
Substitute Senate Bill 5959

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Hargrove, Kilmer, Shin, Sheldon, Kohl-Welles, Delvin, and McAuliffe)

READ FIRST TIME 01/17/08.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing assistance to homeless individuals and
2 families; and adding new sections to chapter 43.185C RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.185C
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) The transitional housing operating and rent program is created
7 in the department to assist homeless individuals and families secure
8 and retain safe, decent, and affordable housing. The department shall
9 provide grants to eligible organizations, as described in RCW
10 43.185.060, to provide assistance to program participants. The
11 eligible organizations must use grant moneys for:

12 (a) Rental assistance, which includes security or utility deposits,
13 first and last month's rent assistance, and eligible moving expenses to
14 be determined by the department;

15 (b) Case management services designed to assist program
16 participants to secure and retain immediate housing and to transition
17 into permanent housing and greater levels of self-sufficiency;

18 (c) Operating expenses of transitional housing facilities that
19 serve homeless families with children; and

1 (d) Administrative costs of the eligible organization, which must
2 not exceed limits prescribed by the department.

3 (2) Eligible to receive assistance through the transitional housing
4 operating and rent program are:

5 (a) Families with children who are homeless or who are at risk of
6 becoming homeless and who have household incomes at or below fifty
7 percent of the median household income for their county;

8 (b) Individuals or families without children who are homeless or at
9 risk of becoming homeless and who have household incomes at or below
10 thirty percent of the median household income for their county;

11 (c) Individuals or families who are homeless or who are at risk of
12 becoming homeless and who have a household with an adult member who has
13 a mental health or chemical dependency disorder; and

14 (d) Individuals or families who are homeless or who are at risk of
15 becoming homeless and who have a household with an adult member who is
16 an offender released from confinement within the past eighteen months.

17 (3) All program participants must be willing to create and actively
18 participate in a housing stability plan for achieving permanent housing
19 and greater levels of self-sufficiency.

20 (4) Data on all program participants must be entered into and
21 tracked through the Washington homeless client management information
22 system as described in RCW 43.185C.180.

23 (5) The department encourages eligible organizations funded through
24 the program to have a quality management system and to submit an
25 application to the Washington state quality award program to evaluate
26 that system.

27 (6) The department may develop rules, requirements, procedures, and
28 guidelines as necessary to implement and operate the transitional
29 housing operating and rent program.

30 (7) The department shall produce an annual transitional housing
31 operating and rent program report that must be included in the
32 department's homeless housing strategic plan as described in
33 43.185C.040. The report must include performance measures to be
34 determined by the department that address, at a minimum, the following
35 issue areas:

36 (a) The success of the program in helping program participants
37 transition into permanent housing and increase their levels of self-
38 sufficiency;

1 (b) The financial performance of the program related to efficient
2 program administration by the department and program operation by
3 selected eligible organizations, including an analysis of the costs per
4 program participant served;

5 (c) The quality, completeness, and timeliness of the information on
6 program participants provided to the Washington homeless client
7 management information system database; and

8 (d) The satisfaction of program participants in the assistance
9 provided through the program.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.185C
11 RCW to read as follows:

12 The transitional housing operating and rent account is created in
13 the custody of the state treasurer. All receipts from sources directed
14 to the transitional housing operating and rent program must be
15 deposited into the account. Expenditures from the account may be used
16 solely for the purpose of the transitional housing operating and rent
17 program as described in section 1 of this act. Only the director of
18 the department or the director's designee may authorize expenditures
19 from the account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under
20 chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for
21 expenditures.

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