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HOUSE BILL 2818

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State of Washington

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2004 Regular Session

By Representatives Kagi, Boldt, Darneille, Pearson, Cooper, Linville, Hudgins, Kessler, Lantz, Conway, G. Simpson, Edwards, Sullivan, Kenney, Wood, Schual-Berke, Chase, Santos, Ormsby and Dickerson

Read first time 01/21/2004. Referred to Committee on Children & Family Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to housing-based support services for homeless  
2 families; amending RCW 43.20A.790; reenacting and amending RCW  
3 43.79A.040; adding a new chapter to Title 43 RCW; and making an  
4 appropriation.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that homeless families  
7 who have access to supportive services, such as counseling, employment  
8 support and job training, health care treatment and programs, parenting  
9 skills education and training, child care, and transportation  
10 assistance, are more likely to achieve housing stability than families  
11 without access to those services. The legislature finds that linkages  
12 between supportive services and transitional housing must be  
13 strengthened in order to provide homeless families with the necessary  
14 skills and supports to sustain stable housing as they transition out of  
15 homelessness. However, the unpredictable nature of current service  
16 funding limits new housing development and puts existing programs for  
17 homeless families at risk.

18 The legislature finds that the sound families initiative in Pierce,  
19 King, and Snohomish counties provides a successful model of combining

1 public funding and private support for services and housing for  
2 homeless families. Recent outcomes of the sound families initiative  
3 include increased work activity and increased income levels among  
4 households eligible for the federal temporary assistance for needy  
5 families program who were provided housing-based supportive services.  
6 A strong partnership between private resources and public services can  
7 greatly increase the successful transition of homeless families to  
8 stable housing and employment.

9 The legislature further finds that in order to make the public-  
10 private model work statewide, an ongoing stable source of service funds  
11 is essential. State funds could provide the catalyst for significant  
12 private contributions that would spur development of housing-based  
13 support services statewide. Where there is a strong public-private  
14 partnership to support the provision of services, as is the case with  
15 the sound families initiative, the return on the investment of public  
16 funds far exceeds that initial expenditure. With a one-time investment  
17 in housing-based supportive services for homeless families that is  
18 supplemented and sustained with ongoing private investments, the long-  
19 term availability of resources for those families can be ensured.

20 Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to create, and make  
21 an initial investment of state funds in, a homeless families services  
22 fund that will leverage private resources and thereby ensure the long-  
23 term availability of stable housing to support homeless families  
24 throughout the state.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply  
26 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

27 (1) "Advisory board" means the homeless families services fund  
28 advisory board established under this chapter.

29 (2) "Department" means the department of community, trade, and  
30 economic development.

31 (3) "Director" means the director of community, trade, and economic  
32 development.

33 (4) "Fund" means the homeless families services fund established  
34 under this chapter.

35 (5) "Homeless family" means a family that is eligible for services  
36 funded through the emergency shelter assistance program carried out  
37 within the department of community, trade, and economic development.

1 (6) "Program" means the homeless families services fund program  
2 established under this chapter.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** There is created within the department of  
4 community, trade, and economic development the homeless families  
5 services fund program to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) There is created in the custody of the  
7 state treasurer an account to be known as the homeless families  
8 services fund. The fund shall include a one-time appropriation by the  
9 legislature, private contributions, and all other sources.

10 (2) Expenditures from the fund may only be used for the purposes of  
11 the program established under this chapter, except for administrative  
12 expenses.

13 (3) Expenditures from the fund are exempt from appropriations and  
14 the allotment provisions of chapter 43.88 RCW. However, money used for  
15 program administration by the department is subject to the allotment  
16 and budgetary controls of chapter 43.88 RCW, and an appropriation is  
17 required for these expenditures.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The homeless families services fund  
19 advisory board is hereby established to advise the department in the  
20 design and administration of the fund. The director shall provide  
21 staff and administrative support to the advisory board in carrying out  
22 the provisions of this chapter.

23 (2) The advisory board shall consist of nine members to be  
24 appointed by the governor, as follows:

25 (a) A representative of the department of social and health  
26 services;

27 (b) A representative of the regional support networks;

28 (c) A representative of a local housing authority that provides  
29 federal section 8 vouchers to homeless families, and which primarily  
30 serves a rural population;

31 (d) A representative of a local housing authority that provides  
32 federal section 8 vouchers to homeless families, and which primarily  
33 serves an urban population;

34 (e) An individual with expertise in the design or evaluation of  
35 service delivery to homeless families;

1 (f) An individual with expertise in the provision of supportive  
2 services to homeless families;

3 (g) An individual with expertise in the development and operation  
4 of low-income housing, including housing set aside for homeless  
5 families; and

6 (h) Two individuals with expertise in private philanthropy.

