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HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE - HSC

DIVISION 31. HOUSING AND HOME FINANCE [50000 - 54913] (*Division 31 repealed and added by Stats. 1977, Ch. 610.)*

PART 1. STATE HOUSING POLICY AND GENERAL PROVISIONS [50000 - 50300] (*Part 1 added by Stats. 1977, Ch. 610.)*

CHAPTER 6.5. Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program [50230 - 50245] (*Chapter 6.5 added by Stats. 2023, Ch. 40, Sec. 17.)*

50230. For purposes of this chapter:

(a) "Agency" means the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency.

(b) "Applicant" has either of the following meanings:

(1) For purposes of Article 1 (commencing with Section 50232), "applicant" means a continuum of care, city, county, or a region for purposes of the regionally coordinated homelessness action plan requirements pursuant to Article 1.

(2) For purposes of Article 2 (commencing with Section 50239), "applicant" means a continuum of care, city, county, or a region for purposes of the regionally coordinated homelessness action plan requirements pursuant to Article 2.

(c) "City" means a city or city and county that is legally incorporated to provide local government services to its population. A city can be organized either under the general laws of this state or under a charter adopted by the local voters.

(d) "Continuum of care" means the same as defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development in Section 578.3 of Title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(e) "Coordinated Entry System" means a centralized or coordinated process developed pursuant to Section 578.7 of Title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as that section read on January 10, 2019, designed to coordinate homelessness program participant intake, assessment, and provision of referrals. In order to satisfy this subdivision, a centralized or coordinated assessment system shall cover the geographic area, be easily accessed by individuals and families seeking housing or services, be well advertised, and include a comprehensive and standardized assessment tool.

(f) "Regionally coordinated homelessness action plan" means the regionally coordinated homelessness action plan described in Section 50233.

(g) (1) Subject to paragraph (2), "council," unless context requires otherwise, means the associated staff within the Interagency Council on Homelessness, formerly known as the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council created pursuant to Section 8257 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

(2) Unless context requires otherwise, "council," with respect to the administration of this chapter or Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 50216) on or after the effective date of the act adding this paragraph, means department.

(h) "Department" means the Department of Housing and Community Development.

(i) "Emergency shelter" has the same meaning as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 50801.

(j) "Grantee" has either of the following meanings:

(1) For purposes of Article 1 (commencing with Section 50232), "grantee" means an eligible applicant that has received its initial round 5 base allocation or total round 5 base allocation, as applicable, pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 50232).

(2) For purposes of Article 2 (commencing with Section 50239), "grantee" means an eligible applicant that has received its initial round 6 base allocation or total round 6 base allocation, as applicable, pursuant to Article 2 (commencing with Section 50239).

(k) "Homeless" has the same meaning as defined in Section 578.3 of Title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as that section read on January 10, 2019.

(l) "Homeless Management Information System" means the information system designated by a continuum of care to comply with federal reporting requirements as defined in Section 578.3 of Title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations. The term "Homeless Management Information System" also includes the use of a comparable database by a victim services provider or legal services provider that is permitted by the federal government under Part 576 of Title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(m) "Homeless point-in-time count" means the most recently available point-in-time count data as reflected in the Annual Homeless Assessment Report released by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(n) "Homeless youth" means an unaccompanied youth between 12 and 24 years of age who is experiencing homelessness, as defined in Section 725(2) of the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 11434a(2)). "Homeless youth" includes unaccompanied youth who are pregnant or parenting.

(o) "Housing First" has the same meaning as in Section 8255 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, including all of the core components listed therein.

(p) "Jurisdiction" means a city, county, continuum of care, or tribe, as defined in this section.

(q) "Memorandum of understanding" has the same meaning as defined in subdivision (f) of Section 50233.

(r) "Navigation center" means a Housing First, low-barrier, service-enriched shelter focused on moving homeless individuals and families into permanent housing that provides temporary living facilities while case managers connect individuals experiencing homelessness to income, public benefits, health services, shelter, and housing.

(s) "Program" has either of the following meanings:

(1) For purposes of Article 1 (commencing with Section 50232), unless context otherwise requires, "program" means round 5 of the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention program, or round 5, established pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 50232).

(2) For purposes of Article 2 (commencing with Section 50239), unless context otherwise requires, "program" means round 6 of the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention program, or round 6, established pursuant to Article 2 (commencing with Section 50239).

(t) (1) "Base program allocation" means the portion of program funds available to expand or develop local capacity to address immediate homelessness challenges pursuant to the allowable uses specified in Section 50236.

(2) "Homekey supplemental allocation" means the portion of program funds available to eligible jurisdictions as supplementary Homekey resources, as defined in Section 50237.

(u) "Recipient" means a jurisdiction that receives funds pursuant to this chapter for the purposes of the program.

(v) (1) Except as set forth in paragraph (2), "region" means the geographic area served by a county, including all cities and continuum of care within it. A region that has a continuum of care that serves multiple counties may submit a plan that covers multiple counties and the cities within them or the continuum of care may participate in the regionally coordinated homelessness action plan of each individual county that is part of the continuum of care along with the cities within the county.

(2) All continuums of care within the County of Los Angeles shall be considered part of a single region, along with the county and big cities within the county.

(w) "Small jurisdiction" means a city that is under 300,000 in population as of January 1, 2022, according to data published on the internet website of the Department of Finance.

(x) "Tribe" or "tribal applicant" means a federally recognized tribal government pursuant to Section 4103 of Title 25 of the United States Code that is located in California.

(Amended by Stats. 2024, Ch. 48, Sec. 9. (AB 166) Effective July 2, 2024.)

50231. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature for the council to administer the program with the department.

(b) In every instance in which the council is called upon to perform a task pursuant to this chapter or Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 50216), the obligation to perform that task shall be modified by the terms of this section.

(c) It is the intent of the Legislature to enact future legislation to further support the efforts of the Interagency Council on Homelessness in providing statewide policy coordination and development by transferring grants administration to the Department of Housing and Community Development.

(d) It is the further intent of the Legislature to enact statutory changes to effectuate this transfer through the Budget Act of 2024, to commence with the 2024–25 fiscal year and no later than July 1, 2024.

(e) It is the further intent of the Legislature to effectuate the transfer of grant administration from the Interagency Council on Homelessness to the Department of Housing and Community Development in a phased manner, beginning with the transfer of the administration of the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention grants beginning in the 2024–25 fiscal year. The transfer of all other grant programs and related administrative functions shall be effectuated through statutory changes enacted through the Budget Act of 2024, to commence with the 2024–25 fiscal year and no later than July 1, 2024.

(f) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in the 2023–24 and 2024–25 fiscal years the Department of Finance shall make the final determination of the budgetary and accounting transactions and treatments to ensure the proper implementation of the transfer of the administration of the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention grants from the Interagency Council on Homelessness to the Department of Housing and Community Development, as specified in subdivision (d).

(g) It is the intent of the Legislature to provide additional funding for the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program (Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 50216)) in the 2024–25 fiscal year.

(Amended by Stats. 2024, Ch. 48, Sec. 10. (AB 166) Effective July 2, 2024.)