

HB 287

2010

1                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to homelessness; amending ss. 420.621,  
 3           420.622, 420.623, 420.624, and 420.625, F.S.; requiring  
 4           the Department of Children and Family Services to create  
 5           lead agencies for the homeless for certain purposes;  
 6           transferring responsibilities and powers of local  
 7           coalitions for the homeless to lead agencies for the  
 8           homeless; conforming provisions; amending s. 683.325,  
 9           F.S.; conforming terminology; providing an effective date.

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

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13           Section 1. Subsection (6) of section 420.621, Florida  
 14 Statutes, is amended to read:

15           420.621 Definitions.--As used in ss. 420.621-420.628, the  
 16 term:

17           (6) "Lead agency ~~Local coalition~~ for the homeless" or  
 18 "lead agency" means an agency ~~a coalition~~ established pursuant  
 19 to s. 420.623.

20           Section 2. Paragraphs (e) and (1) of subsection (3) and  
 21 subsection (4) of section 420.622, Florida Statutes, are amended  
 22 to read:

23           420.622 State Office on Homelessness; Council on  
 24 Homelessness.--

25           (3) The State Office on Homelessness, pursuant to the  
 26 policies set by the council and subject to the availability of  
 27 funding, shall:

28 (e) Monitor and provide recommendations for coordinating  
 29 the activities and programs of lead agencies ~~local coalitions~~  
 30 for the homeless and promote the effectiveness of programs  
 31 addressing the needs of the homeless.

32 (1) Convene meetings and workshops of state and local  
 33 agencies, lead agencies ~~local coalitions~~ and programs, and other  
 34 stakeholders for the purpose of developing and reviewing  
 35 policies, services, activities, coordination, and funding of  
 36 efforts to meet the needs of the homeless.

37 (4) Not less than 120 days after the effective date of  
 38 this act, the State Office on Homelessness, with the concurrence  
 39 of the Council on Homelessness, may accept and administer moneys  
 40 appropriated to it to provide "Challenge Grants" annually to  
 41 lead agencies for homeless assistance continuums of care  
 42 designated by the State Office on Homelessness. A lead agency  
 43 for the homeless may be a ~~local homeless coalition~~, municipal or  
 44 county government, any ~~or~~ other public agency, or a private,  
 45 not-for-profit corporation. Such grants may be up to \$500,000  
 46 per lead agency.

47 (a) To qualify for the grant, a lead agency must develop  
 48 and implement a local homeless assistance continuum of care plan  
 49 for its designated catchment area.

50 (b) Preference must be given to those lead agencies that  
 51 have demonstrated the ability of their continuum of care to  
 52 provide quality services to homeless persons and the ability to  
 53 leverage federal homeless-assistance funding under the Stewart  
 54 B. McKinney Act and private funding for the provision of  
 55 services to homeless persons.

56 (c) Preference must be given to lead agencies in catchment  
 57 areas with the greatest need for the provision of housing and  
 58 services to the homeless, relative to the population of the  
 59 catchment area.

60 Section 3. Section 420.623, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 61 to read:

62 420.623 Lead agencies ~~Local coalitions~~ for the homeless.--

63 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.--The department shall establish lead  
 64 agencies ~~local coalitions~~ to plan, network, coordinate, and  
 65 monitor the delivery of services to the homeless. Appropriate  
 66 local groups and organizations involved in providing services  
 67 for the homeless and interested business groups and associations  
 68 shall be given an opportunity to participate in such agencies  
 69 ~~coalitions~~, including, but not limited to:

70 (a) Organizations and agencies providing mental health and  
 71 substance abuse treatment.

72 (b) County health departments and community health  
 73 centers.

74 (c) Organizations and agencies providing food, shelter, or  
 75 other services targeted to the homeless.

76 (d) Local law enforcement agencies.

77 (e) Regional workforce boards.

78 (f) County and municipal governments.

79 (g) Local public housing authorities.

80 (h) Local school districts.

81 (i) Local organizations and agencies serving specific  
 82 subgroups of the homeless population, including, but not limited

83 to, those serving veterans, victims of domestic violence, person  
 84 with HIV/AIDS, and runaway youth.

85 (j) Local community-based care alliances.

86 (2) FUNCTIONS OF LEAD AGENCIES ~~LOCAL COALITIONS~~.--Major  
 87 functions of the lead agencies ~~local coalitions~~ are to:

88 (a) Develop or coordinate ~~assist~~ with the development of  
 89 the local homeless continuum of care plan, as described in s.  
 90 420.624, for the catchment area containing the county or region  
 91 served by the lead agency ~~local homeless coalition~~. Unless  
 92 otherwise specified in the plan or as a result of an agreement  
 93 with another lead agency ~~coalition~~ in the same catchment area,  
 94 the local lead agency ~~coalition~~ shall serve as the lead agency  
 95 for the local homeless assistance continuum of care.

96 (b) Discuss local issues related to homelessness and the  
 97 needs of the homeless.

98 (c) Inventory all local resources for the homeless,  
 99 including, but not limited to, food assistance, clothing,  
 100 emergency shelter, low-cost housing, emergency medical care,  
 101 counseling, training, and employment.

102 (d) Review and assess all services and programs in support  
 103 of the homeless and identify unmet needs of the homeless.

104 (e) Facilitate the delivery of multiagency services for  
 105 the homeless to eliminate duplication of services and to  
 106 maximize the use of limited existing resources for the homeless.

107 (f) Develop new programs and services to fill critical  
 108 service gaps, if necessary, through reallocation of existing  
 109 resources for the homeless.

110 (g) Develop a community resource directory of services  
 111 available to the homeless for use by agencies, volunteers,  
 112 information and referral systems, and homeless persons.

