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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).~~

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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.

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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 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; and four members appointed by the Governor. The  
171 council members shall be nonpaid volunteers and shall be  
172 reimbursed only for travel expenses. The appointed members  
173 of the council shall be appointed to staggered 2-year terms  
174 and are encouraged to have had experience in the provision  
175 of services to persons experiencing homelessness.~~and~~ The  
176 council shall meet at least four times per year. The  
177 importance of minority, gender, and geographic  
178 representation shall be considered in appointing members to  
179 the council.

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

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

188 1. Programs authorized under the Stewart B. McKinney  
189 Homeless Assistance Act of 1987, as amended by the Homeless  
190 Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing  
191 (HEARTH) Act of 2009, 42 U.S.C. ss. 11371 et seq., and  
192 carried out under funds awarded to this state; and

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

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220 consolidated plan for addressing the needs of the homeless  
221 or those at risk for homelessness.

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

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

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

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

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

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

245 (j) ~~Develop outcome and accountability measures and promote~~  
246 ~~and~~ Review Continuum of Care system performance measure  
247 reports and use such measures to evaluate program

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248 effectiveness and make recommendations for improving current  
249 ~~practices in order to best meet the needs of the homeless to~~  
250 work toward ending homelessness in the state.

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

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

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

266 (n) Serve as an advocate for issues relating to  
267 homelessness.

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

273 (4) The State Office on Homelessness, ~~with the concurrence~~  
274 ~~of the Council on Homelessness,~~ shall accept and administer  
275 moneys appropriated to it to provide annual

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276 "Challenge Grants" to lead agencies of homeless assistance  
277 Continuums of Care designated by the State Office on  
278 Homelessness pursuant to s. 420.624. The department shall  
279 establish varying levels of grant awards up to \$500,000 per  
280 Continuum of Care lead agency. The department, in  
281 consultation with the Council on Homelessness, shall specify  
282 a grant award level in the notice of the solicitation of  
283 grant applications.

284 (a) To qualify for the grant, a Continuum of Care lead  
285 agency must develop and implement a local homeless  
286 assistance continuum of care plan for its designated  
287 catchment area. The services and housing funded through the  
288 grant must be implemented through the Continuum of Care's  
289 ~~continuum of care plan must implement a~~ coordinated  
290 ~~assessment or central intake entry~~ system designed to  
291 ~~screen,~~ assess, and refer persons seeking assistance to the  
292 appropriate housing intervention and service provider. The  
293 Continuum of Care lead agency shall also document the  
294 commitment of local government or private organizations to  
295 provide matching funds or in-kind support in an amount equal  
296 to twenty-five percent (25%) of the grant requested.

297 Expenditures of leveraged funds or resources, including  
298 third-party cash or in-kind contributions, are authorized  
299 only for eligible activities committed on one project which  
300 have not been used as leverage or match for any other  
301 project or program and must be certified through a written  
302 commitment.

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

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

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

326 ~~(e)~~(d) The Continuum of Care lead agency shall submit a  
327 final report to the department documenting the outcomes  
328 achieved by the grant-funded programs in enabling persons  
329 who are homeless to return to permanent housing thereby  
330 ending such person's episode of homelessness.

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

344 | (a) Grant applicants shall be ranked competitively based on  
345 | criteria determined by the State Office on Homelessness.

346 | ~~Preference must be given to applicants who leverage~~  
347 | ~~additional private funds and public funds, particularly~~  
348 | ~~federal funds designated for the acquisition, construction,~~  
349 | ~~or rehabilitation of transitional or permanent housing for~~  
350 | ~~homeless persons; who acquire, build, or rehabilitate the~~  
351 | ~~greatest number of units; or who acquire, build, or~~  
352 | ~~rehabilitate in catchment areas having the greatest need for~~  
353 | ~~housing for the homeless relative to the population of the~~  
354 | ~~catchment area.~~

355 | (b) Funding for any particular project may not exceed  
356 | \$750,000.

357 | (c) Projects must reserve, for a minimum of ~~10~~ 20 years,  
358 | the number of units acquired, constructed, or rehabilitated

