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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
420.621 Definitions.—As used in ss. 420.621-420.628, the
term:

(1) "Continuum of care" means ~~the community components~~
~~needed to organize and deliver housing and services to meet~~
~~the specific needs of people who are homeless as they move~~
~~to stable housing and maximum self-sufficiency. It includes~~
~~action steps to end homelessness and prevent a return to~~
~~homelessness.~~ the group organized to carry out the
responsibilities required by this chapter to coordinate,
plan, and move toward ending homelessness in the designated
catchment area. The group is composed of representatives of
organizations, including nonprofit homeless providers,
victim service providers, faith-based organizations,
governments, businesses, advocates, public housing agencies,
school districts, social service providers, mental health
agencies, hospitals, universities, affordable housing
developers, law enforcement, organizations that serve
homeless and formerly homeless veterans, and homeless and
formerly homeless persons to the extent these groups are
represented within the designated catchment area and are
available to participate.

Coding: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

28 | (2) "Continuum of Care lead agency" and "Continuum of Care
29 | collaborative applicant" mean the organizations as set forth
30 | in s. 420.624.

31 | ~~(2)(3) "Council on Homelessness" means the council created~~
32 | ~~in s. 420.622.~~

33 | ~~(3)(4) "Department" means the Department of Children and~~
34 | ~~Families.~~

35 | ~~(4)(5) "District" means a service district of the~~
36 | ~~department, as set forth in ls. 20.19.~~

37 | ~~(5)(6) "Homeless," means applied to an individual, or~~
38 | ~~"individual experiencing homelessness" means an individual~~
39 | ~~who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence~~
40 | ~~and includes an individual who:~~

41 | ~~(a) Is sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of~~
42 | ~~housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;~~

43 | ~~(b) Is living in a motel, hotel, travel trailer park, or~~
44 | ~~camping ground due to a lack of alternative adequate~~
45 | ~~accommodations;~~

46 | ~~(c) Is living in an emergency or transitional shelter;~~

47 | ~~(d) Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or~~
48 | ~~private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a~~
49 | ~~regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;~~

50 | ~~(e) Is living in a car, park, public space, abandoned~~
51 | ~~building, bus or train station, or similar setting; or~~

52 | ~~(f) Is a migratory individual who qualifies as homeless~~
53 | ~~because he or she is living in circumstances described in~~
54 | ~~paragraphs (a)–(e).~~

Coding: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

55 ~~The terms do not refer to an individual imprisoned pursuant~~
56 ~~to state or federal law or to individuals or families who~~
57 ~~are sharing housing due to cultural preferences, voluntary~~
58 ~~arrangements, or traditional networks of support. The terms~~
59 ~~include an individual who has been released from jail,~~
60 ~~prison, the juvenile justice system, the child welfare~~
61 ~~system, a mental health and developmental disability~~
62 ~~facility, a residential addiction treatment program, or a~~
63 ~~hospital, for whom no subsequent residence has been~~
64 ~~identified, and who lacks the resources and support network~~
65 ~~to obtain housing.~~

66 (a) An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and
67 adequate nighttime residence, meaning: (i) An individual or
68 family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public
69 or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a
70 regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a
71 car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station,
72 airport, or camping ground; (ii) An individual or family
73 living in a supervised publicly or privately operated
74 shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements
75 (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and
76 hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by
77 federal, State, or local government programs for low-income
78 individuals); or (iii) An individual who is exiting an
79 institution where he or she resided for 90 days or less and
80 who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for
81 human habitation immediately before entering that
82 institution;

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83 (b) An individual or family who will imminently lose their
84 primary nighttime residence, provided that: (i) The primary
85 nighttime residence will be lost within 14 days of the date
86 of application for homeless assistance; (ii) No subsequent
87 residence has been identified; and(iii) The individual or
88 family lacks the resources or support networks, e.g.,
89 family, friends, faith-based or other social networks,
90 needed to obtain other permanent housing;
91 (c) Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families
92 with children and youth, who do not otherwise qualify as
93 homeless under this definition, but who: (i) Are defined as
94 homeless under section 387 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth
95 Act (42 U.S.C. 5732a), section 637 of the Head Start Act (42
96 U.S.C. 9832), section 41403 of the Violence Against Women
97 Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043e-2), section 330(h) of the
98 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b(h)), section 3 of
99 the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012), section
100 17(b) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C.
101 1786(b)), or section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless
102 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a); (ii) Have not had a
103 lease, ownership interest, or occupancy agreement in
104 permanent housing at any time during the 60 days immediately
105 preceding the date of application for homeless assistance;
106 (iii) Have experienced persistent instability as measured by
107 two moves or more during the 60-day period immediately
108 preceding the date of applying for homeless assistance; and
109 (iv) Can be expected to continue in such status for an
110 extended period of time because of chronic disabilities;

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111 chronic physical health or mental health conditions;
112 substance addiction; histories of domestic violence or
113 childhood abuse (including neglect); the presence of a child
114 or youth with a disability; or two or more barriers to
115 employment, which include the lack of a high school degree
116 or General Education Development (GED), illiteracy, low
117 English proficiency, a history of incarceration or detention
118 for criminal activity, and a history of unstable employment;
119 or
120 (d) Any individual or family who:(i) Is fleeing, or is
121 attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence,
122 sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-
123 threatening conditions that relate to violence against the
124 individual or a family member, including a child, that has
125 either taken place within the individual's or family's
126 primary nighttime residence or has made the individual or
127 family afraid to return to their primary nighttime
128 residence;(ii) Has no other residence; and(iii) Lacks the
129 resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, and
130 faith-based or other social networks, to obtain other
131 permanent housing.
132 ~~(6) "Local coalition for the homeless" means a coalition-~~
133 ~~established pursuant to s. 420.623.~~
134 ~~(7) "New and temporary homeless" means individuals or-~~
135 ~~families who are homeless due to societal factors.~~
136 ~~(8)~~(7) "State Office on Homelessness" means the state office
137 created in s. 420.622.

Coding: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

138 History.—s. 9, ch. 87-106; s. 18, ch. 92-58; s. 20, ch. 93-
139 200; s. 202, ch. 99-8; s. 9, ch. 2001-98;
140 s. 2, ch. 2009-164; s. 238, ch. 2014-19.

141 1Note.—Section 2, ch. 2012-84, deleted s. 20.19(5), which
142 set out service districts.

143

144 420.622 State Office on Homelessness; Council on
145 Homelessness.—

146 (1) The State Office on Homelessness is created within the
147 Department of Children and Families to provide interagency,
148 council, and other related coordination on issues relating
149 to homelessness.

