ARTICLE 18

PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 145.4716, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 4. Funding. The commissioner must prioritize providing trauma-informed, culturally inclusive services for sexually exploited youth or youth at risk of sexual exploitation under this section.

Subd. 5. Support services. The commissioner must prioritize providing trauma-informed, culturally inclusive services for sexually exploited youth or youth at risk of sexual exploitation under this section.

Subd. 6. Establishment and administration. A transitional housing program is established to be administered by the commissioner. The commissioner may make grants to eligible recipients or enter into agreements with community action agencies or other advocacy, child care, employment, financial, health care, or information and referral services to meet these needs.

Subd. 7. Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 256E.33, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. Establishment and administration. A transitional housing program is established to be administered by the commissioner. The commissioner may make grants to eligible recipients or enter into agreements with community action agencies or other advocacy, child care, employment, financial, health care, or information and referral services to meet these needs.

Subd. 3. Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 256E.33, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subd. 1. Definitions. (a) The definitions in this subdivision apply to this section.

(b) "Transitional housing" means housing designed for independent living and provided to a homeless person or family at a rental rate of at least 25 percent of the family income for a period of up to 36 months. If a transitional housing program is associated with a licensed facility or shelter, it must be located in a separate facility or a specified section of the main facility where residents can be responsible for their own meals and other daily needs.

(c) "Support services" means an assessment service that identifies the needs of individuals for independent living and arranges or provides for the appropriate educational, social, legal, advocacy, child care, employment, financial, health care, or information and referral services to meet these needs.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 256E.33, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subd. 1. Definitions. (a) The definitions in this subdivision apply to this section.

(b) "Transitional housing" means housing designed for independent living and provided to a homeless person or family at a rental rate of at least 25 percent of the family income for a period of up to 36 months. If a transitional housing program is associated with a licensed facility or shelter, it must be located in a separate facility or a specified section of the main facility where residents can be responsible for their own meals and other daily needs.

(c) "Support services" means an assessment service that identifies the needs of individuals for independent living and arranges or provides for the appropriate educational, social, legal, advocacy, child care, employment, financial, health care, or information and referral services to meet these needs.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 256E.33, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. Establishment and administration. A transitional housing program is established to be administered by the commissioner. The commissioner may make grants to eligible recipients or enter into agreements with community action agencies or other advocacy, child care, employment, financial, health care, or information and referral services to meet these needs.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 145.4716, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 1. Definitions. (a) The definitions in this subdivision apply to this section.

(b) "Transitional housing" means housing designed for independent living and provided to a homeless person or family at a rental rate of at least 25 percent of the family income for a period of up to 36 months. If a transitional housing program is associated with a licensed facility or shelter, it must be located in a separate facility or a specified section of the main facility where residents can be responsible for their own meals and other daily needs.

(c) "Support services" means an assessment service that identifies the needs of individuals for independent living and arranges or provides for the appropriate educational, social, legal, advocacy, child care, employment, financial, health care, or information and referral services to meet these needs.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 256E.33, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subd. 1. Definitions. (a) The definitions in this subdivision apply to this section.

(b) "Transitional housing" means housing designed for independent living and provided to a homeless person or family at a rental rate of at least 25 percent of the family income for a period of up to 36 months. If a transitional housing program is associated with a licensed facility or shelter, it must be located in a separate facility or a specified section of the main facility where residents can be responsible for their own meals and other daily needs.

(c) "Support services" means an assessment service that identifies the needs of individuals for independent living and arranges or provides for the appropriate educational, social, legal, advocacy, child care, employment, financial, health care, or information and referral services to meet these needs.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 256E.33, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. Establishment and administration. A transitional housing program is established to be administered by the commissioner. The commissioner may make grants to eligible recipients or enter into agreements with community action agencies or other advocacy, child care, employment, financial, health care, or information and referral services to meet these needs.
The commissioner may extend use up to ten percent of the appropriation available for this program for persons needing assistance longer than 24 months.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 256I.03, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

Subd. 7. Countable income. "Countable income" means all income received by an applicant or recipient as described under section 256P.06, less any applicable exclusions or disregards. For a recipient of any cash benefit from the SSI program who does not live in a setting as described in section 256I.04, subdivision 2a, paragraph (b), clause (2), countable income means the SSI benefit limit in effect at the time the person is a recipient of housing support, less the medical assistance personal needs allowance under section 256B.35. If the SSI limit or benefit is reduced for a person due to events other than receipt of additional income, countable income means actual income less any applicable exclusions and disregards.

