

An act to amend Sections 18999, 18999.1, 18999.2, 18999.4, and 18999.6 of, and to add Section 18999.05 to, the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to public social services.

SECURED
COPY



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

SECTION 1. Section 18999 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

18999. In enacting this chapter, it is the intent of the Legislature to ~~establish, for the 2016–17 fiscal year, the Housing and Disability Income Advocacy Program under which counties assist homeless Californians with disabilities~~ establish the Housing and Disability Income Advocacy Program under which counties, tribes, or partnering counties or tribes assist Californians with disabilities who may be experiencing homelessness, to increase participation among individuals who may be eligible for disability benefits programs, ~~including~~ including, but not limited to, the Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Program for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled (SSI/SSP), the federal Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program, the Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants, and veterans benefits provided under federal law, including disability compensation.

SEC. 2. Section 18999.05 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

18999.05. For purposes of this chapter, “grantee” means a participating county, tribe, or partnering counties or tribes that receive state funds pursuant to this chapter.

SEC. 3. 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 matching grant funds to ~~participating counties for the provision of outreach, case management, and advocacy services and housing assistance to individuals in need.~~ grantees for the provision of any of the following services:

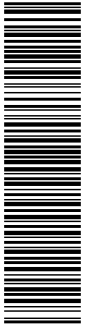
- (1) Outreach.
- (2) Case management.
- (3) Advocacy services.
- (4) Housing assistance to individuals in need.

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

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

(2) ~~A county~~ A grantee that receives state funds under this chapter shall match that funding on a dollar-for-dollar basis. ~~The county grantee's~~ The grantee's matching funds used for this purpose shall supplement, and not supplant, ~~other county~~ funding for these purposes.

(3) ~~A county receiving state funds pursuant to this chapter~~ A grantee shall, at a minimum, maintain a level of county 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 ~~county~~ grantee for those services in the 2015–16 fiscal year.



(4) As part of its application to receive state funds under this chapter, a ~~county~~ 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.

SEC. 4. Section 18999.2 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

18999.2. (a) (1) ~~A participating county~~ A grantee shall provide, or contract for, outreach, active case management, and advocacy services related to all of the following programs, as appropriate:

(A) The Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Program for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled (SSI/SSP).

(B) The federal Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program.

(C) The Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants.

(D) Veterans benefits provided under federal law, including, but not limited to, disability compensation.

(E) Any disability benefits that are not identified in subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, that an individual may be eligible to receive.

(2) The outreach and case management services required by this subdivision shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

(A) Receiving referrals.

(B) Conducting outreach, training, and technical assistance.

(C) Providing assessment and screening.

(D) Coordinating record retrieval and other necessary means of documenting disability.

(E) Coordinating the provision of health care, including behavioral health care, for clients, as appropriate.

(3) The advocacy services required by this subdivision, which may be provided though legal representation, shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(A) Developing and filing competently prepared benefit applications, appeals, reconsiderations, reinstatements, and recertifications.

(B) Coordinating with federal and state offices regarding pending benefit applications, appeals, reconsiderations, reinstatements, and recertifications and advocating on behalf of the client.

(b) ~~A participating county~~ A grantee shall use screening tools to identify populations of individuals who are likely to be eligible for the programs listed in subdivision (a), in accordance with the following:

(1) The county ~~The grantee~~ shall give highest priority to ~~individuals who are chronically homeless or who rely the most heavily on state- and county-funded services.~~ either individuals who are chronically homeless or individuals who are homeless and rely most heavily on government-funded services.

(2) Other populations to be targeted by the program include, but are not limited to, the following:

(A) General assistance or general relief applicants or recipients with disabilities and who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.



~~(B) Parents who receive CalWORKs assistance or whose children receive assistance or children who are recipients of CalWORKs in families that are homeless or at risk of homelessness.~~

(B) Parents who receive CalWORKs or tribal Temporary Aid to Needy Families (tribal TANF) assistance, parents whose children receive CalWORKs or tribal TANF assistance, or children who are recipients of CalWORKs or tribal TANF assistance in families that are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

(C) Low-income individuals with disabilities who can be diverted from, or who are being discharged from, jails or prisons and who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

(D) Low-income veterans with disabilities who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

(E) Low-income individuals with disabilities who are being discharged from hospitals, long-term care facilities, or rehabilitation facilities and who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

~~(c) (1) As appropriate, a participating county~~ A grantee, as may be appropriate, may refer an individual to workforce development programs who is not likely to be eligible for the programs listed in subdivision (a) and who may benefit from workforce development programs.