150 (2) The Council on Homelessness is created to consist of ~~18~~
151 19 representatives of public and private agencies who shall
152 develop policy and advise the State Office on Homelessness.
153 The council members shall be: the Secretary of Children and
154 Families, or his or her designee; the executive director of
155 the Department of Economic Opportunity, or his or her
156 designee, who shall advise the council on issues related to
157 rural development; the State Surgeon General, or his or her
158 designee; the Executive Director of Veterans' Affairs, or
159 his or her designee; the Secretary of Corrections, or his or
160 her designee; the Secretary of Health Care Administration,
161 or his or her designee; the Commissioner of Education, or
162 his or her designee; the Director of CareerSource Florida,
163 Inc., or his or her designee; one representative of the
164 Florida Association of Counties; one representative of the
165 Florida League of Cities; one representative of the Florida

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166 Supportive Housing Coalition; one representative of the
167 Florida Housing Coalition; the Executive Director of the
168 Florida Housing Finance Corporation, or his or her designee;
169 one representative of the Florida Coalition for the
170 Homeless; The Secretary of the Department of Elder Affairs,
171 or his or her designee; and four members appointed by the
172 Governor. The council members shall be nonpaid volunteers
173 and shall be reimbursed only for travel expenses. The
174 appointed members of the council shall be appointed to
175 staggered 2-year terms and are encouraged to have had
176 experience in the administration or provision of resources,
177 services or housing that addresses the needs of ~~to~~ persons
178 experiencing homelessness. ~~and~~ The council shall meet at
179 least four times per year. The importance of minority,
180 gender, and geographic representation shall be considered in
181 appointing members to the council.

182 (3) The State Office on Homelessness, pursuant to the
183 policies set by the council and subject to the availability
184 of funding, shall:

185 (a) Coordinate among state, local, and private agencies and
186 providers to produce a statewide consolidated inventory for
187 the state's entire system of homeless programs which
188 incorporates ~~regionally developed plans~~ local Continuum of
189 Care Plans. Such programs include, but are not limited to:

190 1. Programs authorized under the Stewart B. McKinney
191 Homeless Assistance Act of 1987, as amended by the Homeless
192 Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing

Coding: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

193 (HEARTH) Act of 2009, 42 U.S.C. ss. 11371 et seq., and
194 carried out under funds awarded to this state; and
195 2. Programs, components thereof, or activities that assist
196 persons who are homeless or at risk for homelessness.
197 (b) Collect, maintain, and make available information
198 concerning persons who are homeless ~~or at risk for~~
199 ~~homelessness,~~ including summary demographics information
200 drawn from the local Continuum of Care Homeless Management
201 Information System and/or annual Point-in-Time Count,
202 ~~current services and resources available~~ and the local
203 Continuum of Care Housing Inventory Chart required by the
204 Department of Housing and Urban Development. ~~the cost and~~
205 ~~availability of services and programs, and the met and unmet~~
206 ~~needs of this population.~~ All entities that receive state
207 funding must provide ~~access to all~~ summary aggregated data
208 ~~they maintain in summary form,~~ with no individual
209 identifying information, to assist the council in providing
210 this information. The State Office on Homelessness, in
211 consultation with the designated lead agencies for a local
212 homeless continuum of care and with the Council on
213 Homelessness, shall develop ~~the system and process of data~~
214 ~~collection~~ a process by which summary data is collected from
215 all lead agencies for the purpose of analyzing trends and
216 assessing impacts in the statewide homeless delivery system.
217 ~~Any statewide homelessness survey and database system must~~
218 ~~comply with all state and federal statutory and regulatory~~
219 ~~confidentiality requirements.~~

Coding: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

220 (c) Annually evaluate state and ~~local services and~~
221 ~~resources~~ Continuum of Care system programs and develop a
222 consolidated plan for addressing the needs of the homeless
223 or those at risk for homelessness.

224 (d) Explore, compile, and disseminate information regarding
225 public and private funding sources for state and local
226 programs serving the homeless and provide technical
227 assistance in applying for such funding.

228 (e) Monitor and provide recommendations for coordinating
229 the activities and programs of local ~~coalitions for the~~
230 ~~homeless~~ Continuums of Care and promote the effectiveness of
231 programs ~~addressing the needs of the homeless~~ to prevent and
232 end homelessness in the state.

233 (f) Provide technical assistance to facilitate efforts to
234 ~~establish, maintain, and expand~~ support and strengthen local
235 homeless assistance Continuums of Care.

236 (g) Develop and assist in the coordination of policies and
237 procedures relating to the discharge or transfer from the
238 care or custody of state-supported or state-regulated
239 entities persons who are homeless or at risk for
240 homelessness.

241 (h) Spearhead outreach efforts for maximizing access by
242 people who are homeless or at risk for homelessness to state
243 and federal programs and resources.

244 (i) Promote a federal policy agenda responsive to the needs
245 of ~~the homeless population~~ those who are homeless or at risk
246 of homelessness in this state.

Coding: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

247 | ~~Develop outcome and accountability measures and promote~~
248 | ~~and~~ Review Continuum of Care system performance measure
249 | reports and use such measures to evaluate program
250 | effectiveness and make recommendations for improving current
251 | ~~practices in order to best meet the needs of the homeless to~~
252 | work toward ending homelessness in the state.

253 | (k) Formulate policies and legislative proposals aimed at
254 | preventing and ending homelessness in the state ~~to address~~
255 | ~~more effectively the needs of the homeless~~ and coordinate
256 | the implementation of state and federal legislative
257 | policies.

258 | (l) Convene meetings and workshops of state and local
259 | agencies, local ~~coalitions~~ Continuums of Care ~~and programs,~~
260 | and other stakeholders for the purpose of developing and
261 | reviewing policies, services, activities, coordination, and
262 | funding of efforts to ~~meet the needs of the homeless~~ end
263 | homelessness.

264 | (m) Conduct or promote research on the effectiveness of
265 | current programs and propose pilot projects aimed at
266 | ~~improving services~~ ending homelessness, with the input of
267 | the Continuums of Care.

268 | (n) Serve as an advocate for issues relating to
269 | homelessness.

270 | (o) Investigate ways to improve access to participation in
271 | state funding and other programs for prevention and
272 | ~~alleviation~~ reduction of homelessness to faith-based
273 | organizations and collaborate and coordinate with faith-
274 | based organizations.

Coding: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

275 | (4) The State Office on Homelessness, ~~with the concurrence~~
276 | ~~of the Council on Homelessness,~~ shall accept and administer
277 | moneys appropriated to it to provide annual
278 | "Challenge Grants" to lead agencies of homeless assistance
279 | Continuums of Care designated by the State Office on
280 | Homelessness pursuant to s. 420.624. The department shall
281 | establish varying levels of grant awards up to \$500,000 per
282 | Continuum of Care lead agency. The department, in
283 | consultation with the Council on Homelessness, shall specify
284 | a grant award level in the notice of the solicitation of
285 | grant applications.

