

SUBTITLE P. HOMELESS PREVENTION AND RAPID RE-HOUSING PILOT INITIATIVE

Sec. 5171. Short title.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Pilot Initiatives Act of 2013”.

Sec. 5172. (a)(1) For fiscal year 2014, the Department of Human Services (“Department”) shall implement an Emergency Rental Assistance Program (“ERAP”) pilot initiative for the purpose of providing emergency rental assistance to non-elderly, non-disabled adults without minor children in their care who would otherwise qualify for emergency rental assistance under Chapter 75 of Title 29 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations.

(2) No later than October 1, 2013, the Department shall submit to the Council a plan for the ERAP pilot initiative. The plan shall include the following information:

- (A) An estimated number of clients that will be served by the initiative;
- (B) A timeline for implementation of the initiative;
- (C) Metrics or criteria for measuring the initiative’s outcomes; and
- (D) Any other information the Department believes would assist in

analyzing the initiative’s impact.

(b)(1) For fiscal year 2014, the Department shall implement a Rapid Re-Housing (“RRH”) pilot initiative for the purpose of providing assistance to rapidly re-house adults without minor children in their care who would otherwise qualify for rapid re-housing assistance under Chapter 78 of Title 29 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations.

(2) No later than October 1, 2013, the Department shall submit to the Council a plan for the RRH pilot initiative. The plan shall include the following information:

- (A) An estimated number of clients that will be served by the initiative;
- (B) A timeline for implementation of the initiative;
- (C) Metrics or criteria for measuring the initiative’s outcomes; and
- (D) Any other information the Department believes would assist the

Council in analyzing the initiative’s impact.

SUBTITLE Q. HOMELESS SERVICES REFORM

Sec. 5181. Short title.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Homeless Services Reform Amendment Act of 2013”.

Sec. 5182. The Homeless Services Reform Act of 2005, effective October 22, 2005 (D.C. Law 16-35; D.C. Official Code § 4-751.01 *et seq.*), is amended as follows:

(a) Section 2 (D.C. Official Code § 4-751.01) is amended as follows:

(1) Paragraph 18(A) is amended by striking the word “immediately” and inserting the phrase “immediately, including any individual or family who is fleeing, or is attempting to

flee, domestic violence and who has no other residence and lacks the resources or support networks to obtain safe housing” in its place.

(2) A new paragraph (31A) is added to read as follows:

“(31A) “Rapid Re-Housing” means a program that provides a homeless individual or family with financial assistance to obtain permanent housing, by providing some or all of a security deposit, first month’s rent, short-term rental subsidy, and supportive services to help the recipient become self-sufficient.”.

(3) Paragraph (41) is amended as follows:

(A) The lead-in language is amended by striking the word "accommodation" and inserting the phrase “accommodation, the purpose of which is to facilitate the movement of homeless individuals and families to permanent housing within 2 years or a longer period approved by the provider” in its place.

(B) Subparagraph (B) is amended by striking the phrase “up to 2 years or as long as necessary” and inserting the phrase “less than or equal to 2 years or a longer period approved by the provider” in its place.

(b) Section 4(b) (D.C. Official Code § 4-752.01(b)), is amended by adding a new paragraph (1A) to read as follows:

“(1A) The Director to End Homelessness, who shall assist the City Administrator in leading and coordinating the Interagency Council;”.

(c) Section 7 (D.C. Official Code § 4-753.01) is amended by adding a new subsection (f) to read as follows:

“(f)(1) The Mayor may require clients to establish and contribute to a savings or escrow account, or other similar savings arrangement. The savings or escrow arrangement shall be customized to each client so as not to jeopardize another benefit program and to allow for reasonable and necessary expenses.

“(2) A client shall not be terminated for failing to contribute to a savings or escrow account or similar savings arrangement; provided, that other sanctions may be imposed as provided by rule.

“(3) Pursuant to section 31, the Mayor shall issue rules on the establishment of any mandatory savings or escrow accounts, or other similar savings arrangements, authorized by this section. The rules shall provide exceptions to the requirement for mandatory savings or escrow accounts, or other similar savings arrangements.”.

(d) Section 11 (D.C. Official Code § 4-754.13) is amended as follows:

(1) Paragraph 10 is amended by striking the word “and”.

(2) Paragraph 11 is amended to read as follows:

“(11) Establish and contribute to a savings or escrow account, or other similar savings arrangement, if required by rules established by the Mayor pursuant to section 7(f) and included in the provider’s Program Rules approved pursuant to section 18(b); and”.

(3) A new paragraph 12 added to read as follows:

“(12) Follow all Program Rules established by a provider pursuant to section 18.”.

(e) Section 18 (D.C. Official Code § 4-754.32) is amended as follows:

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(1) Paragraph (7) is amended by striking the word “and”.

(2) Paragraph (8) is amended by striking the period and inserting the phrase “; and” in its place.

(3) A new paragraph 9 is added to read as follows:

“(9) A description of a client’s responsibilities to establish and contribute to a savings and escrow account, or other similar savings arrangement, if required by rules established by the Mayor pursuant to section 7(f).”.

(f) Section 19 (D.C. Official Code § 4-754.33) is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (c) is amended to read as follows:

“(c) All providers shall give written and oral notice to clients of their transfer to another provider or of their suspension, termination, or discontinuation from services at least 15 days before the effective date of the transfer or the suspension, termination, or discontinuation of services except:

“(1) When the sanction results from the client’s imminent threat to the health or safety of someone on the premises of the provider in accordance with section 24; or

“(2) When the sanction is a suspension of supportive services for a period shorter than 10 days.”.