~~(2) In consultation with an individual who has been served by the Housing and Disability Income Advocacy Program and considering the circumstances of his or her disabilities, a participating county~~ the individual's disabilities, a grantee may, upon approval or final denial of disability benefits, refer an individual who may benefit from workforce development programs to those programs.

(3) An individual's participation in a workforce development program pursuant to this subdivision is voluntary.

SEC. 5. Section 18999.4 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

18999.4. (a) (1) ~~A participating county~~ A grantee 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 county shall place grantee shall consider placing~~ a client who receives subsidies in housing that the client can sustain without a subsidy upon approval of disability benefits. If the client is not approved for disability benefits, case management staff shall assist in developing a transition plan for housing support through other available resources.

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

~~(b) A county,~~ 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. ~~A county Act,~~ and shall expend funds received as reimbursement for housing assistance only on additional housing assistance for clients receiving services under this chapter.



SEC. 6. Section 18999.6 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

18999.6. (a) ~~Each participating county shall annually report to the department regarding A grantee shall report annually to the department on its funding of advocacy and outreach programs in the prior year, as well as the year and its use of state funding provided under this chapter, including all of the following:~~

(1) The number of clients served in each of the targeted populations described in subdivision (b) of Section 18999.2 and any other populations the county grantee chose to target.

(2) The demographics of the clients served, including race or ethnicity, age, and gender.

(3) The number of applications for benefits, and type of benefits, filed with the assistance of the county grantee.

(4) The number of applications approved initially, the number approved after reconsideration, the number approved after appeal, and the number not approved, including the ~~time to benefits establishment.~~ processing time from receipt of the application to the initial issuance of benefits.

(5) For applications that were denied, the reason or reasons for denial.

(6) The number of clients who received subsidized housing during the period that their applications were pending and a description of how that impacted the clients and the rates of completed applications or approval.

(7) The number of clients who received subsidized housing who maintained that housing during the ~~SSI disability benefits~~ application period.

(8) The percentage of individuals approved for ~~SSI disability benefits~~ who retain permanent housing 6, 12, and 24 months after ~~benefits approval.~~ the issuance of initial benefits.

(9) The amount and percentage of ~~rental subsidy costs and of general assistance or general relief costs recovered through interim assistance reimbursement~~ reimbursements recovered for individuals approved for benefits.

(10) The number of individuals eligible to be served by this program but who have not yet received services.

(11) Any additional data requirements established by the department after consultation with the County Welfare Directors Association of ~~California~~ California, tribes, and advocates for clients.

(b) The department shall periodically inform the Legislature of the implementation progress of the program and make related data available on its ~~Internet Web site.~~ internet website. The department shall also ~~report to the Legislature by October 1, 2018,~~ report, by October 1, 2019, to the Legislature, in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government Code, regarding the implementation of the program, including the information reported by participating ~~counties~~ grantees pursuant to this section.

(c) Notwithstanding the rulemaking provisions of the Administrative Procedures 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, interpret, or make specific this chapter through all-county ~~letters~~ letters, or similar written directives, without taking any regulatory action.



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, subject to an appropriation of funds in the annual Budget Act. Under the program, state grant funds are provided to a participating county for the provision of various services, including advocacy services and housing assistance to assist clients who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless to obtain disability benefits. Existing law requires a participating county to provide housing assistance to these clients during their application periods for disability benefits programs, and to place a client who receives subsidies in housing that the client can sustain without a subsidy upon approval of disability benefits. Existing law requires the department to report to the Legislature by October 1, 2018, regarding the implementation of the program, and authorizes the department to implement these provisions through all-county letters.

This bill would additionally make tribes and partnering counties and tribes eligible for funding under the program as grantees. The bill would require grantees to use the funding for the provision of certain services, including housing assistance, and to consider placing a client who receives subsidies in housing that the client can sustain without a subsidy upon approval of disability benefits. The bill would extend the above-specified reporting requirement until October 1, 2019, and would also make technical and conforming changes to these provisions.

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