286 | (a) To qualify for the grant, a Continuum of Care lead
287 | agency must develop and implement a local homeless
288 | assistance continuum of care plan for its designated
289 | catchment area. The services and housing funded through the
290 | grant must be implemented through the Continuum of Care's
291 | ~~continuum of care plan must implement a~~ coordinated
292 | ~~assessment or central intake entry system~~ designed to
293 | ~~screen,~~ assess, and refer persons seeking assistance to the
294 | appropriate housing intervention and service provider. The
295 | Continuum of Care lead agency shall also document the
296 | commitment of local government or private organizations to
297 | provide matching funds or in-kind support in an amount equal
298 | to twenty-five percent (25%) of the grant requested.
299 | Expenditures of leveraged funds or resources, including
300 | third-party cash or in-kind contributions, are authorized
301 | only for eligible activities committed on one project which
302 | have not been used as leverage or match for any other

Coding: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

303 project or program and must be certified through a written
304 commitment.

305 (b) Preference must be given to those Continuum of Care
306 lead agencies that have demonstrated the ability of their
307 continuum of care to ~~provide quality services to homeless~~
308 ~~persons~~ help households move out of homelessness. ~~and the~~
309 ~~ability to leverage federal homeless assistance funding~~
310 ~~under the Stewart B. McKinney Act with local government~~
311 ~~funding or private funding for the provision of services to~~
312 ~~homeless persons.~~

313 ~~(c)~~ Preference must be given to lead agencies in catchment
314 areas with the greatest need for the provision of housing
315 and services to the homeless, relative to the population of
316 the catchment area.

317 ~~(d)~~ (c) The grant may be used to fund any of the housing,
318 program, or service needs included in the local homeless
319 assistance Continuum of Care plan. The Continuum of Care
320 lead agency may allocate the grant to programs, services, or
321 housing providers that implement the local homeless
322 assistance Continuum of Care plan. The lead agency may
323 provide subgrants to a local agency to implement programs or
324 services or provide housing identified for funding in the
325 lead agency's application to the department. A lead agency
326 may spend a maximum of ~~ten~~ percent (10%) of its funding on
327 administrative costs.

328 ~~(e)~~ (d) The Continuum of Care lead agency shall submit a
329 final report to the department documenting the outcomes
330 achieved by the grant -funded programs in enabling persons

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331 who are homeless to return to permanent housing thereby
332 ending such person's episode of homelessness.

333 (5) The State Office on Homelessness, ~~with the concurrence~~
334 ~~of the Council on Homelessness,~~ may administer moneys
335 appropriated to it to provide homeless housing assistance
336 grants annually to Continuum of Care lead agencies ~~for local~~
337 ~~homeless assistance continuum of care,~~ as recognized by the
338 State Office on Homelessness, to acquire, construct, or
339 rehabilitate ~~transitional or~~ permanent housing units for
340 homeless persons. These moneys shall consist of any sums
341 that the state may appropriate, as well as money received
342 from donations, gifts, bequests, or otherwise from any
343 public or private source, which are intended to acquire,
344 construct, or rehabilitate ~~transitional or~~ permanent housing
345 units for homeless persons.

346 (a) Grant applicants shall be ranked competitively based on
347 criteria determined by the State Office on Homelessness.
348 ~~Preference must be given to applicants who leverage~~
349 ~~additional private funds and public funds, particularly~~
350 ~~federal funds designated for the acquisition, construction,~~
351 ~~or rehabilitation of transitional or permanent housing for~~
352 ~~homeless persons; who acquire, build, or rehabilitate the~~
353 ~~greatest number of units; or who acquire, build, or~~
354 ~~rehabilitate in catchment areas having the greatest need for~~
355 ~~housing for the homeless relative to the population of the~~
356 ~~catchment area.~~

357 (b) Funding for any particular project may not exceed
358 \$750,000.

Coding: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

359 (c) Projects must reserve, for a minimum of ~~10~~ 20 years,
360 the number of units acquired, constructed, or rehabilitated
361 through homeless housing assistance grant funding to serve
362 persons who are homeless at the time they assume tenancy.

363 (d) No more than two grants may be awarded annually in any
364 given local homeless assistance Continuum of Care
365 catchment area.

366 (e) A project may not be funded which is not included in
367 the local homeless assistance Continuum of Care plan, as
368 recognized by the State Office on Homelessness, for the
369 catchment area in which the project is located.

370 (f) The maximum percentage of funds that the State Office
371 on Homelessness and each applicant may spend on
372 administrative costs is ~~5~~ten percent (10%).

373 (6) The State Office on Homelessness, in conjunction with
374 the Council on Homelessness, shall establish performance
375 measures related to state funding provided through the State
376 Office on Homelessness and specific objectives by which it
377 may and utilize those grant-related measures to evaluate the
378 performance and outcomes of Continuum of Care lead agencies
379 that receive state grant funds. ~~Challenge Grants made~~
380 ~~through the State Office on Homelessness shall be~~
381 ~~distributed to lead agencies based on their overall~~
382 ~~performance and their achievement of specified objectives.~~
383 ~~Each lead agency for which grants are made under this~~
384 ~~section shall provide the State Office on Homelessness a~~
385 ~~thorough evaluation of the effectiveness of the program in~~
386 ~~achieving its stated purpose. In evaluating the performance~~

Coding: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

387 ~~of the lead agencies, the State Office on Homelessness shall~~
388 ~~base its criteria upon the program objectives, goals, and~~
389 ~~priorities that were set forth by the lead agencies in their~~
390 ~~proposals for funding. Such criteria may include, but are~~
391 ~~not limited to, the number of persons or households that are~~
392 ~~no longer homeless, the rate of recidivism to homelessness,~~
393 ~~and the number of persons who obtain gainful employment.~~

394 (7) The State Office on Homelessness must monitor the
395 challenge grants and homeless housing assistance grants to
396 ensure proper expenditure of funds and compliance with the
397 conditions of the applicant's contract.

398 (8) The Department of Children and Families, with input
399 from the Council on Homelessness, may adopt rules relating
400 to the challenge grants and the homeless housing assistance
401 grants and related issues consistent with the purposes of
402 this section.

403 (9) The council shall, by June 30 of each year, provide to
404 the Governor, the Legislature, and the Secretary of the
405 Department of Children and Families a report summarizing the
406 extent of homelessness in the state and the council's
407 recommendations for ~~reducing~~ ending making homelessness
408 rare, brief and nonrecurring in this state.

