

DRAFT

SUMMARY

Digest: The Act creates a new fund for a current grant program that provides moneys for child abuse response programs. The Act directs DHS to create a one-time grant program to expand access to services and supports from CACs. The Act creates a task force to audit how this state has complied with Karly's Law and to study other matters related to services provided to victims of child abuse. (Flesch Readability Score: 64.3).

Establishes the Children's Advocacy Center Fund. Provides that the Legislative Assembly shall appropriate sufficient moneys to the fund that are necessary to fully fund the existing grant program to establish, maintain and support children's advocacy centers and regional children's advocacy centers, and to support county child abuse multidisciplinary teams. Appropriates moneys to the Department of Justice out of the General Fund for existing grant program.

Directs the Department of Human Services to develop and administer a one-time grant program to expand access to services and supports provided by children's advocacy centers and regional children's advocacy centers. Appropriates moneys to the Department of Human Services out of the General Fund for grant program.

Establishes the Task Force on County Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Teams to audit Oregon's compliance with Karly's Law, to study and provide proposals for optimal funding rates for children's advocacy centers and to identify barriers to access to child abuse multidisciplinary teams and children's advocacy centers. Requires the task force to report findings and recommendations to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to human services on or before September 15, 2024. Sunsets the task force January 2, 2026. Appropriates moneys to the department out of the General Fund for purposes of task force.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

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Relating to child abuse; creating new provisions; amending ORS 418.788; and declaring an emergency.

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

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3 **CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER FUND**

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5 **SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2024 Act is added to and made a part**
6 **of ORS 418.746 to 418.796.**

7 **SECTION 2. (1) The Children's Advocacy Center Fund is established**
8 **in the State Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund.**
9 **Interest earned by the Children's Advocacy Center Fund shall be**
10 **credited to the fund. The fund consists of moneys appropriated, allo-**
11 **cated, deposited or transferred to the fund by the Legislative Assembly**
12 **or otherwise and interest earned on moneys in the fund. The moneys**
13 **in the fund are continuously appropriated to the Department of Jus-**
14 **tice for carrying out the purposes of ORS 418.786.**

15 **(2) To establish and maintain sufficient children's advocacy centers**
16 **and regional children's advocacy centers in Oregon necessary to en-**
17 **sure that every child referred to a center for concerns of neglect or**
18 **abuse receives a skilled, complete and forensically sound child abuse**
19 **assessment, the Legislative Assembly shall appropriate, allocate or**
20 **otherwise make available to the Children's Advocacy Center Fund**
21 **moneys necessary to fully fund the grant program required by ORS**
22 **418.786.**

23 **SECTION 3. ORS 418.788 is amended to read:**

24 **418.788. (1) Subject to the availability of funds under the provisions of**
25 **ORS 418.796 and section 1 of this 2024 Act, the administrator of the Child**
26 **Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention Program shall make grants for the es-**
27 **tablishment and maintenance of children's advocacy centers or regional**
28 **children's advocacy centers.**

29 **(2)(a) A public or private agency may apply to the administrator for a**
30 **grant to:**

31 **(A) Establish and maintain a children's advocacy center or regional**

1 children's advocacy center;

2 (B) Provide training and technical assistance to children's advocacy cen-
3 ters or county child abuse multidisciplinary teams; or

4 (C) Provide coordination and support to regional children's advocacy
5 centers.

6 (b) The administrator may consolidate applications from more than one
7 public or private agency or may return the application with the recommen-
8 dation that the application be consolidated.

9 (3) The administrator shall by rule establish criteria for awarding grants
10 to establish and maintain children's advocacy centers or regional children's
11 advocacy centers, including but not limited to:

12 (a) Expenses eligible for reimbursement from funds under ORS 418.796
13 **and section 1 of this 2024 Act;**

14 (b) The extent to which the applicant's proposal will best accomplish the
15 purposes of ORS 418.746 to 418.796;

16 (c) The extent to which an applicant meets criteria for receiving a grant
17 to:

18 (A) Establish and maintain a children's advocacy center or regional
19 children's advocacy center;

20 (B) Provide training and technical assistance to children's advocacy cen-
21 ters and county child abuse multidisciplinary teams; or

22 (C) Provide coordination and support to regional children's advocacy
23 centers;

24 (d) Minimum facility standards for children's advocacy centers and re-
25 gional children's advocacy centers consistent with national accreditation
26 standards to ensure that children receive consistent, evidence-based inter-
27 vention services statewide;

28 (e) Minimum forensic interview training standards that are consistent
29 with national forensic interview training standards, evidence-based and sup-
30 ported by current forensic interview research; and

31 (f) For a regional children's advocacy center, the extent to which the

1 applicant's proposal meets the documented needs of the communities,
2 children's advocacy centers and county child abuse multidisciplinary teams
3 in the region or regions to be served by the center.

