

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 56th Legislature (2018)

3 SENATE BILL 1554

By: Pittman

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to homelessness; creating the
8 Homeless Housing Coordination and Planning Act;
9 providing short title; creating the Committee on
10 Homelessness and Poverty; stating purposes; providing
11 for certain block grant programs; allowing certain
12 distribution percentages; directing creation of
13 certain programs for certain purposes; providing
14 membership; providing for chair and vice chair;
15 authorizing appointment of additional members;
16 setting member terms; providing for vacancy and
17 reappointment; allowing travel reimbursement;
18 requiring certain cost-effectiveness in programs;
19 setting standards for programs; allowing funding for
20 certain treatment programs; directing certain needs
21 assessment by certain date; providing for technology
22 assessment; directing certain report by certain date;
23 authorizing certain grants; allowing recommendations
24 on grants; stating condition for receiving certain
grants; stating considerations for grants; stating
criteria for facility grant; providing for
codification; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 11000 of Title 74, unless there
is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Homeless
2 Housing Coordination and Planning Act".

3 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
4 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 11001 of Title 74, unless there
5 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

6 A. There is created within the Office of the Governor the
7 Committee on Homelessness and Poverty.

8 B. The Committee shall encourage, assist and strengthen
9 communities to reduce poverty, homelessness and improve the quality
10 of life for medium-income and low-income persons in this state by:

11 1. Coordinating state activities designed to reduce poverty and
12 homelessness;

13 2. Encouraging entities in the private sector to participate in
14 efforts to ameliorate poverty and homelessness in the community;

15 3. Cooperating with agencies of local, state and federal
16 government in reducing poverty, homelessness and implementing
17 community, social and economic programs;

18 4. Receiving and expending funds for the purposes outlined in
19 this act;

20 5. Entering into contracts with and awarding grants to public
21 and private nonprofit agencies and organizations for purposes of
22 this act;

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1 6. Developing a state plan based on needs identified by
2 community action agencies and community action statewide
3 organizations;

4 7. Designating community action agencies to receive funds
5 through a state-created block grant program;

6 8. Funding community action agencies and community action
7 statewide organizations through funds obtained for purposes of this
8 act;

9 9. Setting standards and rules to carry out the purposes of
10 this act;

11 10. Providing assistance to local governments or private
12 organizations for the purpose of establishing and operating a
13 community action agency consistent with the purposes of this act;

14 11. Providing technical assistance to community action agencies
15 to improve program planning, program development, administration and
16 the mobilization of public and private resources consistent with the
17 goals of this state;

18 12. Convening public meetings that provide citizens the
19 opportunity to comment on public policies and programs to reduce
20 poverty and homelessness;

21 13. Serving as advisor to the Governor and Legislature of the
22 nature and extent of poverty and homelessness in the state and
23 making recommendations concerning changes in state and federal
24 policies and programs;

1 14. Encouraging nonprofit humanitarian assistance agencies
2 serving low-income persons by facilitating, coordinating, training
3 and providing technical assistance to address the needs of homeless
4 and low-income persons by enhancing management, improving service
5 and program delivery, facilitating partnerships and preserving
6 flexibility and local initiative;

7 15. Developing and implementing management goals that fulfill
8 the state-created block grant's mission and requirements and meets
9 any mandates of federal legislation;

10 16. Preparing a state block grant plan that contains provisions
11 describing how the state will fund and carry out the assurances of
12 this act through a state-created block grant program;

13 17. Acting as the state advisor responsible for the evaluation
14 and improvement of emergency food assistance services and housing in
15 the state;

16 18. Monitoring the impact of social policies on the emergency
17 food network and low-income housing networks;

18 19. Providing training and technical assistance to grantees to
19 assist their:

- 20 a program development and implementation,
- 21 b. compliance with state and federal regulations, and
- 22 c. reporting and management information systems;

23 20. Making block grant distributions authorized from state-
24 created block grant programs; and

1 21. Administering other programs to alleviate poverty and
2 homelessness that are assigned to the Committee.

3 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
4 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 11002 of Title 74, unless there
5 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

6 Any state-created block grant program under the authority of the
7 Committee on Homelessness and Poverty shall require funds to be
8 distributed as follows:

9 1. Ninety percent (90%) to community action agencies;

10 2. Five percent (5%) to:

11 a. organizations with a statewide focus to accomplish
12 specific objectives that complement the community
13 services block grant poverty programs,

14 b. provide training and technical assistance for grantees
15 of community services block grant funds, or

16 c. supplement anti-poverty or anti-homeless projects; and

17 3. Five percent (5%) to reimburse costs incurred by the
18 Committee in administration of this act.