409 (10) The State Office on Homelessness may administer moneys
410 appropriated to it for distribution among the ~~28 local~~
411 ~~homeless continuums of care~~ designated Continuum of Care
412 lead agencies and entities recognized and funded in state
413 fiscal year 2017-18 as local coalitions for the homeless

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414 designated by the Department of Children and Families State
415 Office on Homelessness.
416 History.—s. 10, ch. 2001-98; s. 60, ch. 2008-6; s. 24, ch.
417 2009-96; s. 3, ch. 2009-164; s. 137, ch. 2010-102; s. 10,
418 ch. 2011-15; s. 336, ch. 2011-142; s. 4, ch. 2012-84; s. 5,
419 ch. 2013-74; s. 107, ch. 2014-17; s. 239, ch. 2014-19; s. 2,
420 ch. 2014-214; s. 23, ch. 2015-98; s. 5, ch. 2016-210
421
422 ~~420.623 — Local coalitions for the homeless.—~~
423 ~~(1) ESTABLISHMENT. The department shall establish local~~
424 ~~coalitions to plan, network, coordinate, and monitor the~~
425 ~~delivery of services to the homeless. Appropriate local~~
426 ~~groups and organizations involved in providing services for~~
427 ~~the homeless and interested business groups and associations~~
428 ~~shall be given an opportunity to participate in such~~
429 ~~coalitions, including, but not limited to:~~
430 ~~(a) Organizations and agencies providing mental health and~~
431 ~~substance abuse treatment. (b) — County health departments~~
432 ~~and community health centers.~~
433 ~~(c) Organizations and agencies providing food, shelter, or~~
434 ~~other services targeted to the homeless.~~
435 ~~(d) Local law enforcement agencies.~~
436 ~~(e) Local workforce development boards. (f) — County and~~
437 ~~municipal governments. (g) — Local public housing~~
438 ~~authorities.~~
439 ~~(h) Local school districts.~~
440 ~~(i) Local organizations and agencies serving specific~~
441 ~~subgroups of the homeless population, including, but not~~

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442 ~~limited to, those serving veterans, victims of domestic~~
443 ~~violence, person with HIV/AIDS, and runaway youth.~~
444 ~~(j) Local community based care alliances.~~
445 ~~(2) FUNCTIONS OF LOCAL COALITIONS. Major functions of the~~
446 ~~local coalitions are to:~~
447 ~~(a) Develop or assist with the development of the local~~
448 ~~homeless continuum of care plan, as described in s. 420.624,~~
449 ~~for the catchment area containing the county or region~~
450 ~~served by the local homeless coalition. Unless otherwise~~
451 ~~specified in the plan or as a result of an agreement with~~
452 ~~another coalition in the same catchment area, the local~~
453 ~~coalition shall serve as the lead agency for the local~~
454 ~~homeless assistance continuum of care.~~
455 ~~(b) Discuss local issues related to homelessness and the~~
456 ~~needs of the homeless.~~
457 ~~(c) Inventory all local resources for the homeless,~~
458 ~~including, but not limited to, food assistance, clothing,~~
459 ~~emergency shelter, low cost housing, emergency medical care,~~
460 ~~counseling, training, and employment.~~
461 ~~(d) Review and assess all services and programs in support~~
462 ~~of the homeless and identify unmet needs of the homeless.~~
463 ~~(e) Facilitate the delivery of multiagency services for the~~
464 ~~homeless to eliminate duplication of services and to~~
465 ~~maximize the use of limited existing resources for the~~
466 ~~homeless.~~
467 ~~(f) Develop new programs and services to fill critical~~
468 ~~service gaps, if necessary, through reallocation of existing~~
469 ~~resources for the homeless.~~

Coding: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

470 ~~(g) Develop a community resource directory of services~~
471 ~~available to the homeless for use by agencies, volunteers,~~
472 ~~information and referral systems, and homeless persons.~~
473 ~~(h) Develop public education and outreach initiatives to~~
474 ~~make homeless persons aware of the services available to~~
475 ~~them through community agencies and organizations.~~
476 ~~(i) Identify and explore new approaches to shelter care for~~
477 ~~the homeless.~~
478 ~~(j) Monitor and evaluate local homeless initiatives to~~
479 ~~assess their impact, to determine the adequacy of services~~
480 ~~available through such initiatives, and to identify~~
481 ~~additional unmet needs of homeless persons.~~
482 ~~(k) Collect and compile information relating to the~~
483 ~~homeless population served and report on a regular basis,~~
484 ~~but at least annually, such information to the department,~~
485 ~~as directed by the department.~~
486 ~~(l) Develop an annual report detailing the coalition's~~
487 ~~goals and activities.~~
488 ~~(m) Develop spending plans pursuant to the grant-in-aid~~
489 ~~program created under s. 420.625. Spending plans shall~~
490 ~~include a competitive ranking of applications from local~~
491 ~~agencies eligible for funding pursuant to the provisions of~~
492 ~~s. 420.625.~~
493 ~~(n) Develop a strategy for increasing support and~~
494 ~~participation from local businesses in the~~
495 ~~coalition's programs and activities.~~

Coding: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

496 ~~(3) DEPARTMENT GUIDELINES. The department shall develop~~
497 ~~guidelines for coalition activities, coalition reports, and~~
498 ~~development of local plans of action.~~
499 History.—ss. 10, 13, ch. 87-106; s. 3, ch. 88-303; ss. 27,
500 29, ch. 88-376; s. 39, ch. 95-210; s. 140, ch. 97-101; s.
501 11, ch. 2001-98; s. 138, ch. 2010-102; s. 19, ch. 2016-216.
502
503 ~~420.624 Local homeless assistance continuum of care.—~~
504 ~~1) A local homeless assistance continuum of care is a~~
505 ~~framework for a comprehensive and seamless array of~~
506 ~~emergency, transitional, and permanent housing, and services~~
507 ~~to address the various needs of homeless persons and persons~~
508 ~~at risk for homelessness. The nature and configuration of~~
509 ~~housing and services may be unique to each community or~~
510 ~~region, depending on local needs, assets, and preferences.—~~
511 ~~(2) The purpose of a local homeless assistance continuum of~~
512 ~~care is to help communities or regions envision, plan, and~~
513 ~~implement comprehensive and long-term solutions to the~~
514 ~~problem of homelessness in a community or region.~~
515 ~~(3) Communities or regions seeking to implement a local~~
516 ~~homeless assistance continuum of care are encouraged to~~
517 ~~develop and annually update a written plan that includes a~~
518 ~~vision for the continuum of care, an assessment of the~~
519 ~~supply of and demand for housing and services for the~~
520 ~~homeless population, and specific strategies and processes~~
521 ~~for providing the components of the continuum of care. The~~
522 ~~State Office on Homelessness, in conjunction with the~~
523 ~~Council on Homelessness, shall include in the plan a~~