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359 | through homeless housing assistance grant funding to serve  
360 | persons who are homeless at the time they assume tenancy.  
361 | (d) No more than two grants may be awarded annually in any  
362 | given local homeless assistance Continuum of Care  
363 | catchment area.  
364 | (e) A project may not be funded which is not included in  
365 | the local homeless assistance Continuum of Care plan, as  
366 | recognized by the State Office on Homelessness, for the  
367 | catchment area in which the project is located.  
368 | (f) The maximum percentage of funds that the State Office  
369 | on Homelessness and each applicant may spend on  
370 | administrative costs is ~~5~~ten percent (10%).  
371 | (6) The State Office on Homelessness, in conjunction with  
372 | the Council on Homelessness, shall establish performance  
373 | measures related to state funding provided through the State  
374 | Office on Homelessness and specific objectives by which it  
375 | may and utilize those grant-related measures to evaluate the  
376 | performance and outcomes of Continuum of Care lead agencies  
377 | that receive state grant funds. ~~Challenge Grants made~~  
378 | ~~through the State Office on Homelessness shall be~~  
379 | ~~distributed to lead agencies based on their overall~~  
380 | ~~performance and their achievement of specified objectives.~~  
381 | ~~Each lead agency for which grants are made under this~~  
382 | ~~section shall provide the State Office on Homelessness a~~  
383 | ~~thorough evaluation of the effectiveness of the program in~~  
384 | ~~achieving its stated purpose. In evaluating the performance~~  
385 | ~~of the lead agencies, the State Office on Homelessness shall~~  
386 | ~~base its criteria upon the program objectives, goals, and~~

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387 ~~priorities that were set forth by the lead agencies in their~~  
388 ~~proposals for funding. Such criteria may include, but are~~  
389 ~~not limited to, the number of persons or households that are~~  
390 ~~no longer homeless, the rate of recidivism to homelessness,~~  
391 ~~and the number of persons who obtain gainful employment.~~

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

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

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

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

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414 History.—s. 10, ch. 2001-98; s. 60, ch. 2008-6; s. 24, ch.  
415 2009-96; s. 3, ch. 2009-164; s. 137, ch. 2010-102; s. 10,  
416 ch. 2011-15; s. 336, ch. 2011-142; s. 4, ch. 2012-84; s. 5,  
417 ch. 2013-74; s. 107, ch. 2014-17; s. 239, ch. 2014-19; s. 2,  
418 ch. 2014-214; s. 23, ch. 2015-98; s. 5, ch. 2016-210

419

420 ~~420.623~~ Local coalitions for the homeless.—

421 ~~(1) ESTABLISHMENT. The department shall establish local~~  
422 ~~coalitions to plan, network, coordinate, and monitor the~~  
423 ~~delivery of services to the homeless. Appropriate local~~  
424 ~~groups and organizations involved in providing services for~~  
425 ~~the homeless and interested business groups and associations~~  
426 ~~shall be given an opportunity to participate in such~~  
427 ~~coalitions, including, but not limited to:~~

428 ~~(a) Organizations and agencies providing mental health and~~  
429 ~~substance abuse treatment. (b) County health departments~~  
430 ~~and community health centers.~~

431 ~~(c) Organizations and agencies providing food, shelter, or~~  
432 ~~other services targeted to the homeless.~~

433 ~~(d) Local law enforcement agencies.~~

434 ~~(e) Local workforce development boards. (f) County and~~  
435 ~~municipal governments. (g) Local public housing~~  
436 ~~authorities.~~

437 ~~(h) Local school districts.~~

438 ~~(i) Local organizations and agencies serving specific~~  
439 ~~subgroups of the homeless population, including, but not~~  
440 ~~limited to, those serving veterans, victims of domestic~~  
441 ~~violence, person with HIV/AIDS, and runaway youth.~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

555 ~~(7) The components of a continuum of care plan should~~  
556 ~~include:~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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606 | 420.624        Local homeless assistance Continuum of Care.-  
607 | (1) A local homeless assistance Continuum of Care is the  
608 | group organized to end homelessness in a designated  
609 | catchment area and comprises representatives of  
610 | organizations, including nonprofit homeless providers,  
611 | victim service providers, faith-based organizations,  
612 | governments, businesses, advocates, public housing agencies,  
613 | school districts, social service providers, mental health  
614 | agencies, hospitals, universities, affordable housing  
615 | developers, law enforcement, organizations that serve  
616 | homeless and formerly homeless veterans, and homeless and  
617 | formerly homeless persons to the extent these groups are  
618 | represented within the geographic area and are available to  
619 | participate.  
620 | (2) The purpose of a local homeless assistance Continuum of  
621 | Care is to coordinate community efforts to prevent and end  
622 | homelessness in the Continuum of Care's catchment area and  
623 | fulfill the responsibilities set forth in this chapter.  
624 | (3) Pursuant to the federal HEARTH Act of 2009, Each local  
625 | homeless assistance Continuum of Care is required to  
626 | designate a collaborative applicant that is responsible for  
627 | submitting the Continuum of Care funding application to the  
628 | United States Department of Housing and Urban Development  
629 | for the designated catchment area. The Continuum of Care  
630 | designated collaborative applicant shall serve as the point  
631 | of contact and accountability to the State Office on  
632 | Homelessness and, in carrying out responsibilities pursuant

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633 | to this chapter, the collaborative applicant may be referred  
634 | to as the Continuum of Care Lead Agency.

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

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

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

655 | (a) Outreach to unsheltered individuals and families to  
656 | link them with appropriate housing interventions;

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

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

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

691 History.—s. 12, ch. 2001-98; s. 72, ch. 2002-1; s. 33, ch.  
692 2010-209; s. 6, ch. 2016-210; s. 20,  
693 ch. 2016-216.

