

**ESSB 5959 - H AMD 1576**

By Representative Miloscia

**ADOPTED 3/13/2008**

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

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The transitional housing operating  
4 and rent program is created in the department to assist individuals  
5 and families who are homeless or who are at risk of becoming  
6 homeless to secure and retain safe, decent, and affordable housing.  
7 The department shall provide grants to eligible organizations, as  
8 described in RCW 43.185.060, to provide assistance to program  
9 participants. The eligible organizations must use grant moneys  
10 for:

11 (a) Rental assistance, which includes security or utility  
12 deposits, first and last month's rent assistance, and eligible  
13 moving expenses to be determined by the department;

14 (b) Case management services designed to assist program  
15 participants to secure and retain immediate housing and to  
16 transition into permanent housing and greater levels of self-  
17 sufficiency;

18 (c) Operating expenses of transitional housing facilities that  
19 serve homeless families with children; and

20 (d) Administrative costs of the eligible organization, which  
21 must not exceed limits prescribed by the department.

22 (2) Eligible to receive assistance through the transitional  
23 housing operating and rent program are:

24 (a) Families with children who are homeless or who are at risk  
25 of becoming homeless and who have household incomes at or below  
26 fifty percent of the median household income for their county;

27 (b) Families with children who are homeless or who are at risk  
28 of becoming homeless and who are receiving services under chapter  
29 13.34 RCW;

30 (c) Individuals or families without children who are homeless  
31 or at risk of becoming homeless and who have household incomes at

1 or below thirty percent of the median household income for their  
2 county;

3 (d) Individuals or families who are homeless or who are at risk  
4 of becoming homeless and who have a household with an adult member  
5 who has a mental health or chemical dependency disorder; and

6 (e) Individuals or families who are homeless or who are at risk  
7 of becoming homeless and who have a household with an adult member  
8 who is an offender released from confinement within the past  
9 eighteen months.

10 (3) All program participants must be willing to create and  
11 actively participate in a housing stability plan for achieving  
12 permanent housing and greater levels of self-sufficiency.

13 (4) Data on all program participants must be entered into and  
14 tracked through the Washington homeless client management  
15 information system as described in RCW 43.185C.180. For eligible  
16 organizations serving victims of domestic violence or sexual  
17 assault, compliance with this subsection must be accomplished in  
18 accordance with 42 U.S.C. Sec. 11383 (a)(8).

19 (5) Beginning in 2011, each eligible organization receiving  
20 over five hundred thousand dollars during the previous calendar  
21 year from the transitional housing operating and rent program and  
22 from sources including: (a) State housing-related funding sources;  
23 (b) the affordable housing for all surcharge in RCW 36.22.178; (c)  
24 the home security fund surcharges in RCW 36.22.179 and 36.22.1791;  
25 and (d) any other surcharge imposed under chapter 36.22 or 43.185C  
26 RCW to fund homelessness programs or other housing programs, shall  
27 apply to the Washington state quality award program for an  
28 independent assessment of its quality management, accountability,  
29 and performance system, once every three years.

30 (6) The department may develop rules, requirements, procedures,  
31 and guidelines as necessary to implement and operate the  
32 transitional housing operating and rent program.

33 (7) The department shall produce an annual transitional housing  
34 operating and rent program report that must be included in the  
35 department's homeless housing strategic plan as described in  
36 43.185C.040. The report must include performance measures to be  
37 determined by the department that address, at a minimum, the  
38 following issue areas:

1 (a) The success of the program in helping program participants  
2 transition into permanent affordable housing and achieve self-  
3 sufficiency or increase their levels of self-sufficiency, which  
4 shall be defined by the department based upon the costs of living,  
5 including housing costs, needed to support: (1) One adult  
6 individual; and (2) two adult individuals and one preschool-aged  
7 child and one school aged child.

8 (b) The financial performance of the program related to  
9 efficient program administration by the department and program  
10 operation by selected eligible organizations, including an analysis  
11 of the costs per program participant served;

12 (c) The quality, completeness, and timeliness of the  
13 information on program participants provided to the Washington  
14 homeless client management information system database; and

15 (d) The satisfaction of program participants in the assistance  
16 provided through the program.

17  
18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The transitional housing operating and  
19 rent account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. All  
20 receipts from sources directed to the transitional housing  
21 operating and rent program must be deposited into the account.  
22 Expenditures from the account may be used solely for the purpose of  
23 the transitional housing operating and rent program as described in  
24 section 1 of this act. Only the director of the department or the  
25 director's designee may authorize expenditures from the account.  
26 The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88  
27 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for expenditures.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** RCW 59.18.600 (Rental to offenders--  
29 Limitation on liability) and 2007 c 483 s 602 are each repealed."

30  
31 Correct the title.

**EFFECT:** Adds families who are involved with child welfare  
services to the list of persons eligible for THOR services.  
Clarifies that domestic violence and sexual assault victim  
service providers must comply with federal data tracking  
requirements. Requires that organizations receiving THOR  
funding, and which received over \$500,000 during the previous  
year from state and local housing related funding sources apply

to the Washington State Quality Award program every three years. Requires CTED to define what self-sufficiency means in order to measure the performance of the THOR program.