Coding: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

524 ~~methodology for assessing performance and outcomes. The~~
525 ~~State Office on Homelessness shall supply a standardized~~
526 ~~format for written plans, including the reporting of data.~~
527 ~~(4) Each local homeless assistance continuum of care plan~~
528 ~~must designate a lead agency that will serve as the point of~~
529 ~~contact and accountability to the State Office on~~
530 ~~Homelessness. The lead agency may be a local homeless~~
531 ~~coalition, municipal or county government, or other public~~
532 ~~agency or private, not-for-profit corporation.~~
533 ~~(5) Continuum of care catchment areas must be designated~~
534 ~~and revised as necessary by the State Office on~~
535 ~~Homelessness, with the input of local homeless coalitions~~
536 ~~and public or private organizations that have previously~~
537 ~~certified to the United States Department of Housing and~~
538 ~~Urban Development and that currently serve as lead agencies~~
539 ~~for a local homeless assistance continuum of care.~~
540 ~~Designated catchment areas must not be overlapping. The~~
541 ~~designations must be consistent with those made by the~~
542 ~~United States Department of Housing and Urban Development in~~
543 ~~conjunction with the awarding of federal Stewart B. McKinney~~
544 ~~Act homeless assistance funding.~~
545 ~~(6) The State Office on Homelessness shall recognize only~~
546 ~~one homeless assistance continuum of care plan and its~~
547 ~~designated lead agency for each designated catchment area.~~
548 ~~The recognition must be made with the input of local~~
549 ~~homeless coalitions and public or private organizations that~~
550 ~~have previously certified to the United States Department of~~
551 ~~Housing and Urban Development that they currently serve as~~

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552 ~~lead agencies for a local homeless assistance continuum of~~
553 ~~care. The designations must be consistent with those made by~~
554 ~~the United States Department of Housing and Development in~~
555 ~~conjunction with the awarding of federal Stewart B. McKinney~~
556 ~~Act homeless assistance funding.~~

557 ~~(7) The components of a continuum of care plan should~~
558 ~~include:~~

559 ~~(a) Outreach, intake, and assessment procedures in order to~~
560 ~~identify the service and housing needs of an individual or~~
561 ~~family and to link them with appropriate housing, services,~~
562 ~~resources, and opportunities;~~

563 ~~(b) Emergency shelter, in order to provide a safe, decent~~
564 ~~alternative to living in the streets; (c) Transitional~~
565 ~~housing;~~

566 ~~(d) Supportive services, designed to assist with the~~
567 ~~development of the skills necessary to secure and retain~~
568 ~~permanent housing;~~

569 ~~(e) Permanent supportive housing;~~

570 ~~(f) Rapid ReHousing, as specified in s. 420.6265; (g)~~
571 ~~Permanent housing;~~

572 ~~(h) Linkages and referral mechanisms among all components~~
573 ~~to facilitate the movement of individuals and families~~
574 ~~toward permanent housing and self-sufficiency;~~

575 ~~(i) Services and resources to prevent housed persons from~~
576 ~~becoming or returning to homelessness; and~~

577 ~~(j) An ongoing planning mechanism to address the needs of~~
578 ~~all subgroups of the homeless population, including but not~~
579 ~~limited to:~~

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580 ~~1. Single adult males; 2. Single adult females;~~
581 ~~3. Families with children;~~
582 ~~4. Families with no children;~~
583 ~~5. Unaccompanied children and youth; 6. Elderly~~
584 ~~persons;~~
585 ~~7. Persons with drug or alcohol addictions; 8. Persons~~
586 ~~with mental illness;~~
587 ~~9. Persons with dual or multiple physical or mental~~
588 ~~disorders; 10. Victims of domestic violence; and~~
589 ~~11. Persons living with HIV/AIDS.~~
590 ~~(8) Continuum of care plans must promote participation by~~
591 ~~all interested individuals and organizations and may not~~
592 ~~exclude individuals and organizations on the basis of race,~~
593 ~~color, national origin, sex, handicap, familial status, or~~
594 ~~religion. Faith-based organizations must be encouraged to~~
595 ~~participate. To the extent possible, these components must~~
596 ~~be coordinated and integrated with other mainstream health,~~
597 ~~social services, and employment programs for which homeless~~
598 ~~populations may be eligible, including Medicaid, State~~
599 ~~Children's Health Insurance Program, Temporary Assistance~~
600 ~~for Needy Families, Food Assistance Program, and services~~
601 ~~funded through the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Block~~
602 ~~Grant, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, and the~~
603 ~~welfare-to-work grant program.~~
604 ~~History.—s. 12, ch. 2001-98; s. 72, ch. 2002-1; s. 33, ch.~~
605 ~~2010-209; s. 6, ch. 2016-210; s. 20,~~
606 ~~ch. 2016-216.~~
607

Coding: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

608 | 420.624 Local homeless assistance Continuum of Care.-
609 | (1) A local homeless assistance Continuum of Care is the
610 | group organized to end homelessness in a designated
611 | catchment area and comprises representatives of
612 | organizations, including nonprofit homeless providers,
613 | victim service providers, faith-based organizations,
614 | governments, businesses, advocates, public housing agencies,
615 | school districts, social service providers, mental health
616 | agencies, hospitals, universities, affordable housing
617 | developers, law enforcement, organizations that serve
618 | homeless and formerly homeless veterans, and homeless and
619 | formerly homeless persons to the extent these groups are
620 | represented within the geographic area and are available to
621 | participate.
622 | (2) The purpose of a local homeless assistance Continuum of
623 | Care is to coordinate community efforts to prevent and end
624 | homelessness in the Continuum of Care's catchment area and
625 | fulfill the responsibilities set forth in this chapter.
626 | (3) Pursuant to the federal HEARTH Act of 2009, Each local
627 | homeless assistance Continuum of Care is required to
628 | designate a collaborative applicant that is responsible for
629 | submitting the Continuum of Care funding application to the
630 | United States Department of Housing and Urban Development
631 | for the designated catchment area. The Continuum of Care
632 | designated collaborative applicant shall serve as the point
633 | of contact and accountability to the State Office on
634 | Homelessness and, in carrying out responsibilities pursuant

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635 to this chapter, the collaborative applicant may be referred
636 to as the Continuum of Care Lead Agency.

637 (4) Continuum of care catchment areas must be designated and
638 revised as necessary by the State Office on Homelessness and
639 shall be consistent with the Continuum of Care catchment
640 areas as recognized by the United States Department of
641 Housing and Urban Development for the purposes of awarding
642 federal homeless assistance funding for Continuum of Care
643 programs.

