

ESHB 1866 - S COMM AMD  
By Committee on Ways & Means

ADOPTED AS AMENDED 03/03/2022

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

4 (a) The epidemic of homelessness apparent in communities  
5 throughout Washington is creating immense suffering. It is  
6 threatening the health of homeless families and individuals, sapping  
7 their human potential, eroding public confidence, and undermining the  
8 shared values that have driven our state's prosperity, including  
9 public safety and access to public streets, parks, and facilities;

10 (b) In seeking to identify the causes of this epidemic, a large  
11 proportion of those unsheltered also suffer from serious behavioral  
12 health or physical health conditions that will inevitably grow worse  
13 without timely and effective health care;

14 (c) Housing is an indispensable element of effective health care.  
15 Stable housing is a prerequisite to addressing behavioral health  
16 needs and lack of housing is a precursor to poor health outcomes;

17 (d) A home, health care, and wellness are fundamental for  
18 Washington residents;

19 (e) Reducing homelessness is a priority of the people of  
20 Washington state and that reducing homelessness through policy  
21 alignment and reform lessens fiscal impact to the state and improves  
22 the economic vitality of our businesses;

23 (f) The impact of this epidemic is falling most heavily on those  
24 communities that already suffer the most serious health disparities:  
25 Black, indigenous, people of color, and historically marginalized and  
26 underserved communities. It is a moral imperative to shelter  
27 chronically homeless populations; and

28 (g) Washington state has many of the tools needed to address this  
29 challenge, including a network of safety net health and behavioral  
30 health care providers in both urban and rural areas, an effective  
31 system of health care coverage through apple health, and excellent  
32 public and nonprofit affordable housing providers. Yet far too many

1 homeless families and individuals are going without the housing and  
2 health care resources they need because these tools have yet to be  
3 combined in an effective way across the state.

4 (2) It is the intent of the legislature to treat chronic  
5 homelessness as a medical condition and that the apple health and  
6 homes act address the needs of chronically homeless populations by  
7 pairing a health care problem with a health care solution.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09  
9 RCW to read as follows:

10 The definitions in this section apply throughout sections 3 and 4  
11 of this act unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

12 (1) "Community support services" means active search and  
13 promotion of access to, and choice of, appropriate, safe, and  
14 affordable housing and ongoing supports to assure ongoing successful  
15 tenancy. The term includes, but is not limited to, services to  
16 medical assistance clients who are homeless or at risk of becoming  
17 homeless through outreach, engagement, and coordination of services  
18 with shelter and housing. The term includes benefits offered through  
19 the foundational community supports program established pursuant to  
20 the authority's federal waiver, entitled "medicaid transformation  
21 project," as amended and reauthorized.

22 (2) "Community support services provider" means a local entity  
23 that contracts with a coordinating entity to provide community  
24 support services. A community support services provider may also  
25 separately perform the functions of a housing provider.

26 (3) "Coordinating entity" means one or more organizations,  
27 including medicaid managed care organizations, under contract with  
28 the authority to coordinate community support services as required  
29 under sections 3 and 4 of this act. There may only be one  
30 coordinating entity per regional service area.

31 (4) "Department" means the department of commerce.

32 (5) "Homeless person" has the same meaning as in RCW 43.185C.010.

33 (6) "Housing provider" means a public or private organization  
34 that supplies permanent supportive housing units consistent with RCW  
35 36.70A.030 to meet the housing needs of homeless persons. A housing  
36 provider may supply permanent supportive housing in a site-based or  
37 scattered site arrangement using a variety of public, private,  
38 philanthropic, or tenant-based sources of funds to cover operating

1 costs or rent. A housing provider may also perform the functions of a  
2 community support services provider.

3 (7) "Office" means the office of apple health and homes created  
4 in section 5 of this act.

5 (8) "Program" means the apple health and homes program  
6 established in section 3 of this act.

7 (9) "Permanent supportive housing" has the same meaning as in RCW  
8 36.70A.030.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09  
10 RCW to read as follows:

11 (1) Effective November 1, 2022, the apple health and homes  
12 program is established to provide a permanent supportive housing  
13 benefit and a community support services benefit through a network of  
14 community support services providers for persons assessed with  
15 specific health needs and risk factors.

