

Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Conforming Bill
Homelessness Funding

BILL

2024

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to homelessness funding; amending
3 s. 420.622, F.S.; removing the cap for continuum
4 of care funding; removing the cap for funding for
5 an individual project.

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7 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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9 Section 1. Section 420.622, Florida Statutes, is
10 amended to read:

11 420.622 State Office on Homelessness; Council on
12 Homelessness.—

13 (4) The State Office on Homelessness shall accept and
14 administer moneys appropriated to it to provide annual
15 challenge grants to lead agencies of continuums of care
16 designated by the State Office on Homelessness under s.
17 420.6225. The department shall establish varying levels of
18 grant awards ~~up to \$750,000~~ per continuum of care lead
19 agency. The department, in consultation with the Council on
20 Homelessness, shall specify a grant award level in the
21 notice of the solicitation of grant applications.

22 (a) To qualify for the grant, a continuum of care lead
23 agency must develop and implement a local continuum of care
24 plan for its designated catchment area. The services and
25 housing funded through the grant must be implemented through
26 the continuum of care's coordinated entry system as provided
27 in s. 420.6225(5)(b) and must be designed to assess and

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refer persons seeking assistance to the appropriate housing intervention and service provider. The continuum of care lead agency shall also document the commitment of local government or private organizations to provide matching funds or in-kind support in an amount equal to 25 percent of the grant requested. Expenditures of leveraged funds or resources, including third-party cash or in-kind contributions, are authorized only for eligible activities carried out in connection with a project in which such funds or resources have not been used as leverage or match for any other project or program. The expenditures must be certified through a written commitment.

(b) Preference must be given to those continuum of care lead agencies that have demonstrated the ability of their continuum of care to help households move out of homelessness.

(c) The grant may be used to fund any of the housing, program, or service needs included in the local continuum of care plan. The continuum of care lead agency may allocate the grant to programs, services, or housing providers that implement the local continuum of care plan. The continuum of care lead agency may provide subgrants to a local agency to implement programs or services or provide housing identified for funding in the continuum of care lead agency's application to the department. A continuum of care lead agency may spend a maximum of 10 percent of its funding on administrative costs.

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(d) The continuum of care lead agency shall submit a final report to the department documenting the outcomes achieved by the grant-funded programs in enabling persons who are homeless to return to permanent housing, thereby ending such person's episode of homelessness.

(5) The State Office on Homelessness may administer moneys given to it to provide homeless housing assistance grants annually to continuum of care lead agencies recognized by the State Office on Homelessness to acquire, construct, or rehabilitate permanent housing units for homeless persons. These moneys shall consist of any sums that the state may appropriate, as well as money received from donations, gifts, bequests, or any other public or private source, which are intended to acquire, construct, or rehabilitate permanent housing units for homeless persons.

(a) Grant applicants shall be ranked competitively based on criteria that include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

1. The ability of the continuum of care to provide quality services.

2. The ability of the continuum of care to leverage federal homeless assistance and private funding.

3. The extent of the need for providing housing and services to individuals experiencing homelessness in a continuum of care's planning areas relative to the population of the counties served.

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81 4. The effectiveness of the continuum of care in
82 keeping families housed.

83 (b) ~~Funding for any particular project may not exceed~~
84 ~~\$750,000.~~

85 ~~(c)~~—Projects must reserve, for a minimum of 20 years,
86 the number of units acquired, constructed, or rehabilitated
87 through homeless housing assistance grant funding to serve
88 persons who are homeless at the time they assume tenancy.

89 (c) ~~(d)~~—No more than two grants may be awarded annually
90 in any given continuum of care catchment area.

91 (d) ~~(e)~~—A project may not be funded which is not
92 included in the local continuum of care plan, as recognized
93 by the State Office on Homelessness, for the catchment area
94 in which the project is located.

95 (e) ~~(f)~~—The maximum percentage of funds that the State
96 Office on Homelessness and each applicant may spend on
97 administrative costs is 10 percent.

98 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.