644 (5) The State Office on Homelessness shall recognize only
645 one homeless assistance Continuum of Care Lead Agency for
646 each designated catchment area. Such Continuum of Care Lead
647 Agencies shall be the consistent with the Continuum of Care
648 collaborative applicant designation recognized by the United
649 States Department of Housing and Urban Development in
650 conjunction with the awarding of federal Continuum of Care
651 homeless assistance funding.

652 (6) Each Continuum of Care shall create a Continuum of Care
653 plan, the purpose of which is to implement an effective and
654 efficient housing crisis response system to prevent and end
655 homelessness in the Continuum of Care catchment area. The
656 components of a continuum of care plan shall include:

657 (a) Outreach to unsheltered individuals and families to
658 link them with appropriate housing interventions;

659 (b) Coordinated entry system, compliant with the
660 requirements of the federal HEARTH Act of 2009, which is
661 designed to coordinate intake, utilize common assessment

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662 tools, prioritize households for housing interventions, and
663 refer households to the appropriate housing intervention.
664 (c) Emergency shelter, designed to provide safe temporary
665 shelter while the household is in the process of obtaining
666 permanent housing;
667 (d) Supportive services, designed to maximize housing
668 stability once the household is in permanent housing;
669 (e) Permanent supportive housing, designed to provide long-
670 term affordable housing and support services to persons with
671 disabilities who are moving out of homelessness;
672 (f) Rapid ReHousing, as specified in s. 420.6265;
673 (g) Permanent housing, including linkages to affordable
674 housing, subsidized housing, long- term rent assistance,
675 housing vouchers, and mainstream private sector housing;
676 (h) An ongoing planning mechanism to end homelessness for
677 all subpopulations of persons experiencing homelessness.
678 (7) Continuums of Care must promote participation by all
679 interested individuals and organizations and may not exclude
680 individuals and organizations on the basis of race, color,
681 national origin, sex, handicap, familial status, or
682 religion. Faith-based organizations, local governments, and
683 persons who have experienced homelessness must be encouraged
684 to participate. To the extent possible, these components
685 must be coordinated and integrated with other mainstream
686 health, social services, and employment programs for which
687 homeless populations may be eligible, including Medicaid,
688 State Children's Health Insurance Program, Temporary
689 Assistance for Needy Families, Food Assistance Program, and

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690 services funded through the Mental Health and Substance
691 Abuse Block Grant, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity
692 Act, and the welfare-to-work grant program.

693 History.—s. 12, ch. 2001-98; s. 72, ch. 2002-1; s. 33, ch.
694 2010-209; s. 6, ch. 2016-210; s. 20,
695 ch. 2016-216.

696 ~~s420.625 — Grant-in-aid program.—~~

697 ~~(1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. The Legislature hereby finds and~~
698 ~~declares that most services for the homeless have been~~
699 ~~provided by local communities through voluntary private~~
700 ~~agencies and religious organizations and that the growing~~
701 ~~numbers and increasing needs of the homeless have generally~~
702 ~~outstripped the capabilities of such local agencies to~~
703 ~~adequately respond to the problems of the homeless in~~
704 ~~Florida. The Legislature further recognizes that the level~~
705 ~~of need and types of problems associated with homelessness~~
706 ~~may vary widely from community to community, due to the~~
707 ~~diversity and geographic distribution of the homeless~~
708 ~~population and the resulting differing needs of particular~~
709 ~~communities. While the need of all homeless and displaced~~
710 ~~persons for services is recognized, it is the legislative~~
711 ~~intent that, in awarding financial assistance to local~~
712 ~~agencies under this section, preference be given to those~~
713 ~~agencies offering services targeted for the new and~~
714 ~~temporary homeless.~~

715 ~~(2) PURPOSE. The principal objective of this program is to~~
716 ~~provide needed assistance to local agencies to enable them~~
717 ~~to:~~

Coding: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

718 ~~(a) Assist persons in their communities who have become, or~~
719 ~~are about to become, homeless. (b) Where possible,~~
720 ~~restore the homeless living in their communities to suitable~~
721 ~~living~~
722 ~~conditions and self-sufficiency as quickly as possible.~~
723 ~~(3) ESTABLISHMENT. There is hereby established a grant-in-~~
724 ~~aid program to help local communities in serving the needs-~~
725 ~~of the homeless through a variety of supportive services,~~
726 ~~which may include, but are not limited to:~~
727 ~~(a) Public education and outreach programs.~~
728 ~~(b) Information and referral services, including state and~~
729 ~~local telephone hotlines and local emergency shelter~~
730 ~~location and housing location services.~~
731 ~~(c) Case management services.~~
732 ~~(d) Emergency financial assistance for persons who are~~
733 ~~totally without shelter or facing loss of shelter.~~
734 ~~(e) Emergency and temporary shelter programs.~~
735 ~~(f) Temporary rent and income supplements.~~
736 ~~(g) Job counseling and assistance programs, including~~
737 ~~temporary day care services, for persons seeking employment.~~
738 ~~(h) Meals programs.~~
739 ~~(i) Services coordination.~~
740 ~~(4) APPLICATION PROCEDURE. Local agencies shall submit an~~
741 ~~application for grant-in-aid funds to the district~~
742 ~~administrator for review. During the first year of~~
743 ~~implementation, district administrators shall begin to~~
744 ~~accept applications for district funds no later than October~~

Coding: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

745 ~~1, 1988, and by August 1 of each year thereafter for which~~
746 ~~funding for this section is provided.~~
747 ~~District funds shall be made available to local agencies no~~
748 ~~more than 30 days after the deadline date for applications~~
749 ~~for each funding cycle.~~
750 ~~(5) SPENDING PLANS. The department shall develop guidelines~~
751 ~~for the development of spending plans and for the evaluation~~
752 ~~and approval by district administrators of spending plans,~~
753 ~~based upon such factors as:~~
754 ~~(a) The demonstrated level of need for the program.~~
755 ~~(b) The demonstrated ability of the local agency or~~
756 ~~agencies seeking assistance to deliver the services and to~~
757 ~~assure that identified needs will be met.~~
758 ~~(c) The ability of the local agency or agencies seeking~~
759 ~~assistance to deliver a wide range of services as enumerated~~
760 ~~in subsection (3).~~
761 ~~(d) The adequacy and reasonableness of proposed budgets and~~
762 ~~planned expenditures, and the demonstrated capacity of the~~
763 ~~local agency or agencies to administer the funds sought.~~
764 ~~(e) A statement from the local coalition for the homeless~~
765 ~~as to the steps to be taken to assure coordination and~~
766 ~~integration of services in the district to avoid unnecessary~~
767 ~~duplication and costs. (f) Assurances by the local~~
768 ~~coalition for the homeless that alternative funding~~
769 ~~strategies for~~
770 ~~meeting needs through the reallocation of existing~~
771 ~~resources, utilization of volunteers, and local government~~
772 ~~or private agency funding have been explored.~~