If there is a reduction in a housing support recipient's benefit due to circumstances other than receipt of additional income, applicable exclusions and disregards apply when determining countable income. For a recipient of any cash benefit from the RSDI program, SSI program, or veterans' programs who lives in a setting as described in section 256I.04, subdivision 2a, paragraph (b), clause (3), countable income means 30 percent of the recipient's total benefit amount from these programs, after applicable exclusions or disregards. At the time the person is a recipient of housing support, for these recipients, the medical assistance personal needs allowance, as described in section 256I.04, subdivision 1, paragraph (a), clause (3), does not apply.

Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 256K.45, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 7. Awarding of grants. (a) Grants shall be awarded under this section only after a review of the grant recipient's application materials, including past performance and utilization of grant money. The commissioner shall not reduce an existing grant award amount unless the commissioner first determines that the grant recipient has failed to meet performance measures or has used grant money improperly.
(b) For grants awarded pursuant to a two-year grant contract, the commissioner shall permit grant recipients to carry over any unexpended amount from the first contract year to the second contract year.

Subd. 7. Report. (a) No later than February 1, 2022, the task force shall submit an initial report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the house of representatives and senate committees and divisions with jurisdiction over housing and preventing homelessness on its findings and recommendations.

(b) No later than December 15, 2022, the task force shall submit a final report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the house of representatives and senate committees and divisions with jurisdiction over housing and preventing homelessness on its findings and recommendations.

Sec. 7. PREGNANT AND PARENTING HOMELESS YOUTH STUDY.

(a) The commissioner of human services must conduct a study of the prevalence of pregnancy and parenting among homeless youth and youth who are at risk of homelessness.

(b) The commissioner shall submit a final report by December 31, 2023, to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over human services finance and policy.

Sec. 8. SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND TRAFFICKING STUDY.

(a) The commissioner of health must conduct a prevalence study on youth and adult victim survivors of sexual exploitation and trafficking.

(b) The commissioner shall submit a final report by June 30, 2024, to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over human services finance and policy.

(g) For grants awarded pursuant to a two-year grant contract, the commissioner shall permit grant recipients to carry over any unexpended amount from the first contract year to the second contract year.

Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 256K.45, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 8. Provider repair or improvement grants. (a) Providers that serve homeless youth under this section may apply for a grant of up to $100,000 under this subdivision to make minor or mechanical repairs or improvements to a facility providing services to homeless youth or youth at risk of homelessness:

(b) Grant applications under this subdivision must include a description of the repairs or improvements and the estimated cost of the repairs or improvements:

(c) Grantees under this subdivision cannot receive grant funds under this subdivision for two consecutive years:

Subd. 7. Report. (a) No later than February 1, 2022, the task force shall submit an initial report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the house of representatives and senate committees and divisions with jurisdiction over housing and preventing homelessness on its findings and recommendations.

(b) No later than December 15, 2022, the task force shall submit a final report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the house of representatives and senate committees and divisions with jurisdiction over housing and preventing homelessness on its findings and recommendations.

(a) The commissioner of health must conduct a prevalence study on youth and adult victim survivors of sexual exploitation and trafficking.

(b) The commissioner shall submit a final report by June 30, 2024, to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over human services finance and policy.
Sec. 9. EMERGENCY SHELTER FACILITIES.

Subdivision 1. Definitions. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the meanings given:

(b) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of human services.

(c) "Eligible applicant" means a statutory or home rule charter city, county, Tribal government, not-for-profit corporation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or housing and redevelopment authority established under Minnesota Statutes, section 469.003.

(d) "Emergency shelter facility" or "facility" means a facility that provides a safe, sanitary, accessible, and suitable emergency shelter for individuals and families experiencing homelessness, regardless of whether the facility provides emergency shelter during the day, overnight, or both.

Subd. 2. Project criteria. (a) The commissioner shall prioritize grants under this section for projects that improve or expand emergency shelter facility options by:

(1) adding additional emergency shelter facilities by renovating existing facilities not currently operating as emergency shelter facilities;

(2) adding additional emergency shelter facility beds by renovating existing emergency shelter facilities, including major projects that address an accumulation of deferred maintenance or repair or replacement of mechanical, electrical, and safety systems and components in danger of failure;

(3) adding additional emergency shelter facility beds through acquisition and construction of new emergency shelter facilities; and

(4) improving the safety, sanitation, accessibility, and habitability of existing emergency shelter facilities, including major projects that address an accumulation of deferred maintenance or repair or replacement of mechanical, electrical, and safety systems and components in danger of failure.

(b) A grant under this section may be used to pay for 100 percent of total project capital expenditures, or a specified project phase, up to $10,000,000 per project.

(c) All projects funded with a grant under this section must meet all applicable state and local building codes at the time of project completion.

(d) The commissioner must use a competitive request for proposal process to identify potential projects and eligible applicants on a statewide basis.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2022.