(2) Subsection (d)(4) is amended to read as follows:

“(4) A clear and complete statement of the client’s right to appeal the sanction or denial through fair hearing proceedings pursuant to section 26 and administrative review proceedings pursuant to section 27, or the client’s right to reconsideration pursuant to rules established by the Mayor in accordance with section 31, including the appropriate deadlines for instituting the appeal or reconsideration; and”.

(g) Section 22 (D.C. Official Code § 4-754.36) is amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 22. Termination.

“(a) A provider may terminate its delivery of services to a client only when:

“(1) The provider documents that it has considered suspending the client in accordance with section 21 or has made a reasonable effort, in light of the severity of the act or acts leading to the termination, to transfer the client in accordance with section 20;

“(2) The client:

“(A) Possesses a weapon on the provider’s premises;

“(B) Possesses or sells illegal drugs on the provider’s premises;

“(C) Assaults or batters any person on the provider’s premises;

“(D) Endangers the client’s own safety or the safety of others on the provider’s premises;

“(E) Intentionally or maliciously vandalizes, destroys, or steals the property of any person on the provider’s premises;

“(F) Fails to accept an offer of appropriate permanent housing or supportive housing that better serves the client’s needs after having been offered 2 appropriate permanent or supportive housing opportunities; or

“(G) Knowingly engages in repeated violations of a provider’s Program Rules; and

“(3) In the case of a termination pursuant to paragraph (2)(F) or (G) of this subsection, the provider has made reasonable efforts to help the client overcome obstacles to obtaining permanent housing.

“(b) For the purposes of subsection (a)(2)(F) of this section, Rapid Re-Housing shall be considered an offer of supportive housing and an offer of 2 different units through a Rapid Re-Housing program shall be considered 2 offers of supportive housing. In determining whether an offer of permanent or supportive housing is appropriate, the results of a research- or evidence-based assessment tool used as part of the decision to make such an offer shall be given great weight.”.

(h) A new section 22a is added to read as follows:

"Sec. 22a. Discontinuation of supportive housing services.

“(a) A provider may discontinue supportive housing services for a client only when the client has:

“(1) Relocated to another program or facility for more than 180 days;

“(2) Abandoned his or her unit for more than 60 days and good-faith efforts to locate the client have failed, or the client has been located but has indicated by words or actions that he or she does not intend to return to and reside in the unit; or

“(3) The client has not requested a reasonable accommodation to continue the supportive housing services for disability-related reasons, or has requested a reasonable accommodation and it was denied; and

“(4) No household members who have been approved as part of the household unit for purposes of the program remain in the supportive housing placement.

“(b) Providers of supportive housing shall give oral and written notice, in accordance with section 19(d), to clients of their discontinuation from services only after the required time period in subsection (a) of this section has lapsed, except where there is credible evidence that the client who has relocated to another program or facility is expected to be absent for more than 180 days . The notice shall be given at least 30 days before the effective date of the discontinuation of services. If it is not possible to provide written notice at the time of the action because the client’s whereabouts are unknown, a written notice shall be delivered to the client’s last known address or, upon request, within 90 days of the discontinuation of services.

“(c) A client whose supportive housing services are discontinued pursuant to this section shall have the right to be re-housed upon return; provided, that the client continues to meet the eligibility criteria for the program and the services are available. If the services are not available from the original supportive housing provider, the client shall receive the first available opening at the original supportive housing provider’s program, unless an opening elsewhere is available and the client consents to the alternate provider. To the extent possible, a provider who is notified of a client’s impending return shall make a reasonable effort to work with the client to arrange supportive housing services that will be available upon the client’s return.”.

(i) A new section 31a is added to read as follows:

"Sec. 31a. Director to End Homelessness.

"(a) The Mayor shall appoint a Director to End Homelessness ("Director"), pursuant to section 2(a) of the Confirmation Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-142; D.C. Official Code § 1-523.01(a)). The Director shall report to the Mayor, and shall be highly qualified and experienced. The Mayor is encouraged to consult with the Interagency Council of Homelessness on the specific qualifications and job description for this position.

"(b) The Director shall:

"(1) Coordinate efforts across agencies to end homelessness in the District;

"(2) Provide a single point of accountability for efforts to end homelessness in the District;

"(3) Help lead and coordinate the Interagency Council on Homelessness;

"(4) Work with community stakeholders and the Interagency Council to create, coordinate, and implement a plan to end homelessness in the District;

"(5) Create and monitor performance measures that track the District's progress on the plan to end homelessness; and

"(6) Report to the Mayor and to the Council by September 30 of each year, beginning in 2014, on the status of ending homelessness in the District."

SUBTITLE R. END HOMELESSNESS FUND

Sec. 5191. Short title.

This subtitle may be cited as the "End Homelessness Fund Act of 2013".

Sec. 5192. End Homelessness Fund.

(a) There is established as a special fund the End Homelessness Fund ("Fund"), which shall be administered by the Department of Human Services in accordance with subsection (c) of this section.

(b) The Fund shall consist of 50% of the revenue from the automated traffic enforcement program, to the extent that the revenue is offset by revenue from a tax imposed by Chapter 39A of Title 47 of the District of Columbia Official Code on sales made via the Internet, and the interest earned on that revenue, but not to exceed \$50 million in a fiscal year.

(c) The Fund shall be used to end homelessness in the District, as set forth in a plan and legislation prepared by the Director to End Homelessness and the Interagency Council on Homelessness and transmitted to the Council for enactment. No moneys may be used from the Fund to supplant existing funding for programs already in existence.

(d)(1) The money deposited into the Fund, and interest earned, shall not revert to the unrestricted fund balance of the General Fund of the District of Columbia at the end of a fiscal year, or at any other time.

(2) Subject to authorization by Congress, any funds appropriated in the Fund shall be continually available without regard to fiscal year limitation.