatives, not including parents, age 55 and older providing care to children under the age of 18; and
 - iv. Older relatives, including parents, age 55 and older providing care to adults ages 18-59 with disabilities
 - c. “Family caregiver grant” means a grant to a family caregiver who is not already receiving remuneration for caring for an adult family member or other adult in an amount that is the same or more than the caregiver would be eligible to receive under this program. The grant amount is \$2,000.
 - d. “Program” means the program established in this section.
2. **Program Services.** Family caregivers may choose annually to receive either services provided under §7308 or the family caregiver grant established under this section.
3. **Stakeholder Group.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall convene a stakeholder group no later than October 1, 2021 to make

recommendations for the development of the family caregiver grant pilot program, implementing the program, and evaluating its impact. The stakeholder group must include representatives of the department, Area Agencies on Aging, family caregivers, providers of in-home and community support services, nursing facilities, residential care services, and advocacy organizations for aging adults.

4. **Program Development; Implementation.** Beginning October 1, 2021, the department shall convene the stakeholder group to assist in the design of this pilot, including eligible family caregiving, certification process, payment methods, evaluation planning and a rigorous outreach strategy to ensure eligible households are aware of the program and receive navigation support in their application.
5. **Annual expenditures capped.** Beginning on October 1, 2022, aggregate expenditures for the program may not exceed \$5,000,000 in any calendar year. Administrative costs, up to 10% of the annual cap established in this sub-section may be reimbursed in accordance with rules adopted by the department
6. **Evaluation; Report.** The department shall submit a report to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters no later than January 1, 2025. The report must include the following:
 - a. An unduplicated count of individuals receiving respite care, assistive technology, home modification and family caregiver grants;
 - b. The amount of funds that were allocated for respite care, assistive technology, home modification and family caregiver grants;
 - c. The number of family caregivers on a waiting list for services under this section and demographics of those individuals, including, but not limited to, age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, income and county of residence;
 - d. Demographics of family caregivers and consumers served, including, but not limited to, age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, income and county of residence;
 - e. The time between application and eligibility determination by the department or its designee pursuant to subsection 2;
 - f. The time between application for and receipt of respite care;
 - g. An assessment of the extent to which the services provided under this section keep consumers in their homes and delay a transfer to a higher level of institutional care; and
 - h. Any recommendations for changes related to the adequacy of the fund or the scope or type of services that it provides.
7. **Pilot Program Period.** The program shall begin enrolling participants October 1, 2022 and shall continue through September 30, 2024.

8. **Rules.** The department shall adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.