7 (3) Members of the advisory board shall serve terms of four years  
8 and may be appointed for successive terms of four years. The governor  
9 may stagger the terms of the initial members of the board so that  
10 approximately one-fourth of the members' terms expire each year. The  
11 advisory board shall select a chair from among its members.

12 (4) Members of the advisory board shall be reimbursed for travel  
13 expenses as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Duties of the advisory board shall include  
15 the following:

16 (1) Recommending criteria for determination of grant allocations  
17 from the fund, which shall include, but need not be limited to:

18 (a) Guidelines for the amounts of allocations of grants from the  
19 fund, taking into consideration the variation in housing market and  
20 services costs throughout the state;

21 (b) Guidelines for the minimum amount of matching funds that an  
22 applicant to the fund must secure in order to qualify for a grant from  
23 the fund;

24 (c) Criteria that an applicant to the fund must meet in order to  
25 demonstrate that the proposed housing and services are financially  
26 viable and meet quality standards;

27 (d) Necessary qualifications and capacity of an applicant to the  
28 fund; and

29 (e) Guidelines for geographic distribution of funds from the fund  
30 in order to foster development of supportive housing statewide;

31 (2) Reviewing applications to the fund and making recommendations  
32 to the director on the allocation of grants from the fund;

33 (3) Recommending performance and outcome measures for recipients of  
34 grants from the fund;

35 (4) Recommending an evaluation method for the homeless families  
36 services fund program; and

1 (5) Working with housing authorities, community-based service and  
2 housing providers, or other applicants to the fund to identify  
3 additional sources of revenue for the fund.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** (1) The department shall use funds from the  
5 fund and other legislative appropriations to provide state matching  
6 funds for housing-based supportive services for homeless families over  
7 a period of at least ten years.

8 (2) Services funded through the homeless families services fund  
9 shall be coordinated with existing and available services and shall not  
10 duplicate any other state-funded services available to homeless  
11 families assisted through the fund. The fund shall not be used to  
12 supplant existing funding.

13 (3) Activities eligible for funding through the fund include, but  
14 are not limited to, the following:

15 (a) Case management;

16 (b) Counseling;

17 (c) Referrals to employment support and job training services and  
18 direct employment support and job training services;

19 (d) Domestic violence services and programs;

20 (e) Mental health treatment, services, and programs;

21 (f) Substance abuse treatment, services, and programs;

22 (g) Parenting skills education and training;

23 (h) Transportation assistance;

24 (i) Child care; and

25 (j) Other supportive services identified by the department to be an  
26 important link for housing stability.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Organizations that may receive funds from  
28 the fund include local housing authorities, nonprofit community or  
29 neighborhood-based organizations, public development authorities,  
30 federally recognized Indian tribes in the state, and regional or  
31 statewide nonprofit housing assistance organizations.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** The department shall work with recipients of  
33 grants from the fund to monitor the effectiveness of the homeless  
34 families services fund program. Areas of performance monitoring shall  
35 include, but need not be limited to, the following:

- 1 (1) Increases in housing stability for assisted homeless families;
- 2 (2) Increases in economic self-sufficiency of assisted homeless
- 3 families;
- 4 (3) Increases in independent living skills of assisted homeless
- 5 families; and
- 6 (4) Decreases in costs of state-funded services and income support
- 7 for assisted homeless families.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** (1) The department shall report to the  
9 appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the legislature by December  
10 1, 2004, with a preliminary plan for implementation of this chapter.

11 (2) The department and the advisory board shall thereafter report  
12 on an annual basis to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of  
13 the legislature regarding the status of applications to and grant  
14 allocations from the fund and performance of the program.

15 **Sec. 11.** RCW 43.20A.790 and 1999 c 267 s 2 are each amended to  
16 read as follows:

17 (1) The department shall collaborate with the department of  
18 community, trade, and economic development in the development of the  
19 coordinated and comprehensive plan for homeless families with children  
20 required under RCW 43.63A.650, which designates the department of  
21 community, trade, and economic development as the state agency with  
22 primary responsibility for providing shelter and housing services to  
23 homeless families with children. In fulfilling its responsibilities to  
24 collaborate with the department of community, trade, and economic  
25 development pursuant to RCW 43.63A.650, the department shall develop,  
26 administer, supervise, and monitor its portion of the plan. The  
27 department's portion of the plan shall contain at least the following  
28 elements:

- 29 (a) Coordination or linkage of services with shelter and housing;
- 30 (b) Accommodation and addressing the needs of homeless families in
- 31 the design and administration of department programs;
- 32 (c) Participation of the department's local offices in the
- 33 identification, assistance, and referral of homeless families; and
- 34 (d) Ongoing monitoring of the efficiency and effectiveness of the
- 35 plan's design and implementation.