16 (a) The program shall operate through the collaboration of the  
17 department, the authority, the department of social and health  
18 services, local governments, the coordinating entity or entities,  
19 community support services providers, local housing providers, local  
20 health care entities, and community-based organizations in contact  
21 with potentially eligible individuals, to assure seamless integration  
22 of community support services, stable housing, and health care  
23 services.

24 (b) The entities operating the program shall coordinate  
25 resources, technical assistance, and capacity building efforts to  
26 help match eligible individuals with community support services,  
27 health care, including behavioral health care and long-term care  
28 services, and stable housing.

29 (2) To be eligible for community support services and permanent  
30 supportive housing under subsection (3) of this section, a person  
31 must:

32 (a) Be 18 years of age or older;

33 (b)(i) Be enrolled in a medical assistance program under this  
34 chapter and eligible for community support services;

35 (ii)(A) Have a countable income that is at or below 133 percent  
36 of the federal poverty level, adjusted for family size, and  
37 determined annually by the federal department of health and human  
38 services; and

1 (B) Not be eligible for categorically needy medical assistance,  
2 as defined in the social security Title XIX state plan; or

3 (iii) Be assessed as likely eligible for, but not yet enrolled  
4 in, a medical assistance program under this chapter due to the  
5 severity of behavioral health symptom acuity level which creates  
6 barriers to accessing and receiving conventional services;

7 (c) Have been assessed:

8 (i) By a licensed behavioral health agency to have a behavioral  
9 health need which is defined as meeting one or both of the following  
10 criteria:

11 (A) Having mental health needs, including a need for improvement,  
12 stabilization, or prevention of deterioration of functioning  
13 resulting from the presence of a mental illness; or

14 (B) Having substance use disorder needs indicating the need for  
15 outpatient substance use disorder treatment which may be determined  
16 by an assessment using the American society of addiction medicine  
17 criteria or a similar assessment tool approved by the authority;

18 (ii) By the department of social and health services as needing  
19 either assistance with at least three activities of daily living or  
20 hands-on assistance with at least one activity of daily living and  
21 have the preliminary determination confirmed by the department of  
22 social and health services through an in-person assessment conducted  
23 by the department of social and health services; or

24 (iii) To be a homeless person with a long-continuing or  
25 indefinite physical condition requiring improvement, stabilization,  
26 or prevention of deterioration of functioning, including the ability  
27 to live independently without support; and

28 (d) Have at least one of the following risk factors:

29 (i) (A) Be a homeless person at the time of the eligibility  
30 determination for the program and have been homeless for 12 months  
31 prior to the eligibility determination; or

32 (B) Have been a homeless person on at least four separate  
33 occasions in the three years prior to the eligibility determination  
34 for the program, as long as the combined occasions equal at least 12  
35 months;

36 (ii) Have a history of frequent or lengthy institutional contact,  
37 including contact at institutional care facilities such as jails,  
38 substance use disorder or mental health treatment facilities,  
39 hospitals, or skilled nursing facilities;

1 (iii) Have a history of frequent stays at adult residential care  
2 facilities or residential treatment facilities;

3 (iv) Have frequent turnover of in-home caregivers; or

4 (v) Have at least one chronic condition and have been determined  
5 by the authority to be at risk for a second chronic condition as  
6 determined by the use of a predictive risk scoring tool that  
7 considers the person's age, gender, diagnosis, and medications.

8 (3) Once a coordinating entity verifies that a person has met the  
9 eligibility criteria established in subsection (2) of this section,  
10 it must connect the eligible person with a community support services  
11 provider. The community support services provider must:

12 (a) Deliver pretenancy support services to determine the person's  
13 specific housing needs and assist the person in identifying permanent  
14 supportive housing options that are appropriate and safe for the  
15 person;

16 (b) Fully incorporate the eligible person's available community  
17 support services into the case management services provided by the  
18 community support services provider; and

19 (c) Deliver ongoing tenancy-sustaining services to support the  
20 person in maintaining successful tenancy.

21 (4) Housing options offered to eligible participants may vary,  
22 subject to the availability of housing and funding.

