

HB 1622 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education

ADOPTED 04/05/2023

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

3 "**Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.300.542 and 2019 c 412 s 1 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
6 specific purpose, the office of the superintendent of public
7 instruction shall create a competitive grant process to evaluate and
8 award state-funded grants to school districts to increase
9 identification of students experiencing homelessness and the capacity
10 of the districts to provide support for students experiencing
11 homelessness. The goals of the grant process are to:

12 (a) Provide educational stability for students experiencing
13 homelessness by promoting housing stability; and

14 (b) Encourage the development of collaborative strategies between
15 education and housing partners.

16 (2)(a) Funds may be used in a manner that is complementary to
17 federal McKinney-Vento funds and consistent with allowable uses as
18 determined by the office of the superintendent of public instruction.
19 The process must complement any similar federal grant program or
20 programs in order to minimize agency overhead and administrative
21 costs for the superintendent of public instruction and school
22 districts.

23 (b) Examples of permitted student supports and activities
24 include, but are not limited to:

25 (i) Direct academic supports, including tutoring and additional
26 transportation costs;

27 (ii) Basic needs, including retail store cards, nutrition
28 supports, and hygiene items;

29 (iii) Wraparound supports, including contracting with community-
30 based providers, behavioral and physical health supports, and
31 housing-related supports, such as bedding and short-term hotel or

1 motel stays, that meet a student's emergent needs and allow the
2 student to fully participate in school;

3 (iv) Employment supports for students and families; and

4 (v) Out-of-school enrichment activities, such as an academic
5 tutor provided at a shelter.

6 (3) School districts may access both federal and state funding to
7 identify and support students experiencing homelessness and are
8 encouraged to use grant dollars to leverage community resources and
9 strengthen relationships with community-based partners.

10 ~~((+2))~~ (4) Award criteria for the state grants must be based on
11 the demonstrated need of the school district and may consider the
12 number or overall percentage, or both, of homeless children and
13 youths enrolled in preschool, elementary, and secondary schools in
14 the school district, and the ability of the local school district to
15 meet these needs. Award criteria for these must also be based on the
16 quality of the applications submitted. Selected grantees must reflect
17 geographic diversity across the state. Greater weight must be given
18 to districts that demonstrate a commitment to:

19 (a) Partnering with local ~~((housing—and))~~ community-based
20 organizations with experience in serving the needs of students
21 experiencing homelessness or students of color, with a preference for
22 organizations that focus on equitable housing and homeless
23 strategies;

24 (b) Serving the needs of unaccompanied youth; and

25 (c) Implementing evidence-informed strategies to address the
26 opportunity gap and other systemic inequities that negatively impact
27 students experiencing homelessness and students of color. Specific
28 strategies may include, but are not limited to:

29 (i) Enhancing the cultural responsiveness of current and future
30 staff;

31 (ii) Ensuring all staff, faculty, and school employees are
32 actively trained in trauma-informed care;

33 (iii) Providing inclusive programming by intentionally seeking
34 and utilizing input from the population being served;

35 (iv) Using a multidisciplinary approach when serving students
36 experiencing homelessness and their families;

37 (v) Intentionally seeking and utilizing input from the families
38 and students experiencing homelessness about how district policies,
39 services, and practices can be improved; and

1 (vi) Identifying data elements and systems needed to monitor
2 progress in eliminating disparities in academic outcomes for students
3 experiencing homelessness with their housed peers.

4 (~~(3)~~) (5) At the end of each academic year, districts receiving
5 grants shall monitor and report on the academic outcomes for students
6 served by the grants. The academic outcomes are those recommended by
7 the office of the superintendent of public instruction. The office of
8 the superintendent of public instruction shall review the reports
9 submitted by the districts and assist school districts in using these
10 data to identify gaps and needs, and develop sustainable strategies
11 to improve academic outcomes for students experiencing homelessness.

12 (~~(4)~~) (6) Students experiencing homelessness are defined as
13 students without a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence
14 in accordance with the definition of homeless children and youths in
15 the federal McKinney-Vento homeless assistance act, 42 U.S.C. Sec.
16 11431 through 11435.

17 (~~(5)~~) (7) School districts may not use funds allocated under
18 this section to supplant existing federal, state, or local resources
19 for supports for students experiencing homelessness, which may
20 include education liaisons.

21 (~~(6)~~) (8) Grants awarded to districts under this section may be
22 for two years.

23 (9) The office of the superintendent of public instruction and
24 the department of commerce shall:

25 (a) Collaborate on shared goals and outcomes under the grant
26 process established by this section and the grant program established
27 in RCW 43.185C.340; and

28 (b) Beginning in 2024, and every two years thereafter, jointly
29 produce and make publicly available a report on the goals and
30 outcomes of the grant process established by this section and the
31 grant program established in RCW 43.185C.340.

32 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.185C.340 and 2019 c 412 s 2 and 2019 c 325 s 5015
33 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

34 (1) Subject to funds appropriated for this specific purpose, the
35 department shall administer a grant program that links students
36 experiencing homelessness and their families with stable housing
37 located in the student's school district. The goals of the program
38 are to:

1 (a) Provide educational stability for students experiencing
2 homelessness by promoting housing stability; and

3 (b) Encourage the development of collaborative strategies between
4 housing and education partners.

5 (2) To ensure that innovative strategies between housing and
6 education partners are developed and implemented, the department may
7 contract and consult with a designated vendor to provide technical
8 assistance and program evaluation, ~~((and))~~ assist with making grant
9 awards, and support collaboration between the department and the
10 office of the superintendent of public instruction. If the department
11 contracts with a vendor, the vendor must be selected by the director
12 and:

13 (a) Be a nonprofit vendor;

14 (b) Be located in Washington state; and

15 (c) Have a demonstrated record of working toward the housing and
16 educational stability of students and families experiencing
17 homelessness.

