

An act to amend Sections 18999.1 and 18999.4 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to public social services.

SECURED
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THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 18999.1 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

18999.1. (a) Subject to an appropriation of funds for this purpose in the annual Budget Act, the State Department of Social Services shall administer the Housing and Disability Income Advocacy Program to provide state funds to participating counties, tribes, or combinations of counties or tribes for the provision of outreach, case management, and advocacy services to individuals as described in Section 18999. Housing assistance shall also be offered to individuals described in subdivision (b) of Section 18999.2.

(b) Funds appropriated for this chapter shall be awarded to grantees by the department according to criteria developed by the department, in consultation with the County Welfare Directors Association of California, tribes, and advocates for clients, subject to the following restrictions:

(1) State funds appropriated for this chapter shall be used only for the purposes specified in this chapter.

(2) (A) Except as specified in subparagraph (B), a grantee shall match state funds received, including any funds from the annual ongoing appropriation of funds for this chapter, which is defined as a twenty-five million dollar (\$25,000,000) General Fund appropriation, on a dollar-for-dollar basis. The grantee's matching funds used for this purpose shall supplement, and not supplant, other funding for these purposes.

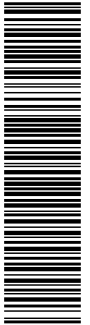
(B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), between July 1, 2021, and June 30, ~~2024~~, 2025, a grantee that receives state funds under this chapter shall not be required to match any funding for that period that comes from an appropriation that is in excess of the annual ongoing appropriation of funds for this chapter, as defined in subparagraph (A).

(3) A grantee shall, at a minimum, maintain a level of funding for the outreach, active case management, advocacy, and housing assistance services described in this chapter that is at least equal to the total of the amounts expended by the grantee for those services in the 2015–16 fiscal year.

(4) As part of its application to receive state funds under this chapter, a prospective grantee shall identify how it will collaborate locally among, at a minimum, the county departments and tribal entities, as may be appropriate, that are responsible for health, including behavioral health, and human or social services in carrying out the activities required by this chapter. This collaboration shall include, but is not limited to, the sharing of information among these departments or other entities as necessary to carry out the activities required by this chapter.

(c) For purposes of this chapter, "grantee" means a participating county, tribe, or combination of counties or tribes receiving state funds pursuant to this chapter.

(d) (1) Notwithstanding the rulemaking provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code), the department may implement and administer the changes made to this section by the act that added this subdivision by means of all-county letters or similar instructions from the department that shall have the same force and effect as regulations until regulations are adopted.



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(2) The department shall adopt regulations implementing ~~the changes specified in paragraph (1) of this chapter~~ no later than July 1, 2024.

SEC. 2. Section 18999.4 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

18999.4. (a) (1) Pursuant to Section 18999.1, a grantee shall offer housing assistance to individuals described in subdivision (b) of Section 18999.2 and shall use funds received under this program to establish or expand programs that provide housing assistance, including interim housing, recuperative care, rental subsidies, or, only when necessary, shelters, for clients receiving services under Section 18999.2 during the clients' application periods for disability benefits programs described in that section. The grantee shall make a reasonable effort to place a client who receives subsidies in housing that the client can sustain without a subsidy upon approval of disability benefits, or consider providing limited housing assistance until an alternative subsidy, affordable housing voucher, or other sustainable housing option is secured. Upon approval or denial of disability benefits, where needed, case management staff shall assist in developing a transition plan for housing support.

(2) A client's participation in housing assistance programs or services is voluntary.

(b) To the extent authorized under federal law, a grantee, with the assistance of the department, shall seek reimbursement of funds used for housing assistance, general assistance, or general relief from the federal Commissioner of Social Security pursuant to an interim assistance reimbursement agreement authorized by Section 1631(g) of the federal Social Security Act, and shall expend funds received as reimbursement for housing assistance only on additional housing assistance for clients receiving services under this chapter.

(c) The requirement to seek reimbursement of funds pursuant to subdivision (b) is waived through June 30, ~~2024~~. 2025.



LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

Bill No.
as introduced, _____.
General Subject: Housing and Disability Income Advocacy Program.

Existing law establishes the Housing and Disability Income Advocacy Program under the administration of the State Department of Social Services. Under the existing program, state funds are granted, subject to an appropriation in the annual Budget Act, to a participating county for the provision of outreach, case management, and advocacy services to assist clients who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless to obtain disability benefits. Existing law requires a grantee, with the assistance of the department, to seek reimbursement of funds used for housing assistance, general assistance, or general relief from the federal Commissioner of Social Security pursuant to an interim assistance reimbursement agreement, as specified. Existing law also requires a grantee that receives state funds to provide matching funds.

Existing law waives the requirement to seek reimbursement of funds through June 30, 2024, and exempts a grantee from the requirement to match certain funds between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2024.

Existing law allows any changes made to the procedure for matching funds put in place by prior legislation to be made by all-county letters or similar instructions from the department. Existing law requires the department to adopt regulations regarding those specific changes by July 1, 2024.

This bill would extend the reimbursement waiver and exemption for a grantee to match certain funds through June 30, 2025. The bill would require the department to adopt regulations for the Housing and Disability Income Advocacy Program as a whole by July 1, 2024.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