23 (5) The community support services benefit must be sustained or  
24 renewed in accordance with the eligibility standards in subsection  
25 (2) of this section, except that the standards related to  
26 homelessness shall be replaced with an assessment of the person's  
27 likelihood to become homeless in the event that the community support  
28 services benefit is terminated. The coordinating entity must adopt  
29 procedures to conduct community support services benefit renewals,  
30 according to authority standards.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09  
32 RCW to read as follows:

33 (1) To establish and administer section 3 of this act, the  
34 authority shall:

35 (a)(i) Establish or amend a contract with a coordinating entity  
36 to:

37 (A) Assure the availability of access to eligibility  
38 determinations services for community support services benefits and  
39 permanent supportive housing benefits;

1 (B) Verify that persons meet the eligibility standards of section  
2 3(2) of this act;

3 (C) Coordinate enrollment in medical assistance programs for  
4 persons who meet the eligibility standards of section 3(2) of this  
5 act, except for actual enrollment in a medical assistance program  
6 under this chapter; and

7 (D) Coordinate with a network of community support services  
8 providers to arrange with local housing providers for the placement  
9 of an eligible person in permanent supportive housing appropriate to  
10 the person's needs and assure that community support services are  
11 provided to the person by a community support services provider.

12 (ii) The primary role of the coordinating entity or entities is  
13 administrative and operational, while the authority shall establish  
14 the general policy parameters for the work of the coordinating entity  
15 or entities.

16 (iii) In selecting the coordinating entity or entities, the  
17 authority shall: Choose one or more organizations that are capable of  
18 coordinating access to both community support services and permanent  
19 supportive housing services to eligible persons under section 3 of  
20 this act; and select no more than one coordinating entity per region  
21 which is served by medicaid managed care organizations;

22 (b) Report to the office for the ongoing monitoring of the  
23 program; and

24 (c) Adopt any rules necessary to implement the program.

25 (2) The authority shall establish a work group to provide  
26 feedback to the agency on its foundational community supports program  
27 as it aligns with the work of the housing benefit. The work group may  
28 include representatives of state agencies, behavioral health  
29 administrative services organizations, the coordinating entity or  
30 entities, and contracted agencies providing foundational community  
31 supports services. Topics may include, but are not limited to, best  
32 practices in eligibility screening processes and case rate billing  
33 for foundational community supports housing, regional cost  
34 differentials, costs consistent with specialized needs, improved data  
35 access and data sharing with foundational community supports  
36 providers, and requirements related to the use of a common practice  
37 tool among community support services providers to integrate social  
38 determinants of health into service delivery. The authority, in  
39 consultation with foundational community support providers and their  
40 stakeholders, shall engage each region on case management tools and

1 programs, evaluate effectiveness, and inform the appropriate  
2 committees of the legislature on the use of case management tools.  
3 Case management shall also be a regular item of engagement in the  
4 work group. The authority shall convene the work group at least once  
5 each quarter and may expand upon, but not duplicate, existing work  
6 groups or advisory councils at the authority or other state agencies.

7 (3) To support the goals of the program and the goals of other  
8 statewide initiatives to identify and address social needs, including  
9 efforts within the 1115 waiver renewal to advance health equity and  
10 health-related supports, the authority shall work with the office and  
11 the department of social and health services to research, identify,  
12 and implement statewide universal measures to identify and consider  
13 social determinants of health domains, including housing, food  
14 security, transportation, financial strain, and interpersonal safety.  
15 The authority shall select an accredited or nationally vetted tool,  
16 including criteria for prioritization, for the community support  
17 services provider to use when making determinations about housing  
18 options and other support services to offer individuals eligible for  
19 the program. This screening and prioritization process may not  
20 exclude clients transitioning from inpatient or other behavioral  
21 health residential treatment settings. The authority shall inform the  
22 governor and the appropriate committees of the legislature on  
23 progress to this end.

24 (4) (a) The authority and the department may seek and accept funds  
25 from private and federal sources to support the purposes of the  
26 program.

27 (b) The authority shall seek approval from the federal department  
28 of health and human services to:

29 (i) Receive federal matching funds for administrative costs and  
30 services provided under the program to persons enrolled in medicaid;

31 (ii) Align the eligibility and benefit standards of the  
32 foundational community supports program established pursuant to the  
33 waiver, entitled "medicaid transformation project" and initially  
34 approved November 2017, between the authority and the federal centers  
35 for medicare and medicaid services, as amended and reauthorized, with  
36 the standards of the program, including extending the duration of the  
37 benefits under the foundational community supports program to not  
38 less than 12 months; and

39 (iii) Implement a medical and psychiatric respite care benefit  
40 for certain persons enrolled in medicaid.