4 (4) The administrator is not required to fund any grant in the total
5 amount requested in the application.

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7 **CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER ONE-TIME GRANTS**

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9 **SECTION 4. (1) As used in this section:**

10 (a) "Children's advocacy center" means a facility that meets the
11 facility standards described in ORS 418.788, to which a child from the
12 community may be referred to receive a thorough child abuse assess-
13 ment, as defined in ORS 418.782, for the purpose of determining
14 whether the child has been abused or neglected, and that facilitates a
15 coordinated, comprehensive and multidisciplinary response to cases
16 of child abuse.

17 (b) "Regional children's advocacy center" means a facility operated
18 by a children's advocacy center that meets the facility standards de-
19 scribed in ORS 418.788 and is selected by the Child Abuse Multidisci-
20 plinary Intervention Program to provide training and complex case
21 assistance, including one or more of the following:

22 (A) Consultation;

23 (B) Education;

24 (C) Referral;

25 (D) Technical assistance; and

26 (E) If authorized by the Department of Justice, other services as
27 needed.

28 (2) The Department of Human Services shall develop and administer
29 a one-time grant program to expand access to services and supports
30 provided by children's advocacy centers and regional children's advo-
31 cacy centers and to increase the number of children served by

1 **children’s advocacy centers and regional children’s advocacy centers**
2 **in this state.**

3 **(3) The department shall adopt rules for carrying out the grant**
4 **program under this section. The rules must, at a minimum:**

5 **(a) Provide preference for awarding grants to applicants based on:**

6 **(A) The applicant’s ability to establish or maintain a children’s ad-**
7 **vocacy center in an underserved community;**

8 **(B) The applicant’s ability to establish a children’s advocacy center**
9 **in a geographic area of this state with no children’s advocacy centers;**

10 **(C) The likelihood that the applicant, if awarded a grant, will ex-**
11 **pand access to children’s advocacy center services and children’s ad-**
12 **vocacy center supports to children from historically marginalized and**
13 **underserved communities; and**

14 **(D) If awarded a grant, the ability of the existing or proposed**
15 **children’s advocacy center to provide behavioral and mental health**
16 **services for victims of child abuse.**

17 **(b) Require children’s advocacy centers to apply directly for the**
18 **competitive grants.**

19 **(c) Allow grant recipients to use the grants to expand access to**
20 **designated medical professionals, as described in ORS 418.747 (9).**

21 **(d) Require applicants to demonstrate how the grant award would**
22 **improve response times for intervention following incidents of child**
23 **abuse and the prevention of child fatalities.**

24 **(e) Allow health care providers and medical facilities to apply for**
25 **grant funds to expand medical assessment services, intervention ser-**
26 **vices and any other services and supports not inconsistent with the**
27 **purposes of ORS 418.746 to 418.796.**

28 **(f) Provide that the cumulative amount of grants provided to a**
29 **given children’s advocacy center may not exceed \$1,000,000.**

30 **(4) The department shall award and distribute all of the grants un-**
31 **der this section no later than December 31, 2024.**

1 (B) One member who is a representative of a children’s advocacy
2 center located in Central, Eastern or Southern Oregon;

3 (C) One member who is a representative of a children’s advocacy
4 center located in Western Oregon;

5 (D) One member who is a member a law enforcement agency;

6 (E) One member who is mental health care provider with expertise
7 in children’s mental health;

8 (F) One member who is a health care provider with expertise as a
9 pediatric physician; and

10 (G) One member who is a professional with expertise in child abuse
11 and neglect.

12 (3) All appointments to the task force made under subsection (2)
13 of this section must be completed by the later of 21 days after
14 adjournment sine die of the 2024 session of the Eighty-second Legisla-
15 tive Assembly or March 31, 2024.