19 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
20 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 11003 of Title 74, unless there
21 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

22 The Committee on Homelessness and Poverty shall develop specific
23 programs and goals, consistent with the creation of block grant
24 programs, designed to provide the most effective solutions to the

1 problems of poverty and homelessness identified in individual
2 communities throughout the state within the constraints of available
3 funding, including projects related to:

- 4 1. Employment;
- 5 2. Education;
- 6 3. Income management;
- 7 4. Housing;
- 8 5. Emergency assistance;
- 9 6. Nutrition;
- 10 7. Linkages and coordination with other programs;
- 11 8. Health; and
- 12 9. Self-sufficiency.

13 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
14 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 11004 of Title 74, unless there
15 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

16 A. The Committee on Homelessness and Poverty shall consist of
17 the following members:

- 18 1. The Lieutenant Governor or the Lieutenant Governor's
19 designee;
- 20 2. The Director of the Department of Mental Health and
21 Substance Abuse Services or the Director's designee;
- 22 3. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction or the
23 Superintendent's designee;

- 1 4. The Chair of the Oklahoma Statewide Independent Living
2 Council, or the Chair's designee;
- 3 5. The Chair of the Governor's Council on Workforce and
4 Economic Development or the Chair's designee;
- 5 6. The Director of the Department of Corrections or the
6 Director's designee;
- 7 7. The Director of the State Department of Health or the
8 Director's designee;
- 9 8. The Director of the Department of Human Services or the
10 Director's designee;
- 11 9. The Director of the Oklahoma Housing and Finance Authority,
12 or the Director's designee;
- 13 10. The Mayor of the City of Tulsa; and
- 14 11. The Mayor of the City of Oklahoma City.
- 15 B. 1. The Lieutenant Governor shall serve as the Chair of the
16 Committee.
- 17 2. The Lieutenant Governor may appoint a vice chair from among
18 Committee members, who shall conduct Committee meetings in the
19 absence of the Lieutenant Governor.
- 20 C. The Governor may appoint as additional members of the
21 Committee:
- 22 1. Representatives of local governments, local housing
23 authorities and local law enforcement agencies;
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1 2. Representatives of federal and private agencies and
2 organizations concerned with the homeless, persons with a mental
3 illness, the elderly, single-parent families, persons with a
4 substance use disorder and persons with a disability; and

5 3. Not more than five residents of rural counties.

6 D. Terms of Governor-appointed Committee members shall be a
7 staggered term of three (3) years. Other members shall serve in
8 conjunction with their relative agency position or elected office.

9 E. When a vacancy occurs in the membership for any reason, the
10 replacement is appointed for the unexpired term. Governor-appointed
11 members may be reappointed to one additional term upon expiration of
12 the initial term.

13 F. A member may not receive compensation or benefits for the
14 member's service, but may receive per diem and travel expenses in
15 accordance with the State Travel and Reimbursement Act.

16 SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
17 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 11005 of Title 74, unless there
18 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

19 A. The Committee on Homelessness and Poverty shall work to
20 ensure that services provided to the homeless by state agencies,
21 local governments and private organizations are provided in a cost-
22 effective manner.

23 B. Programs funded by the Committee shall emphasize emergency
24 housing and self-sufficiency, including placement in meaningful

1 employment or occupational training activities and, where needed,
2 special services to meet the unique needs of the homeless who:

- 3 1. Have families with children;
- 4 2. Have a disability or a mental illness; or
- 5 3. Suffer from other serious challenges to employment and self-
6 sufficiency.

7 C. The Committee may also fund treatment programs, in part or
8 in full, to ameliorate the effects of substance abuse or a
9 disability.