Coding: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

773 ~~(g) The existence of an evaluation component designed to~~
774 ~~measure program outcomes and determine the overall~~
775 ~~effectiveness of the local programs for the homeless for~~
776 ~~which funding is sought.~~

777 ~~(6) ALLOCATION OF GRANT FUNDS TO DISTRICTS. State grant in-~~
778 ~~aid funds for local initiatives for the homeless shall be~~
779 ~~allocated by the department to, and administered by,~~
780 ~~department districts. Allocations shall be based upon~~
781 ~~sufficient documentation of:~~

782 ~~(a) The magnitude of the problem of homelessness in the~~
783 ~~district, and the demonstrated level of unmet need for~~
784 ~~services in the district for those who are homeless or are~~
785 ~~about to become homeless.~~

786 ~~(b) A strong local commitment to seriously address the~~
787 ~~problem of homelessness as evidenced by coordinated programs~~
788 ~~involving preventive, emergency, and transitional services~~
789 ~~and by the existence of active local organizations committed~~
790 ~~to serving those who have become, or are about to become,~~
791 ~~homeless.~~

792 ~~(c) Agreement by local government and private agencies~~
793 ~~currently serving the homeless not to reduce current~~
794 ~~expenditures for services presently provided to those who~~
795 ~~are homeless or are about to become homeless if grant~~
796 ~~assistance is provided pursuant to this section.~~

797 ~~(d) Geographic distribution of district programs to ensure~~
798 ~~that such programs serve both rural and urban areas, as~~
799 ~~needed.~~

Coding: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

800 ~~(7) DISTRIBUTION TO LOCAL AGENCIES. District funds so~~
801 ~~allocated shall be available for distribution by the~~
802 ~~district administrator to local agencies to fund programs~~
803 ~~such as those set forth in subsection (3), based upon the~~
804 ~~recommendations of the local coalitions in accordance with~~
805 ~~spending plans developed by the coalitions and approved by~~
806 ~~the district administrator. Not more than 10 percent of the~~
807 ~~total state funds awarded under a spending plan may be used~~
808 ~~by the local coalition for staffing and administration.~~

809 ~~(8) LOCAL MATCHING FUNDS. Entities contracting to provide~~
810 ~~services through financial assistance obtained under this~~
811 ~~section shall provide a minimum of 25 percent of the funding~~
812 ~~necessary for the support of project operations. In-kind~~
813 ~~contributions, whether materials, commodities,~~
814 ~~transportation, office space, other types of facilities, or~~
815 ~~personal services, and contributions of money or services~~
816 ~~from homeless persons may be evaluated and counted as part~~
817 ~~or all of this required local funding, in the discretion of~~
818 ~~the district administrator.~~

819 ~~History. s. 28, ch. 88-376; s. 103, ch. 96-175; s. 6, ch.~~
820 ~~2013-74.~~

821

822 420.625 Grant-in-aid program.-

823 (1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS.-The Legislature hereby finds and
824 declares that many services for households experiencing
825 homelessness have been provided by local communities through
826 voluntary private agencies and religious organizations and
827 that those resources have not been sufficient to prevent and

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828 end homelessness in Florida. The Legislature further
829 recognizes that the level of need and types of problems
830 associated with homelessness may vary widely from community
831 to community, due to the diversity and geographic
832 distribution of the homeless population and the resulting
833 differing needs of particular communities.
834 (2) PURPOSE.—The principal objective of this program is to
835 provide needed assistance to local Continuums of Care to
836 enable them to:
837 (a) Assist persons in their communities who have become, or
838 are about to become, homeless.
839 (b) Help homeless households move to permanent housing as
840 quickly as possible.
841 ESTABLISHMENT.— There is hereby established a grant-in-aid
842 program to help local Continuums of Care prevent and end
843 homelessness, which may include any aspect of the local
844 Continuum of Care plan, as described in s. 420.624.
845 (4) APPLICATION PROCEDURE.—Local Continuums of Care shall
846 submit an application for grant-in-aid funds to the State
847 Office on Homelessness for review.
848 (5) SPENDING PLANS.— The State Office on Homelessness shall
849 develop guidelines for the development, evaluation, and
850 approval of spending plans.
851 (6) ALLOCATION OF GRANT FUNDS TO DISTRICTS.—State grant-in-
852 aid funds for local Continuums of Care shall be administered
853 by the State Office on Homelessness and awarded on a
854 competitive basis.

Coding: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

855 | (7) DISTRIBUTION TO LOCAL AGENCIES.— District funds so
856 | allocated shall be available for distribution by the
857 | district administrator to local agencies to fund programs
858 | that are required by the local Continuum of Care plan, as
859 | described in s. 420.624 and set forth in subsection (3),
860 | based upon the recommendations of the local Continuum of
861 | Care Lead Agencies, in accordance with spending plans
862 | developed by the Lead Agencies and approved by the State
863 | Office on Homelessness. Not more than 10 percent of the
864 | total state funds awarded under a spending plan may be used
865 | by the local Continuum of Care Lead Agency for staffing and
866 | administration.

867 | (8) LOCAL MATCHING FUNDS.—Entities contracting to provide
868 | services through financial assistance obtained under this
869 | section shall provide a minimum of 25 percent of the funding
870 | necessary for the support of project operations. In-kind
871 | contributions, whether materials, commodities,
872 | transportation, office space, other types of facilities, or
873 | personal services may be evaluated and counted as part or
874 | all of this required local funding, in the discretion of the
875 | State Office on Homelessness.

876 | 420.626 Homelessness; discharge guidelines.—
877 | (1) It is the intent of the Legislature, to encourage
878 | mental health facilities or institutions under contract
879 | with, operated, licensed, or regulated by the state and
880 | local governments to ensure that persons leaving their care
881 | or custody are not discharged into homelessness.

Coding: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

882 (2) The following facilities and institutions are
883 encouraged to develop and implement procedures designed to
884 reduce the discharge of persons into homelessness when such
885 persons are admitted or housed for more than 24 hours at
886 such facilities or institutions: hospitals and inpatient
887 medical facilities; crisis stabilization units; residential
888 treatment facilities; assisted living facilities; and
889 detoxification centers.

