

AMENDMENTS

2003—Pub. L. 108-21 amended section generally. Prior to amendment, section authorized appropriations to carry out sections 13001b and 13002 of \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 1993 and such sums as necessary in fiscal years 1994 through 2000 and appropriations to carry out section 13003 of \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 1993 and such sums as necessary in fiscal years 1994 through 2000.

1996—Subsecs. (a)(2), (b)(2). Pub. L. 104-235 substituted “1996, and each of the fiscal years 1997 through 2000” for “and 1996”.

1992—Pub. L. 102-586, §6(e), amended section generally. Prior to amendment, section authorized appropriations to carry out this subchapter of \$20,000,000 in fiscal year 1991 and such sums as may be necessary in fiscal years 1992 and 1993 and provided that not less than 90 percent was to be used for grants under section 13002 of this title.

SUBCHAPTER II—COURT-APPOINTED
SPECIAL ADVOCATE PROGRAM

§ 13011. Findings

The Congress finds that—

(1) Court Appointed Special Advocates, who may serve as guardians ad litem, are trained volunteers appointed by courts to advocate for the best interests of children who are involved in the juvenile and family court system due to abuse or neglect; and

(2) in 2003, Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteers represented 288,000 children, more than 50 percent of the estimated 540,000 children in foster care because of substantiated cases of child abuse or neglect.

(Pub. L. 101-647, title II, §215, Nov. 29, 1990, 104 Stat. 4794; Pub. L. 109-162, title I, §112(a), Jan. 5, 2006, 119 Stat. 2985.)

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2006—Pars. (1), (2). Pub. L. 109-162 added pars. (1) and (2) and struck out former pars. (1) and (2), which read as follows:

“(1) the National Court-Appointed Special Advocate provides training and technical assistance to a network of 13,000 volunteers in 377 programs operating in 47 States; and

“(2) in 1988, these volunteers represented 40,000 children, representing approximately 15 percent of the estimated 270,000 cases of child abuse and neglect in juvenile and family courts.”

§ 13012. Purpose

The purpose of this subchapter is to ensure that by January 1, 2010, a court-appointed special advocate shall be available to every victim of child abuse or neglect in the United States that needs such an advocate.

(Pub. L. 101-647, title II, §216, Nov. 29, 1990, 104 Stat. 4794; Pub. L. 103-322, title IV, §40156(a)(2), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 1923; Pub. L. 109-162, title I, §112(b), Jan. 5, 2006, 119 Stat. 2986.)

AMENDMENTS

2006—Pub. L. 109-162 substituted “January 1, 2010” for “January 1, 1995”.

1994—Pub. L. 103-322 made technical amendment to reference to this subchapter to correct reference to corresponding provision of original act.

§ 13013. Strengthening of court-appointed special advocate program

(a) In general

The Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention shall make

grants to initiate, sustain, and expand the court-appointed special advocate program.

(b) Grantee organizations

(1) An organization to which a grant is made pursuant to subsection (a) of this section—

(A) shall be a national organization that has broad membership among court-appointed special advocates and has demonstrated experience in grant administration of court-appointed special advocate programs and in providing training and technical assistance to court-appointed special advocate program; or

(B) may be a local public or not-for-profit agency that has demonstrated the willingness to initiate, sustain, and expand a court-appointed special advocate program.

(2) An organization described in paragraph (1)(A) that receives a grant may be authorized to make subgrants and enter into contracts with public and not-for-profit agencies to initiate, sustain, and expand the court-appointed special advocate program. Should a grant be made to a national organization for this purpose, the Administrator shall specify an amount not exceeding 5 percent that can be used for administrative purposes by the national organization.

(c) Grant criteria

(1) The Administrator shall establish criteria to be used in evaluating applications for grants under this section, consistent with sections 5673 and 5676 of this title.

(2) In general, the grant criteria established pursuant to paragraph (1) shall require that a court-appointed special advocate program provide screening, training, and supervision of court-appointed special advocates in accordance with standards developed by the National Court-Appointed Special Advocate Association. Such criteria may include the requirements that—

(A) a court-appointed special advocate association program have a mission and purpose in keeping with the mission and purpose of the National Court-Appointed Special Advocate Association and that it abide by the National Court-Appointed Special Advocate Association Code of Ethics;

(B) a court-appointed special advocate association program operate with access to legal counsel;

(C) the management and operation of a court-appointed special advocate program assure adequate supervision of court-appointed special advocate volunteers;

(D) a court-appointed special advocate program keep written records on the operation of the program in general and on each applicant, volunteer, and case;

(E) a court-appointed special advocate program have written management and personnel policies and procedures, screening requirements, and training curriculum;

(F) a court-appointed special advocate program not accept volunteers who have been convicted of, have charges pending for, or have in the past been charged with, a felony or misdemeanor involving a sex offense, violent act, child abuse or neglect, or related acts that would pose risks to children or to the court-appointed special advocate program’s credibility;