10 D. Before November 1, 2019, the Committee shall conduct a needs
11 assessment or contract with another state agency or private entity
12 to conduct a needs assessment that:

- 13 1. Identifies desired statewide outcomes related to minimizing
14 homelessness;
- 15 2. Reviews technology used for data gathering by state, county
16 and local governments and private organizations for reporting
17 information about, and providing service to, homeless individuals in
18 the state, including an evaluation of:
 - 19 a. the functionality of existing databases,
 - 20 b. the ability to expand and tailor existing databases to
21 better serve the needs of homeless individuals, and
 - 22 c. the ability of the technology to ensure proper privacy
23 restrictions and sharing between reporting entities,
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1 including those addressing domestic violence, as
2 allowed by federal privacy regulations;

3 3. Identifies gaps between the data available and the data
4 needed to implement best practices in minimizing homelessness and
5 achieve the outcomes identified in this act;

6 4. Evaluates the technical capacity of existing databases and
7 information technology systems used to gather and report data
8 related to homelessness and identifies improvements needed to better
9 serve the homeless population and meet the needs of all
10 stakeholders;

11 5. Identifies opportunities to align data gathering and
12 reporting related to homelessness with state efforts to reduce
13 intergenerational poverty, incarceration and recidivism rates; and

14 6. Makes recommendations regarding the needed improvements and
15 outlines steps for implementing the recommendations.

16 E. Before January 1, 2020, the committee shall report to the
17 Governor, President Pro Tempore of the Senate and Speaker of the
18 House of Representatives the findings and recommendations of the
19 needs assessment on homelessness in a written report.

20 SECTION 7. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
21 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 11006 of Title 74, unless there
22 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

23 A. Upon the establishment of state-created block grant programs
24 and collection of sufficient funds, the Committee on Homelessness

1 and Poverty may award ongoing or one-time grants or contracts funded
2 from such funds.

3 B. Before final approval of a grant or contract awarded under
4 this section, the Committee may provide written information
5 regarding the grant or contract to, and shall consider the
6 recommendations of, the state agency most impacted by the award or
7 contract. No state agency shall control the Committee's grant funds
8 or awards made by the Committee.

9 C. As a condition of receiving money, including any ongoing
10 money, from the Committee, an entity awarded a grant or contract
11 under this section shall provide detailed and accurate reporting on
12 at least an annual basis to the Committee that describes:

13 1. How money provided from the Committee has been spent by the
14 entity; and

15 2. The progress towards measurable outcome-based benchmarks
16 agreed to between the entity and the Committee before the awarding
17 of the grant or contract.

18 D. In determining the awarding of a grant or contract under
19 this section, the Committee shall:

20 1. Ensure that the services to be provided through the grant or
21 contract will be provided in a cost-effective manner;

22 2. Consider the advice of the state agency impacted by the
23 award or contract;

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1 3. Give priority to a project or contract that will include
2 significant additional or matching funds from a private
3 organization, nonprofit organization or local government entity;

4 4. Ensure that the project or contract will target the distinct
5 housing needs of one or more at-risk or homeless subpopulations,
6 which may include:

- 7 a. families with children,
- 8 b. transitional-aged youth,
- 9 c. single men or single women,
- 10 d. veterans,
- 11 e. victims of domestic violence,
- 12 f. individuals with behavioral health disorders,
13 including mental health or substance use disorders,
- 14 g. individuals who are medically frail or terminally ill,
- 15 h. individuals exiting prison or jail, or
- 16 i. individuals who are homeless without shelter; and

17 5. Consider whether the project will address one or more of the
18 following goals:

- 19 a. diverting homeless or imminently homeless individuals
20 and families from emergency shelters by providing
21 better housing-based solutions,
- 22 b. meeting the basic needs of homeless individuals and
23 families in crisis,

- c. providing homeless individuals and families with needed stabilization services,
- d. decreasing the state's homeless rate,
- e. implementing a coordinated entry system with consistent assessment tools to provide appropriate and timely access to services for homeless individuals and families,
- f. providing access to caseworkers or other individualized support for homeless individuals and families,
- g. encouraging employment and increased financial stability for individuals and families being diverted from or exiting homelessness,
- h. creating additional affordable housing for state residents,
- i. providing services and support to prevent homelessness among at-risk individuals and adults,
- j. providing services and support to prevent homelessness among at-risk children, adolescents and young adults, and
- k. preventing the reoccurrence of homelessness among individuals and families exiting homelessness.

E. In addition to the other provisions of this section, in determining the awarding of a grant or contract under this section

1 to design, build, create or renovate a facility that will provide
2 shelter or other resources for the homeless, the Committee may
3 consider whether the facility will be:

- 4 1. Located near mass transit services;
- 5 2. Located in an area that meets or will meet all zoning
6 regulations before a final dispersal of funds;
- 7 3. Safe and welcoming both for individuals using the facility
8 and for members of the surrounding community; and
- 9 4. Located in an area with access to employment, job training
10 and positive activities.

11 SECTION 8. This act shall become effective November 1, 2018.

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