



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Office of the Assistant Secretary | 330 C Street, S.W., Suite 4034
Washington, DC 20201 | www.acf.hhs.gov

Tuesday, August 26, 2025

Ms. Jan Bright
Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Families
275 East Main Street, HS1WF
Frankfort, KY 40621

RE: State Personal Responsibility Education Program grants for Fiscal Years 2023 (#1601KYPREP), 2024 (#1601KYPREP,) and 2025 (#1601KYPREP)

Dear Ms. Bright:

On April 14, 2025, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) requested that Kentucky provide current curricula and programmatic materials in use or in any way relevant to your state Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) grant for a medical accuracy review in accordance with the Terms and Conditions of the grant. We appreciate your timely response to ACF's request.

While preparing Kentucky's PREP content for the medical accuracy review, ACF identified content in the curricula and other program materials that fall outside of the scope of PREP's authorizing statute at 42 U.S.C. § 713. Specifically, the following subjects and language are outside the scope of the authorizing statute and all references to it must be removed from Kentucky's PREP curricula and program materials:¹

Teen Outreach Program (TOP) Curriculum

- LAM-SU-A2, "Defining Sexuality," page 80: "Facilitator Tip: Sexuality is complex and can be difficult to define. It is normal for participants to struggle to

¹ ACF initiated a medical accuracy review to determine if Kentucky's approach to biological sex in its PREP curricula is medically accurate and in compliance with the program statute and the terms and conditions of the award. In preparing the materials that we received, we saw that the curricula include gender ideology which is not authorized by the statute. As per this letter, Kentucky will need to remove this content from its PREP curricula and program materials. In light of this, we are changing our planned course of action and are no longer conducting a review for medical accuracy because the content that we were going to review for medical accuracy is outside of the subjects that are statutorily authorized in this program.

understand it broadly and to have different views. Support participants in sharing and listening to one another, and make sure dialogue remains respectful and inclusive.

Circle ‘Sex’ in ‘Sexuality.’

Ask

- How much of our Word Web is about ‘having sex’ or ‘sex’ as physical behavior?

Share

- Sexuality is more than physical behavior

Add

- Besides physical behavior, what else do you think could be part of a person’s sexuality?

If participants do not identify in the following, add

- Sexual and reproductive anatomy
- Body Image
- Biological sex
- Gender Including gender identity, gender expression and gender roles
- Sexual orientation
- Desires, pleasure, intimacy and reproduction
- Beliefs, attitudes and values about sexuality”

- LAM-SI-F1, “This Is Me. Who Are You?” page 94: “Our identity, or how we see ourselves, includes many different things, such as our race/ethnicity, nationality, culture, religious affiliation, age, gender, sexuality, roles (Ex: athlete, big sister, etc.), personality traits and interests.”
- LAM-HW-F1, Facilitator Resource, “Frequently Asked Questions,” page 148: **“Why would someone with a penis not identify as a boy/man? Why would someone with a vulva not identify as a girl/woman?”**
When we use body parts to describe people, we’re talking about ‘biological sex,’ or sex assigned at birth, which is different than gender. Gender is how people identify and express themselves. Transgender people are people whose gender identity is different from their biological sex or sex assigned at birth. Gender non-conforming and non-binary people are people whose gender identities are not exclusively either boy/man or girl/woman. However someone identifies, they should feel safe, respected and included in TOP.”

The “purpose” of a PREP grant award is for states to “carry out personal responsibility education programs consistent with this subsection.” 42 U.S.C. § 713(b)(1). The statute defines PREP as “a program that is designed to educate adolescents on -- (i) both abstinence and contraception for the prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted

infections, including HIV/AIDS, consistent with the requirements of subparagraph (B); and (ii) at least 3 of the adulthood preparation subjects described in subparagraph (C).” 42 U.S.C. § 713(b)(2).

The statute includes no mention of gender ideology, which is both irrelevant to teaching abstinence and contraception and unrelated to any of the adult preparation subjects described in section 713(b)(2)(C).² The statute neither requires, supports nor authorizes teaching students that gender identity is distinct from biological sex or that boys can identify as girls and vice versa; thus, gender ideology is outside the scope of the authorizing statute and any expenditures associated with gender ideology are not allowable, reasonable, or allocable to the PREP grant. See 45 C.F.R. §§ 75.403-405.

We are aware that these curricula and other program materials were previously approved by ACF. However, the prior administration erred in allowing PREP grants to be used to teach students gender ideology because that approval exceeded the agency’s authority to administer the program consistent with the authorizing legislation as enacted by Congress. Kentucky’s current PREP curricula and program materials are out of compliance with the PREP statute and HHS regulations and must be modified. See 45 C.F.R. § 75.303(b) (requiring compliance with all Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the Federal award), §§ 75.403-405 (requiring grant expenditures to be reasonable and allocable in order to be allowable). ACF may impose additional conditions on grantees that fail to comply with any Federal statutes, regulations or terms and conditions that apply to their awards. See 45 C.F.R. § 75.371.

Therefore, ACF instructs Kentucky to remove all content concerning gender ideology from its curricula, program materials and any other aspects of its program delivery within 60 days of receipt of this letter and provide a copy of the modified materials to ACF for approval.

The content flagged on the pages of this letter provides examples of gender ideology content that does not adhere to the PREP statute;³ Kentucky is directed to remove these and all similar language throughout their curricula and program materials. Should Kentucky fail to make the appropriate modifications to its PREP curricula and program materials, ACF may take additional enforcement action. See 45 C.F.R. § 75.371

² 42 U.S.C. § 713(b)(2)(C) lists the following adult preparation subjects: “(i) Healthy relationships, including marriage and family interactions; (ii) Adolescent development, such as the development of healthy attitudes and values about adolescent growth and development, body image, racial and ethnic diversity, and other related subjects; (iii) Financial literacy; (iv) Parent-child communication; (v) Educational and career success, such as developing skills for employment preparation, job seeking, independent living, financial self-sufficiency, and workplace productivity; (vi) Healthy life skills, such as goal-setting, decision making, negotiation, communication and interpersonal skills, and stress management.”

³ We are not setting forth all of the problematic language in this letter but are providing a general description and examples so that you understand what needs to be removed from the curricula and program materials. If you have any questions about whether language needs to be removed, please contact the Federal Project Officer, Wendy Jefferson at wendy.jefferson@acf.hhs.gov.

(allowing HHS to withhold, disallow, suspend, or terminate Federal awards if imposing additional conditions on a grantee does not cure noncompliance).

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please submit the modified curricula and materials by uploading to the Dropbox links previously provided to you within sixty (60) days, and no later than **Monday, October 27, 2025**, at 11:59 pm. You may email your FYSB Federal Project Officer if you need clarification regarding this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew K. Gradison". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'A' and 'G'.

Andrew Gradison
Acting Assistant Secretary
Administration for Children and Families