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

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

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

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

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

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743 ~~1, 1988, and by August 1 of each year thereafter for which~~  
744 ~~funding for this section is provided.~~  
745 ~~District funds shall be made available to local agencies no~~  
746 ~~more than 30 days after the deadline date for applications~~  
747 ~~for each funding cycle.~~  
748 ~~(5) SPENDING PLANS. The department shall develop guidelines~~  
749 ~~for the development of spending plans and for the evaluation~~  
750 ~~and approval by district administrators of spending plans,~~  
751 ~~based upon such factors as:~~  
752 ~~(a) The demonstrated level of need for the program.~~  
753 ~~(b) The demonstrated ability of the local agency or~~  
754 ~~agencies seeking assistance to deliver the services and to~~  
755 ~~assure that identified needs will be met.~~  
756 ~~(c) The ability of the local agency or agencies seeking~~  
757 ~~assistance to deliver a wide range of services as enumerated~~  
758 ~~in subsection (3).~~  
759 ~~(d) The adequacy and reasonableness of proposed budgets and~~  
760 ~~planned expenditures, and the demonstrated capacity of the~~  
761 ~~local agency or agencies to administer the funds sought.~~  
762 ~~(e) A statement from the local coalition for the homeless~~  
763 ~~as to the steps to be taken to assure coordination and~~  
764 ~~integration of services in the district to avoid unnecessary~~  
765 ~~duplication and costs. (f) Assurances by the local~~  
766 ~~coalition for the homeless that alternative funding~~  
767 ~~strategies for~~  
768 ~~meeting needs through the reallocation of existing~~  
769 ~~resources, utilization of volunteers, and local government~~  
770 ~~or private agency funding have been explored.~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

817 ~~History. s. 28, ch. 88-376; s. 103, ch. 96-175; s. 6, ch.~~  
818 ~~2013-74.~~

819

820 420.625 Grant-in-aid program.—

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

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

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

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

874 | 420.626 Homelessness; discharge guidelines.—  
875 | (1) It is the intent of the Legislature, to encourage  
876 | mental health facilities or institutions under contract  
877 | with, operated, licensed, or regulated by the state and  
878 | local governments to ensure that persons leaving their care  
879 | or custody are not discharged into homelessness.

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

888 (3) The procedures should include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

923 History.—s. 13, ch. 2001-98.

924

925 420.6265 Rapid ReHousing.—

926 (1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

961 (2) RAPID REHOUSING METHODOLOGY.—

962 (a) The Rapid ReHousing response to homelessness differs  
963 from traditional approaches to addressing homelessness by

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

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

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

982 History.—s. 7, ch. 2016-210.

983

984 420.6275 Housing First.—

985 (1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.—

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

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

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

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

1002 (d) It is therefore the intent of the Legislature to  
1003 encourage homeless Ceontinuums of Ceare to adopt the Housing  
1004 First approach to ending homelessness for individuals and  
1005 families.

1006 (2) HOUSING FIRST METHODOLOGY.—

1007 (a) The Housing First approach to homelessness ~~differs from~~  
1008 ~~traditional approaches by providing~~ permanent housing  
1009 assistance, ~~case management, and,~~ followed by support  
1010 services responsive to individual or family needs after  
1011 housing is obtained. By using this approach ~~when~~  
1012 ~~appropriate,~~ communities can significantly reduce the amount  
1013 of time that individuals and families are homeless and  
1014 prevent further episodes of homelessness. Housing First  
1015 emphasizes that social services provided to enhance  
1016 individual and family well-being can be more effective when  
1017 people are in their own home, and:

1018 1. The housing is not time-limited.

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1019 2. The housing is not contingent on compliance with  
1020 services. Instead, participants must comply with a standard  
1021 lease agreement. ~~And~~

1022 ~~3. A background check and any rehabilitation necessary to~~  
1023 ~~combat an addiction related to alcoholism or substance abuse~~  
1024 ~~has been completed by the individual for whom assistance or~~  
1025 ~~support services are provided.~~

1026 3. Households are provided with individualized the  
1027 services and support ~~that are~~ necessary to help them ~~do so~~  
1028 successfully maintain stable housing.

1029 (b) The Housing First approach addresses the societal  
1030 causes of homelessness and advocates for the immediate  
1031 return of individuals and families into housing and  
1032 communities. Housing First provides a critical link between  
1033 the emergency and transitional ~~housing~~ shelter system and  
1034 community-based social service, educational, and health care  
1035 organizations and consists of four components:

- 1036 1. Crisis intervention and short-term stabilization.
- 1037 2. Screening, intake, and needs assessment.
- 1038 3. Provision of housing resources.
- 1039 4. Provision of case management.

1040 History.—s. 4, ch. 2009-164.

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