1 (5) (a) By December 1, 2022, the authority and the office shall  
2 report to the governor and the legislature on preparedness for the  
3 first year of program implementation, including the estimated  
4 enrollment, estimated program costs, estimated supportive housing  
5 unit availability, funding availability for the program from all  
6 sources, efforts to improve billing and administrative burdens for  
7 foundational community supports providers, efforts to streamline  
8 continuity of care and system connection for persons who are  
9 potentially eligible for foundational community supports, and any  
10 statutory or budgetary needs to successfully implement the first year  
11 of the program.

12 (b) By December 1, 2023, the authority and the office shall  
13 report to the governor and the legislature on the progress of the  
14 first year of program implementation and preparedness for the second  
15 year of program implementation.

16 (c) By December 1, 2024, the authority and the office shall  
17 report to the governor and the legislature on the progress of the  
18 first two years of program implementation and preparedness for  
19 ongoing housing acquisition and development.

20 (d) By December 1, 2026, the authority and the office shall  
21 report to the governor and the legislature on the full implementation  
22 of the program, including the number of persons served by the  
23 program, available permanent supportive housing units, estimated  
24 unmet demand for the program, ongoing funding requirements for the  
25 program, and funding availability for the program from all sources.  
26 Beginning December 1, 2027, the authority and the office shall  
27 provide annual updates to the governor and the legislature on the  
28 status of the program.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 43.330  
30 RCW to read as follows:

31 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
32 specific purpose, there is created the office of apple health and  
33 homes within the department.

34 (2) Activities of the office of apple health and homes must be  
35 carried out by a director of the office of apple health and homes,  
36 supervised by the director of the department or their designee.

37 (3) The office of apple health and homes is responsible for  
38 leading efforts under this section and coordinating a spectrum of  
39 practice efforts related to providing permanent supportive housing,



1 including leading efforts related to every aspect of creating  
2 housing, operating housing, obtaining services, and delivering those  
3 services to connect people with housing and maintain them in that  
4 housing.

5 (4) The office of apple health and homes shall:

6 (a) Subject to available funding, allocate funding for permanent  
7 supportive housing units sufficient in number to fulfill permanent  
8 supportive housing needs of persons determined to be eligible for the  
9 program by the coordinating entity or entities under section 3 of  
10 this act;

11 (b) Collaborate with department divisions responsible for making  
12 awards or loans to appropriate housing providers to acquire, build,  
13 and operate the housing units, including but not limited to nonprofit  
14 community organizations, local counties and cities, public housing  
15 authorities, and public development authorities;

16 (c) Collaborate with the authority on administrative functions,  
17 oversight, and reporting requirements, as necessary to implement the  
18 apple health and homes program established under section 3 of this  
19 act;

20 (d) Establish metrics and collect racially disaggregated data  
21 from the authority and the department related to the program's effect  
22 on providing persons with permanent supportive housing, moving people  
23 into independent housing, long-term housing stability, improving  
24 health outcomes for people in the program, estimated reduced health  
25 care spending to the state on persons enrolled in the program, and  
26 outcomes related to social determinants of health;

27 (e) Create work plans and establish milestones to achieve the  
28 goal of providing permanent supportive housing for all eligible  
29 individuals; and

30 (f) Oversee the allocation of community support services provider  
31 and housing provider capacity-building grants to further the state's  
32 interests of enhancing the ability of community support services  
33 providers and housing providers to deliver community support services  
34 and permanent supportive housing and assure that an initial  
35 infrastructure is established to create strong networks of community  
36 support services providers and housing providers.

37 (5) The office of apple health and homes must be operational no  
38 later than January 1, 2023. The department shall assure the  
39 coordination of the work of the office of apple health and homes with

1 other offices within the department with similar or adjacent  
2 authorities and functions.

3 (6) For the purposes of this section:

4 (a) "Community support services provider" has the same meaning as  
5 in section 2 of this act.

6 (b) "Coordinating entity" has the same meaning as in section 2 of  
7 this act.

