
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE RAPID RE-HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to statutorily
2 establish the rapid re-housing assistance program.

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended by adding a new section to part XVII to be appropriately
5 designated and to read as follows:

6 "§346-A Rapid re-housing assistance program. (a) Subject
7 to the availability of legislative appropriations, federal
8 grants, or both, the department shall establish and operate a
9 rapid re-housing assistance program.

10 The purpose of the program shall be to help homeless
11 families or individuals move as quickly as possible into
12 permanent housing and achieve stability in that housing.

13 (b) The rapid re-housing assistance program shall be
14 designed and operated by the department to qualify for federal
15 emergency shelter grants; provided that this provision shall not
16 be construed as prohibiting the use of other federal grants for
17 the program if allowable under federal law and regulations.



1 (c) As part of the rapid re-housing assistance program,
2 the department may provide housing relocation and stabilization
3 services and short- and medium-term rental assistance.

4 (d) The authority shall include information and data about
5 the rapid re-housing assistance program in its annual reports
6 required under section 356D-20.

7 (e) As used in this section:

8 "Housing relocation and stabilization services" includes
9 the following:

10 (1) Financial assistance, including payment to housing
11 owners, utility companies, or other third parties on
12 behalf of homeless families or individuals, for the
13 following costs:

14 (A) Rental application fees;

15 (B) Security deposits;

16 (C) Last month's rent;

17 (D) Utility deposits;

18 (E) Utility payments; and

19 (F) Moving costs;

20 (2) Providing or making payment for the following
21 services:



- 1 (A) Housing search and placement to help homeless
2 families or individuals locate, obtain, and
3 retain suitable permanent housing;
- 4 (B) Housing stability case management to:
 - 5 (i) Help homeless families or individuals
6 overcome immediate barriers to obtaining
7 permanent housing; or
 - 8 (ii) Facilitate housing stability for homeless
9 families or individuals who currently reside
10 in permanent housing;
- 11 (C) Mediation between homeless families or
12 individuals and other persons to prevent the
13 families or individuals from losing permanent
14 housing in which they currently reside;
- 15 (D) Legal services to:
 - 16 (i) Help homeless families or individuals obtain
17 permanent housing; or
 - 18 (ii) Prevent homeless families or individuals
19 from losing permanent housing in which they
20 currently reside; and



1 (E) Credit counseling and services to help homeless
2 families or individuals acquire skills needed for
3 household budgeting, managing money, accessing
4 free personal credit reports, and resolving
5 credit problems.

6 "Short- and medium-term rental assistance" includes the
7 following:

8 (1) Short-term rental assistance, under which rental
9 payments on behalf of homeless families or individuals
10 are made for a maximum of three months;

11 (2) Medium-term rental assistance, under which rental
12 payments on behalf of homeless families or individuals
13 are made for at least three, but not more than twenty-
14 four months; and

15 (3) Rental arrears payment consisting of a one-time
16 payment on behalf of homeless families or individuals
17 for up to six months of rent in arrears, including any
18 late fees on the arrears.

19 (f) The department may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91
20 to implement the rapid re-housing assistance program. The rules
21 may clarify the types of services and assistance that may be



1 provided as housing relocation and stabilization services or
2 short- and medium-term rental assistance; provided that the
3 rules shall not be inconsistent with applicable federal laws and
4 regulations."

5 SECTION 3. Section 346-361, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
6 amended by amending the definition of "homeless" to read as
7 follows:

8 "Homeless" or "homeless families or individuals" means:

9 (1) An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular,
10 and adequate night-time residence; [~~or~~]

11 (2) An individual or family who has a primary night-time
12 residence that is:

13 (A) A supervised publicly or privately operated
14 shelter designed to provide temporary living
15 accommodations;

16 (B) An institution that provides temporary residence
17 for individuals intended to be institutionalized;
18 or

19 (C) A public or private place not designed for or
20 ordinarily used as sleeping accommodations for
21 human beings [-]; or



1 (3) An individual or family who currently resides in
2 permanent housing as participants in the rapid re-
3 housing assistance program, but who was formerly
4 homeless.

5 This term does not include any individual imprisoned or
6 otherwise detained under an act of Congress or a state law."

7 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the
10 establishment and operation of the rapid re-housing assistance
11 program, including the employment of full-time equivalent
12 (FTE) program specialists for the program.

13 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
14 human services for the purposes of this Act; provided that the
15 department of human services shall commence planning the rapid
16 re-housing assistance program upon the effective date of this
17 section to ensure that the program may be implemented beginning
18 January 1, 2017.

19 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
20 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2017;
2 provided that section 4 shall take effect on July 1, 2016.
3



Report Title:

Rapid Re-Housing Assistance Program; Appropriation

Description:

Requires DHS to establish a rapid re-housing assistance program to move homeless families or individuals into permanent housing as quickly as possible and achieve stability in that housing. Requires the program to be designed and operated to qualify for federal emergency shelter grants. Expands definition of "homeless" as applied to DHS' homeless programs. Appropriates general funds for fiscal year 2016-17. Effective 1/1/2017.
(SD1)

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