1 (2) The department shall include community organizations involved  
2 in the delivery of services to homeless families with children, and  
3 experts in the development and ongoing evaluation of the plan.

4 (3) The department shall coordinate with the department of  
5 community, trade, and economic development in supporting the work of  
6 the homeless families services fund program established pursuant to  
7 section 3 of this act. As part of its coordination efforts, the  
8 department shall work with organizations receiving grants from the  
9 homeless families services fund to identify and coordinate the  
10 provision of services offered by the department that meet the goals of  
11 the homeless families services fund program.

12 (4) The duties under this section shall be implemented within  
13 amounts appropriated for that specific purpose by the legislature in  
14 the operating and capital budgets.

15 **Sec. 12.** RCW 43.79A.040 and 2003 c 403 s 9, 2003 c 313 s 10, 2003  
16 c 191 s 7, 2003 c 148 s 15, 2003 c 92 s 8, and 2003 c 19 s 12 are each  
17 reenacted and amended to read as follows:

18 (1) Money in the treasurer's trust fund may be deposited, invested,  
19 and reinvested by the state treasurer in accordance with RCW 43.84.080  
20 in the same manner and to the same extent as if the money were in the  
21 state treasury.

22 (2) All income received from investment of the treasurer's trust  
23 fund shall be set aside in an account in the treasury trust fund to be  
24 known as the investment income account.

25 (3) The investment income account may be utilized for the payment  
26 of purchased banking services on behalf of treasurer's trust funds  
27 including, but not limited to, depository, safekeeping, and  
28 disbursement functions for the state treasurer or affected state  
29 agencies. The investment income account is subject in all respects to  
30 chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required for payments to  
31 financial institutions. Payments shall occur prior to distribution of  
32 earnings set forth in subsection (4) of this section.

33 (4)(a) Monthly, the state treasurer shall distribute the earnings  
34 credited to the investment income account to the state general fund  
35 except under (b) and (c) of this subsection.

36 (b) The following accounts and funds shall receive their  
37 proportionate share of earnings based upon each account's or fund's

1 average daily balance for the period: The Washington promise  
2 scholarship account, the college savings program account, the  
3 Washington advanced college tuition payment program account, the  
4 agricultural local fund, the American Indian scholarship endowment  
5 fund, the students with dependents grant account, the basic health plan  
6 self-insurance reserve account, the contract harvesting revolving  
7 account, the Washington state combined fund drive account, the  
8 Washington international exchange scholarship endowment fund, the  
9 developmental disabilities endowment trust fund, the energy account,  
10 the fair fund, the fruit and vegetable inspection account, the game  
11 farm alternative account, the grain inspection revolving fund, the  
12 juvenile accountability incentive account, the law enforcement  
13 officers' and fire fighters' plan 2 expense fund, the local tourism  
14 promotion account, the produce railcar pool account, the rural  
15 rehabilitation account, the stadium and exhibition center account, the  
16 youth athletic facility account, the self-insurance revolving fund, the  
17 sulfur dioxide abatement account, the children's trust fund, ((and))  
18 the investing in innovation account, and the homeless families services  
19 fund. However, the earnings to be distributed shall first be reduced  
20 by the allocation to the state treasurer's service fund pursuant to RCW  
21 43.08.190.

22 (c) The following accounts and funds shall receive eighty percent  
23 of their proportionate share of earnings based upon each account's or  
24 fund's average daily balance for the period: The advanced right of way  
25 revolving fund, the advanced environmental mitigation revolving  
26 account, the city and county advance right-of-way revolving fund, the  
27 federal narcotics asset forfeitures account, the high occupancy vehicle  
28 account, the local rail service assistance account, and the  
29 miscellaneous transportation programs account.

30 (5) In conformance with Article II, section 37 of the state  
31 Constitution, no trust accounts or funds shall be allocated earnings  
32 without the specific affirmative directive of this section.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** The sum of fifteen million dollars, or as  
34 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from the general fund  
35 to the homeless families services fund for the fiscal year ending June  
36 30, 2005, to carry out the purposes of this act.



1        NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 14.**   Sections 1 through 10 of this act  
2   constitute a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

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