

Date of Hearing: April 7, 2021

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Lisa Calderon, Chair

AB 932 (Levine) – As Introduced February 17, 2021

SUBJECT: Cradle-to-Career Grant Program

SUMMARY: Establishes a statewide Cradle-to-Career (C2C) Grant Program within the Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) to administer public and private funds appropriated to address child poverty and achievement gaps among California children. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Requires CSD to establish and administer the C2C Grant Program to address child poverty and achievement gaps among California children of different races and socioeconomic statuses.
- 2) Defines “C2C” as Cradle-to-Career, “Department” as the Department of Community Services and Development, and “Fund” as the Cradle-to-Career Grant Fund, as specified.
- 3) Provides that C2C grants may be available to community-level or regional networks, including community-based organizations or other nonprofit private entities for planning, coordination, system supports, and implementation, as specified.
- 4) Requires C2C Grant Program recipients to adhere to specified approaches to enhance community C2C outcomes and reduce achievement gaps among different subpopulations.
- 5) Provides that the C2C Grant Program make available two types of C2C grants: planning grants and implementation grants.
- 6) Requires CSD to convene and facilitate a workgroup, as specified, to develop and establish common indicators and metrics to be applied to all C2C grant recipients.
- 7) Requires CSD, in consultation with the workgroup, to establish an application process and requirements for recipients of C2C grants, as specified.
- 8) Creates the “C2C Grant Fund” within the State Treasury.
- 9) Requires CSD to distribute funds from the C2C Grant Fund, as specified.
- 10) Provides that CSD may set aside no more than six percent of the C2C Grant Fund money to cover the C2C Grant Program’s administrative costs.
- 11) States Legislative intent to appropriate the sum of \$60 million from the General Fund in two installments, with \$30 million appropriated per year for the 2021–22 and 2022–23 fiscal years, to the C2C Grant Fund.
- 12) Requires the sum of \$3 million, reduced by the administrative costs, be allocated per year for C2C planning grants, as specified, from each installment of the \$30 million to the C2C Grant Fund.

- 13) Requires the sum of \$27 million, reduced by the administrative costs, be allocated per year for C2C implementation grants, as specified, from each installment of the \$30 million to the C2C Grant Fund.
- 14) Provides that recipients of C2C grants who continue to meet the C2C Grant Program requirements shall be eligible for two-year extensions, subject to approval by CSD.
- 15) States Legislative findings and declarations that encourage future appropriations for the C2C Grant Program be used to expand C2C networks across California.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Establishes the CSD within the California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHS) to assist low-income participants, including homeless individuals and families, migrants, and the elderly poor, as specified. (Government Code Section [GOV] 12085 (b))
- 2) States Legislative intent that funds be allocated to the state pursuant to the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program to eligible cities and counties, as specified, to benefit the housing and economic development needs of families or individuals with low to moderate-income. (Health & Safety Code Section [HSC] 50825)
- 3) Establishes the California C2C Data Systems Act to access and recommend data system structural components and to provide appropriate interventions and supports to address disparities in opportunities and improve outcomes for all students, as specified. (Education Code Section [EDC] 10850 *et seq.*)

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS:

Department of Community Services and Development: The Office of Economic Opportunity was established in 1964 and began the streamlining of federal dollars to community organizations that assist low-income families. The California Legislature renamed the department in 1996 as CSD to describe the agency's purpose more accurately as it expanded to supporting populations through new programs. Housed within the CHHS, CSD partners with private nonprofits and local governments to administer programs that help low-income families and provide education and training access. Through the grant programs they administer, CSD helps individuals achieve economic security and reduce utility costs in various ways. CSD is currently responsible for oversight of several federal and statewide grants.

Cradle to Career: C2C approaches have been used by local governments and community-based organizations through a series of interventions throughout a child's development to help address our state achievement gaps. The Hayward Promise Neighborhood is a local program that is using C2C approaches to support their community. Using data from their program, they found an increase in graduation rate, decrease in drop-out rate and increase in high school students enrolling in college when C2C methods were used. California has recognized these approaches at a statewide level and developed a data infrastructure to assist with the efforts' coordination. In 2019, the requirements for this infrastructure were codified into law as the C2C Data System Act. The system is intended to serve students families by identifying and tracking predictive indicators to enable parents, teachers, health and human services providers, and policymakers to

provide appropriate interventions and supports to address disparities in opportunities and improve outcomes for all students; creating direct support tools for teachers, parents, advisors, and students; enabling agencies to plan for and optimize educational, workforce, and health and human services programs; and, advancing academic and governmental research on improving policies from birth through career. To inform on the choices in the development of the C2C Data System, subcommittees consisting of stakeholders from the public, state agencies, and the Governor's office will provide feedback and recommendations.

Need for this bill: This bill would establish the C2C Grant Program to streamline funding to local governments and organizations for the implementation of C2C approaches. C2C approaches, which coordinate interventions at crucial stages in a child's development, can help ensure a child's success. Implementing a statewide grant program may encourage counties to utilize C2C methods, which could improve educational and socioeconomic outcomes.

According to the author, "Covid-19 has highlighted inequalities across the state of California. One group most affected by the repercussions of coronavirus is our children and students. With childhood poverty rates on the rise and already large educational achievement gaps widening in many communities across California, it is our responsibility to introduce legislation to tackle these issues.

"Local leaders have implemented "Cradle to Career" (C2C) approaches that have brought about meaningful transformations that address poverty in communities across California. Implementation of this bill will reduce child poverty and achievement gaps among children in California by requiring the Department of Community Services and Development to administer the Cradle-to-Career Grant Program. The expansion of these proven and successful competitive grant programs is a low-cost way to ensure children receive the services they need from cradle to career."

RELATED AND PRIOR LEGISLATION:

AB 99 (Irwin) of 2021, states Legislative intent to codify specified recommendations in the California Cradle-to-Career Data System Legislative Report published in December 2020. AB 99 is set to be heard in the Assembly Education Committee on April 7, 2021.

AB 686 (Allen) of 2019, would have enacted the California Promise Neighborhoods Act of 2019 and grant program to be administered by the Department of Education, which would allow fund localities to implement cradle-to-career solutions. AB 686 was set to be heard in the Assembly Education Committee but the hearing was cancelled at the request of the author.

AB 2555 (Calderon) of 2014, would have required the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI), in collaboration with various other state agencies and private organizations, to develop a five-year plan for expanding cradle-to-career initiatives in California. AB 2555 was set to be heard in the Assembly Higher Education Committee but the hearing was cancelled at the request of the author.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

California Cradle-to-Career Coalition (Sponsor)

Brooke Frost & Associates
California Catholic Conference
Children Now
Community Child Care Council (4CS) of Alameda County
Cradle to Career Sonoma County
Hayward Unified School District
Zuckerberg San Francisco General- Hospital and Trauma Center

Opposition

None on file

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