113 (h) Develop public education and outreach initiatives to  
 114 make homeless persons aware of the services available to them  
 115 through community agencies and organizations.

116 (i) Identify and explore new approaches to shelter care  
 117 for the homeless.

118 (j) Monitor and evaluate local homeless initiatives to  
 119 assess their impact, to determine the adequacy of services  
 120 available through such initiatives, and to identify additional  
 121 unmet needs of homeless persons.

122 (k) Collect and compile information relating to the  
 123 homeless population served and report on a regular basis, but at  
 124 least annually, such information to the department, as directed  
 125 by the department.

126 (l) Develop an annual report detailing the lead agency's  
 127 ~~coalition's~~ goals and activities.

128 (m) Develop spending plans pursuant to the grant-in-aid  
 129 program created under s. 420.625. Spending plans shall include a  
 130 competitive ranking of applications from local agencies eligible  
 131 for funding pursuant to the provisions of s. 420.625.

132 (n) Develop a strategy for increasing support and  
 133 participation from local businesses in the lead agency's  
 134 ~~coalition's~~ programs and activities.

135 (3) DEPARTMENT GUIDELINES.--The department shall develop  
 136 guidelines for lead agency ~~coalition~~ activities and, ~~coalition~~  
 137 reports, and development of local plans of action.

138 (4) ANNUAL REPORTS.--The department shall submit to the  
 139 Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the  
 140 President of the Senate, by June 30, an annual report consisting  
 141 of a compilation of data collected by lead agencies ~~local~~  
 142 ~~coalitions~~, progress made in the development and implementation  
 143 of local homeless assistance continuums of care plans in each  
 144 district, local spending plans, programs and resources available  
 145 at the local level, and recommendations for programs and  
 146 funding.

147 Section 4. Subsections (4), (5), and (6) of section  
 148 420.624, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

149 420.624 Local homeless assistance continuum of care.--

150 (4) Each local homeless assistance continuum of care plan  
 151 must designate a lead agency that will serve as the point of  
 152 contact and accountability to the State Office on Homelessness.  
 153 The lead agency may be a ~~local homeless coalition~~, municipal or  
 154 county government, any ~~or~~ other public agency, or a private,  
 155 not-for-profit corporation.

156 (5) Continuum of care catchment areas must be designated  
 157 and revised as necessary by the State Office on Homelessness,  
 158 with the input of lead agencies ~~local homeless coalitions and~~  
 159 ~~public or private organizations that have previously certified~~  
 160 ~~to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development~~  
 161 ~~and that currently serve as lead agencies for a local homeless~~  
 162 ~~assistance continuum of care. Designated catchment areas must~~  
 163 ~~not be overlapping.~~ The designations must be consistent with  
 164 those made by the United States Department of Housing and Urban

165 Development in conjunction with the awarding of federal Stewart  
 166 B. McKinney Act homeless assistance funding.

167 (6) The State Office on Homelessness shall recognize only  
 168 one homeless assistance continuum of care plan and its  
 169 designated lead agency for each designated catchment area. The  
 170 recognition must be made with the input of lead agencies ~~local~~  
 171 ~~homeless coalitions and public or private organizations that~~  
 172 ~~have previously certified to the United States Department of~~  
 173 ~~Housing and Urban Development that they currently serve as lead~~  
 174 ~~agencies for a local homeless assistance continuum of care.~~ The  
 175 designations must be consistent with those made by the United  
 176 States Department of Housing and Development in conjunction with  
 177 the awarding of federal Stewart B. McKinney Act homeless  
 178 assistance funding.

179 Section 5. Paragraphs (e) and (f) of subsection (5) and  
 180 subsection (7) of section 420.625, Florida Statutes, are amended  
 181 to read:

182 420.625 Grant-in-aid program.--

183 (5) SPENDING PLANS.--The department shall develop  
 184 guidelines for the development of spending plans and for the  
 185 evaluation and approval by district administrators of spending  
 186 plans, based upon such factors as:

187 (e) A statement from the lead agency ~~local coalition~~ for  
 188 the homeless as to the steps to be taken to assure coordination  
 189 and integration of services in the district to avoid unnecessary  
 190 duplication and costs.

191 (f) Assurances by the lead agency ~~local coalition~~ for the  
 192 homeless that alternative funding strategies for meeting needs

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193 through the reallocation of existing resources, utilization of  
 194 volunteers, and local government or private agency funding have  
 195 been explored.

196 (7) DISTRIBUTION TO LOCAL AGENCIES.--District funds so  
 197 allocated shall be available for distribution by the district  
 198 administrator to local agencies to fund programs such as those  
 199 set forth in subsection (3), based upon the recommendations of  
 200 the lead agencies ~~local coalitions~~ in accordance with spending  
 201 plans developed by the lead agencies ~~coalitions~~ and approved by  
 202 the district administrator. Not more than 10 percent of the  
 203 total state funds awarded under a spending plan may be used by  
 204 the lead agency ~~local coalition~~ for staffing and administration.

205 Section 6. Section 683.325, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 206 to read:

207 683.325 Homeless Persons' Memorial Day.--The Legislature  
 208 designates December 21, the first day of winter and the longest  
 209 night of the year as a Homeless Persons' Memorial Day to bring  
 210 attention to the tragedy of homelessness. The State Office on  
 211 Homelessness, lead agencies for the homeless ~~local homeless~~  
 212 ~~coalitions~~, and local governments are encouraged to sponsor  
 213 events to promote awareness of the plight of the homeless and  
 214 identify actions that individuals and organizations can take to  
 215 address the problem of homelessness.

216 Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010.