16 (4) The task force shall study best practices of child abuse multi-
17 disciplinary teams developed under ORS 418.747 and related referral
18 processes, by:

19 (a) Conducting a comprehensive audit of Oregon’s compliance with
20 the provisions of Karly’s Law between January 1, 2019 and December
21 31, 2023, and preparing an audit report that includes at a minimum:

22 (A) The percent of medical assessments that were conducted within
23 the time frame required under ORS 419B.023 (2)(a)(B);

24 (B) Demographic data regarding the children who were the subjects
25 of medical assessments required under ORS 419B.023 or of critical in-
26 cidents, as defined in ORS 418.808;

27 (C) Identification of barriers to compliance with the provisions of
28 ORS 418.806 to 418.816 and 419B.023;

29 (D) Proposed solutions to ensure compliance with the provisions of
30 ORS 418.806 to 418.816 and 419B.023; and

31 (E) Recommendations for publishing compliance rates on a regular

1 **basis going forward.**

2 **(b) Studying and providing proposals for optimal funding rates for**
3 **children’s advocacy centers.**

4 **(c) Identifying barriers to access to the child abuse multidiscipli-**
5 **nary teams outside of regular business hours and proposing solutions**
6 **to expand such access.**

7 **(d) Identifying barriers to referrals to children’s advocacy centers**
8 **and proposing solutions to close referral gaps.**

9 **(5) A majority of the voting members of the task force constitutes**
10 **a quorum for the transaction of business.**

11 **(6) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a ma-**
12 **jority of the voting members of the task force.**

13 **(7) The task force shall elect one of its members to serve as chair-**
14 **person.**

15 **(8) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority**
16 **shall make an appointment to become immediately effective.**

17 **(9) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the**
18 **call of the chairperson or of a majority of the voting members of the**
19 **task force.**

20 **(10) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of**
21 **the task force.**

22 **(11) The task force shall submit a report in the manner provided**
23 **by ORS 192.245, and may include recommendations for legislation, to**
24 **the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to human**
25 **services no later than September 15, 2024.**

26 **(12) The Department of Human Services shall provide staff support**
27 **to the task force.**

28 **(13) Members of the Legislative Assembly appointed to the task**
29 **force are nonvoting members of the task force and may act in an ad-**
30 **visory capacity only.**

31 **(14) Members of the task force who are not members of the Legis-**

1 lative Assembly are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement
2 for expenses and serve as volunteers on the task force.

3 (15) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are
4 directed to assist the task force in the performance of the duties of the
5 task force and, to the extent permitted by laws relating to
6 confidentiality, to furnish information and advice the members of the
7 task force consider necessary to perform their duties.

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9 **APPROPRIATIONS**

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11 **SECTION 7.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropri-
12 ation, there is appropriated to the Department of Justice, for the
13 biennium ending June 30, 2025, out of the General Fund, the amount
14 of \$3,500,000, for deposit in the Children’s Advocacy Center Fund es-
15 tablished under section 2 of this 2024 Act.

16 **SECTION 8.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropri-
17 ation, there is appropriated to the Department of Human Services, for
18 the biennium ending June 30, 2025, out of the General Fund, the
19 amount of \$27,000,000, for deposit in the Children’s Advocacy Center
20 One-Time Grant Fund established under section 5 of this 2024 Act.

21 **SECTION 9.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropri-
22 ation, there is appropriated to the Department of Human Services, for
23 the biennium ending June 30, 2025, out of the General Fund, the
24 amount of \$_____, to carry out the purposes of section 6 of this 2024
25 Act.

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27 **MISCELLANEOUS**

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29 **SECTION 10.** Sections 4 to 6 of this 2024 Act are repealed on Janu-
30 ary 2, 2026.

31 **SECTION 11.** The unit captions used in this 2024 Act are provided

1 **only for the convenience of the reader and do not become part of the**
2 **statutory law of this state or express any legislative intent in the**
3 **enactment of this 2024 Act.**

4 **SECTION 12. This 2024 Act being necessary for the immediate**
5 **preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is**
6 **declared to exist, and this 2024 Act takes effect on its passage.**

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