18 (3) In implementing the program, the department, or the
19 department in partnership with its designated vendor, shall consult
20 with the office of the superintendent of public instruction.

21 (4) (a) The department, or the designated vendor in consultation
22 with the department, shall develop a competitive grant process to
23 make grant awards to eligible organizations on implementation of the
24 proposal. For the purposes of this subsection, "eligible
25 organization" means any local government, local housing authority,
26 behavioral health administrative services organization established
27 under chapter 71.24 RCW, behavioral health organization, nonprofit
28 community or neighborhood-based organization, federally recognized
29 Indian tribe in the state of Washington, or regional or statewide
30 nonprofit housing assistance organization. Applications for the grant
31 program must include a letter of support from the applicable school
32 districts. Within 60 days of receiving a grant award under this
33 section, a memorandum of understanding must be established between
34 the housing providers and school districts defining the
35 responsibilities and commitments of each party to identify, house,
36 and support students experiencing homelessness. The memorandum must
37 include:

38 ~~((a))~~ (i) How housing providers will partner with school
39 districts to address gaps and needs and develop sustainable
40 strategies to help students experiencing homelessness; and

1 ~~((b))~~ (ii) How data on students experiencing homelessness and
2 their families will be collected and shared in accordance with
3 privacy protections under applicable federal and state laws.

4 (b) If a memorandum of understanding cannot be established as
5 required by (a) of this subsection, the housing provider and school
6 districts may work with the department on a case-by-case basis to
7 provide, in lieu of a memorandum of understanding, a detailed
8 accountability plan for a partnership between the housing provider
9 and the school districts.

10 (5) In determining which eligible organizations will receive
11 grants, the department must ensure that selected grantees reflect
12 geographic diversity across the state. Greater weight shall be given
13 to eligible organizations that demonstrate a commitment to:

14 (a) Partnering with local schools or school districts as
15 demonstrated by a letter of support; and

16 (b) Developing and implementing evidence-informed strategies to
17 address racial inequities. Specific strategies may include, but are
18 not limited to:

19 (i) Hiring direct service staff who reflect the racial, cultural,
20 and language demographics of the population being served;

21 (ii) Committing to inclusive programming by intentionally seeking
22 and utilizing input from the population being served;

23 (iii) Ensuring eligibility criteria does not unintentionally
24 screen out people of color and further racial inequity; and

25 (iv) Creating access points in locations frequented by parents,
26 guardians, and unaccompanied homeless youth of color.

27 (6) Activities eligible for assistance under this grant program
28 include but are not limited to:

29 (a) Rental assistance, which includes utilities, security and
30 utility deposits, first and last month's rent, rental application
31 fees, moving expenses, and other eligible expenses to be determined
32 by the department;

33 (b) Transportation assistance, including gasoline assistance for
34 students and families with vehicles and bus passes;

35 (c) Emergency shelter;

36 (d) Housing stability case management; and

37 (e) Other collaborative housing strategies, including prevention
38 and strength-based safety and housing approaches.

39 (7) (a) All beneficiaries of funds from the grant program must be
40 from households that include at least one student experiencing

1 homelessness as defined as a child or youth without a fixed, regular,
2 and adequate nighttime residence in accordance with the federal
3 McKinney-Vento homeless assistance act, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 11431 through
4 11435.

5 (b) For the purposes of this section, "student experiencing
6 homelessness" includes unaccompanied homeless youth not in the
7 physical custody of a parent or guardian. "Unaccompanied homeless
8 youth" includes students up to the age of twenty-one, in alignment
9 with the qualifications for school admissions under RCW
10 28A.225.160(1).

11 (8)(a) Grantee organizations must compile and report information
12 to the department. The department shall report to the legislature the
13 findings of the grantee, the housing stability of the homeless
14 families, and any related policy recommendations.

15 (b) Grantees must track and report on the following measures
16 including, but not limited to:

17 (i) Length of time enrolled in the grant program;

18 (ii) Housing destination at program exit;

19 (iii) Type of residence prior to enrollment in the grant program;

20 and

21 (iv) Number of times homeless in the past three years.

22 (c) Grantees must also include in their reports a narrative
23 description discussing its partnership with school districts as set
24 forth in the memorandum outlined in subsection (4) of this section.
25 Reports must also include the kinds of supports grantees are
26 providing students and families to support academic learning.

27 (d) Data on all program participants must be entered into and
28 tracked through the Washington homeless client management information
29 system as described in RCW 43.185C.180.

30 (9) In order to ensure that housing providers are meeting the
31 requirements of the grant program for students experiencing
32 homelessness, the department, or the department in partnership with
33 its designee, shall monitor the program at least once every two
34 years.

35 (10) Any program review and monitoring under this section may be
36 conducted concurrently with other program reviews and monitoring
37 conducted by the department. In its review, the department, or the
38 department in partnership with its designee, shall monitor program
39 components that include the process used by the eligible organization
40 to identify and reach out to students experiencing homelessness, and

1 other indicators to determine how well the eligible organization is
2 meeting the housing needs of students experiencing homelessness. The
3 department, or the department in partnership with its designee, shall
4 provide technical assistance and support to housing providers to
5 better implement the program.

6 (11) The department is subject to the requirements established in
7 RCW 28A.300.542(9)."

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8 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "homelessness;" strike the
9 remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 28A.300.542; and
10 reenacting and amending RCW 43.185C.340."

EFFECT: Changes some references from education partners to school districts.

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