8 (c) "Housing provider" has the same meaning as in section 2 of  
9 this act.

10 (d) "Permanent supportive housing" has the same meaning as in  
11 section 2 of this act.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 43.330  
13 RCW to read as follows:

14 The apple health and homes account is created in the state  
15 treasury. Moneys in the account may be spent only after  
16 appropriation. Expenditures from the account may be used only for  
17 permanent supportive housing programs administered by the office  
18 created in section 5 of this act, including acquisition and  
19 development of permanent supportive housing units, operations,  
20 maintenance, and services costs of permanent supportive housing  
21 units, project-based vouchers, provider grants, and other purposes  
22 authorized by appropriations made in the operating budget. The  
23 department must prioritize allocating at least 10 percent of the  
24 expenditures from the account to organizations that serve and are  
25 substantially governed by individuals disproportionately impacted by  
26 homelessness and behavioral health conditions, including black,  
27 indigenous, and other people of color, lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer,  
28 transgender, and other gender diverse individuals. When selecting  
29 projects supported by funds from the account, the office shall  
30 balance the state's interest in quickly approving and financing  
31 projects, the degree to which the project will leverage other funds,  
32 the extent to which the project promotes racial equity, and the  
33 extent to which the project will promote priorities of this act on a  
34 statewide basis, including in rural areas and in geographically  
35 diverse parts of the state.

36 **Sec. 7.** RCW 36.22.176 and 2021 c 214 s 1 are each amended to  
37 read as follows:

1 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, a  
2 surcharge of \$100 must be charged by the county auditor for each  
3 document recorded, which is in addition to any other charge or  
4 surcharge allowed by law. The auditor must remit the funds to the  
5 state treasurer to be deposited and used as follows:

6 (a) Twenty percent of funds must be deposited in the affordable  
7 housing for all account for operations, maintenance, and service  
8 costs for permanent supportive housing as defined in RCW 36.70A.030;

9 (b) From July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2023, four percent of the  
10 funds must be deposited into the landlord mitigation program account  
11 created in RCW 43.31.615 for the purposes of RCW 43.31.605(1).  
12 Thereafter, two percent of funds must be deposited into the landlord  
13 mitigation program account created in RCW 43.31.615 for purposes of  
14 RCW 43.31.605(1); ~~((and))~~

15 (c) (i) The remainder of funds must be distributed to the home  
16 security fund account, with no less than 60 percent of funds to be  
17 used for project-based vouchers for nonprofit housing providers or  
18 public housing authorities, housing services, rapid rehousing,  
19 emergency housing, ~~((or))~~ acquisition, or operations, maintenance,  
20 and service costs for permanent supportive housing as defined in RCW  
21 36.70A.030 for persons with disabilities. Permanent supportive  
22 housing programs administered by the office of apple health and homes  
23 created in section 5 of this act are also eligible to use these  
24 funds. Priority for use must be given to ~~((project-based vouchers and~~  
25 ~~related services, housing acquisition, or emergency housing, for))~~  
26 purposes intended to house persons who are chronically homeless or  
27 maintain housing for individuals with disabilities and prior  
28 experiences of homelessness, including families with children. ((At  
29 ~~least 50 percent of persons receiving a project-based voucher, rapid~~  
30 ~~rehousing, emergency housing, or benefiting from housing acquisition~~  
31 ~~must be living unsheltered at the time of initial engagement.))~~ In  
32 addition, funds may be used for eviction prevention rental assistance  
33 pursuant to RCW 43.185C.185, foreclosure prevention services, dispute  
34 resolution center eviction prevention services, rental assistance for  
35 people experiencing homelessness, and tenant education and legal  
36 assistance.

37 (ii) The department shall provide counties with the right of  
38 first refusal to receive grant funds distributed under this  
39 subsection (c). If a county refuses the funds or does not respond  
40 within a time frame established by the department, the department

1 shall identify an alternative grantee. The alternative grantee shall  
2 distribute the funds in a manner that is in compliance with this  
3 chapter.