890 (3) The procedures should include:

891 (a) Development and implementation of a screening process
892 or other mechanism for identifying persons to be discharged
893 from the facility or institution who are at considerable
894 risk for homelessness or face some imminent threat to health
895 and safety upon discharge;

896 (b) Development and implementation of a discharge plan
897 addressing how identified persons will secure housing and
898 other needed care and support upon discharge;

899 (c) Communication with ~~Assessment of the capabilities of~~
900 the entities to whom identified persons may potentially be
901 discharged to determine their capability to serve such
902 persons and their acceptance of such discharge into their
903 programs, and selection of the entity determined to be best
904 equipped to provide or facilitate the provision of suitable
905 care and support;

906 (d) Coordination of effort and sharing of information with
907 entities that are expected to bear the responsibility for
908 providing care or support to identified persons upon
909 discharge; and

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910 (e) Provision of sufficient medication, medical equipment
911 and supplies, clothing, transportation, and other basic
912 resources necessary to assure that the health and well-being
913 of identified persons are not jeopardized upon their
914 discharge.

915 (4) This section is intended only to recommend model
916 guidelines and procedures that mental health facilities or
917 institutions under contract with or operated, licensed, or
918 regulated by the state or local governments may consider
919 when discharging persons into the community. This section
920 is not an entitlement, and no cause of action shall arise
921 against the state, the local government entity, or any other
922 political subdivision of this state for failure to follow
923 any of the procedures or provide any of the services
924 suggested under this section.

925 History.—s. 13, ch. 2001-98.

926

927 420.6265 Rapid ReHousing.—

928 (1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.—

929 (a) The Legislature finds that Rapid ReHousing is a
930 strategy of using temporary financial assistance ~~and case-~~
931 ~~management~~ to quickly move an individual or family out of
932 homelessness and into permanent housing, and housing
933 stabilization support services to help them remain stably
934 housed.

935 (b) The Legislature also finds that public and private
936 solutions to homelessness in the past have focused on
937 providing individuals and families who are experiencing

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938 homelessness with emergency shelter, transitional housing,
939 or a combination of both. While emergency shelter and
940 transitional housing programs may provide critical access to
941 services for individuals and families in crisis, the
942 programs often fail to address ~~their long-term~~ permanent
943 housing needs and may unnecessarily extend their episodes of
944 homelessness.

945 (c) The Legislature further finds that most households
946 become homeless as a result of a financial crisis that
947 prevents individuals and families from paying rent or a
948 domestic conflict that results in one member being ejected
949 or leaving without resources or a plan for housing.

950 (d) The Legislature further finds that Rapid ReHousing ~~is~~
951 ~~an alternative~~ has proven to be a cost effective approach to
952 ending homelessness, which ~~to the current system of~~
953 ~~emergency shelter or transitional housing which tends to~~
954 reduces the length of time a person is homeless and has
955 proven to be more cost effective than alternative
956 approaches.

957 (e) It is therefore the intent of the Legislature to
958 encourage homeless Ceontinuums of Ceare to adopt the Rapid
959 ReHousing approach to ~~preventing~~ ending homelessness for
960 individuals and families who do not require the intensive
961 level of supports provided in the permanent supportive
962 housing model.

963 (2) RAPID REHOUSING METHODOLOGY.—

964 (a) The Rapid ReHousing response to homelessness differs
965 from traditional approaches to addressing homelessness by

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966 focusing on each individual's or family's barriers to
967 housing. By using this approach, communities can
968 significantly reduce the amount of time that individuals and
969 families are homeless and prevent further episodes of
970 homelessness.

971 (b) In Rapid ReHousing, an individual or family is
972 identified as being homeless, the household is assessed and
973 prioritized for housing through the Continuum of Care's
974 coordinated entry system, temporary assistance is provided
975 to allow the individual or family to obtain permanent
976 housing as quickly as possible, and, if needed, assistance
977 is provided to allow the individual or family to retain
978 housing.

979 (c) ~~The objective of Rapid ReHousing is to provide~~
980 assistance for as short a term as possible so that the
981 individual or family receiving assistance ~~does not develop a~~
982 ~~dependency on the assistance~~ attains stability and
983 integration into the community as quickly as possible.

984 History.—s. 7, ch. 2016-210.

985

986 420.6275 Housing First.—

987 (1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.—

988 (a) The Legislature finds that many communities plan to
989 manage homelessness rather than plan to end it.

990 (b) The Legislature also finds that for most of the past
991 two decades, public and private solutions to homelessness
992 have focused on providing individuals and families who are
993 experiencing homelessness with emergency shelter,

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994 transitional housing, or a combination of both. While
995 emergency shelter programs may provide critical access to
996 services for individuals and families in crisis, they often
997 fail to address their long-term needs.

998 (c) The Legislature further finds that Housing First is an
999 alternative cost effective approach ~~to the current system of~~
1000 ~~emergency shelter or transitional housing which tends to~~
1001 ending reduce homelessness and reducing the length of time
1002 of homelessness for many households ~~and has proven to be~~
1003 ~~cost effective.~~

1004 (d) It is therefore the intent of the Legislature to
1005 encourage homeless Cecontinuum of Ceare to adopt the Housing
1006 First approach to ending homelessness for individuals and
1007 families.

1008 (2) HOUSING FIRST METHODOLOGY.—

1009 (a) The Housing First approach to homelessness ~~differs from~~
1010 ~~traditional approaches by providing~~ permanent housing
1011 ~~assistance, case management, and,~~ followed by support
1012 services responsive to individual or family needs after
1013 housing is obtained. By using this approach ~~when~~
1014 ~~appropriate,~~ communities can significantly reduce the amount
1015 of time that individuals and families are homeless and
1016 prevent further episodes of homelessness. Housing First
1017 emphasizes that social services provided to enhance
1018 individual and family well-being can be more effective when
1019 people are in their own home, and:

1020 1. The housing is not time-limited.

Coding: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

1021 2. The housing is not contingent on compliance with
1022 services. Instead, participants must comply with a standard
1023 lease agreement. ~~And~~

1024 ~~3. A background check and any rehabilitation necessary to~~
1025 ~~combat an addiction related to alcoholism or substance abuse~~
1026 ~~has been completed by the individual for whom assistance or~~
1027 ~~support services are provided.~~

1028 3. Households are provided with individualized the
1029 services and support ~~that are~~ necessary to help them ~~do so~~
1030 successfully maintain stable housing.

1031 (b) The Housing First approach addresses the societal
1032 causes of homelessness and advocates for the immediate
1033 return of individuals and families into housing and
1034 communities. Housing First ~~provides a critical link~~s between
1035 affordable housing ~~the emergency and transitional housing~~
1036 ~~shelter system and~~ with community-based social service,
1037 educational, and health care organizations and consists of
1038 four components:

1039 1. Crisis intervention and short-term stabilization.
1040 2. Screening, intake, and needs assessment.
1041 3. Provision of housing resources.
1042 4. Provision of case management.

1043 History.—s. 4, ch. 2009-164.

Coding: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.