4 (2) The surcharge imposed in this section does not apply to: (a)  
5 Assignments or substitutions of previously recorded deeds of trust;  
6 (b) documents recording a birth, marriage, divorce, or death; (c) any  
7 recorded documents otherwise exempted from a recording fee or  
8 additional surcharges under state law; (d) marriage licenses issued  
9 by the county auditor; or (e) documents recording a federal, state,  
10 county, city, or water-sewer district, or wage lien or satisfaction  
11 of lien.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Subject to amounts appropriated from the  
13 apple health and homes account created in section 6 of this act the  
14 department of commerce shall establish a rapid permanent supportive  
15 housing acquisition and development program to issue competitive  
16 financial assistance to eligible organizations under RCW 43.185A.040  
17 and to public development authorities established under RCW 35.21.730  
18 through 35.21.755, for the acquisition or the construction of  
19 permanent supportive housing units, subject to the following  
20 conditions and limitations:

21 (1) Awards or loans provided under this section may be used to  
22 construct permanent supportive housing units or to acquire real  
23 property for quick conversion into permanent supportive housing units  
24 which may include predevelopment or development activities,  
25 renovation, and building update costs. Awards or loans provided under  
26 this section may not be used for operating or maintenance costs  
27 associated with providing permanent supportive housing, supportive  
28 services, or debt service.

29 (2) Projects acquired or constructed under this section must  
30 serve individuals eligible for a community support services benefit  
31 through the apple health and homes program, as established in section  
32 3 of this act.

33 (3) The department of commerce shall establish criteria for the  
34 issuance of the awards or loans, including but not limited to:

35 (a) The date upon which structural modifications or construction  
36 would begin and the anticipated date of completion of the project;

37 (b) A detailed estimate of the costs associated with the  
38 construction or acquisition and any updates or improvements necessary  
39 to make the property habitable for its intended use;

1 (c) A detailed estimate of the costs associated with opening the  
2 units; and

3 (d) A financial plan demonstrating the ability to maintain and  
4 operate the property and support its intended tenants through the end  
5 of the award or loan contract.

6 (4) The department of commerce shall provide a progress report on  
7 its website by June 1, 2023. The report must include:

8 (a) The total number of applications and amount of funding  
9 requested; and

10 (b) A list and description of the projects approved for funding  
11 including state funding, total project cost, number of units, and  
12 anticipated completion date.

13 (5)(a) The funding in this section shall be allocated on an  
14 ongoing basis until all funds are expended and is not subject to the  
15 90-day application periods in RCW 43.185.070 or 43.185A.050. The  
16 department of commerce shall dispense funds to qualifying applicants  
17 within 45 days of receipt of documentation from the applicant for  
18 qualifying uses and execution of any necessary contracts with the  
19 department in order to effect the purpose of rapid deployment of  
20 funds under this section.

21 (b) If the department of commerce receives simultaneous  
22 applications for funding under this program, proposals that reach the  
23 greatest public benefit, as defined by the department, must be  
24 prioritized. For the purposes of this subsection, "greatest public  
25 benefit" must include, but is not limited to:

26 (i) The greatest number of qualifying permanent supportive  
27 housing units; and

28 (ii) The scarcity of the permanent supportive housing units  
29 applied for compared to the number of available permanent supportive  
30 housing units in the same geographic location.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** This act may be known and cited as the  
32 apple health and homes act."

**ESHB 1866** - S COMM AMD  
By Committee on Ways & Means

**ADOPTED AS AMENDED 03/03/2022**

1 On page 1, line 3 of the title, after "housing;" strike the  
2 remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 36.22.176; adding new  
3 sections to chapter 74.09 RCW; adding new sections to chapter 43.330  
4 RCW; and creating new sections."

EFFECT: Removes the requirement for the Health Care Authority (HCA) to convene key stakeholders to discuss program implementation and approaches with aligning managed care organizations with coordinating community support services. Modifies the representatives HCA may include in their work group for aligning foundational community supports (FCS) with the program's housing benefit so that cities and counties are removed and behavioral health administrative services organizations and the coordinating entity or entities are added. Clarifies that HCA may expand upon, but not duplicate, existing work groups or advisory councils at HCA or other state agencies when implementing the work group for aligning the FCS benefit with the housing benefit. Requires HCA to inform the governor and appropriate legislative committees of their progress for implementing a statewide tool to measure and screen for social determinants of health. Specifies that funding for the department of commerce's newly established rapid permanent supportive housing and acquisition and development program must be allocated on an ongoing basis until all funds are expended and can be used for construction.

--- END ---