

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services

BILL: SB 1442

INTRODUCER: Senator Grall

SUBJECT: Pregnancy Support Services

DATE: February 12, 2024

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Morgan</u>	<u>Brown</u>	<u>HP</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
2.	<u>Gerbrandt</u>	<u>McKnight</u>	<u>AHS</u>	<u>Pre-meeting</u>
3.	_____	_____	<u>FP</u>	_____

I. Summary:

SB 1442 creates s. 381.97, F.S., to establish the Florida State Maternity Housing Grant Program within the Department of Health (DOH) to provide housing and resources to Florida’s women and families experiencing homelessness during the prenatal period.

The bill requires the DOH to use grant funds to cover eligible expenses and provides that the total amount of grants awarded may not exceed the funding appropriated for the grant program.

The bill authorizes the DOH to adopt rules to administer the program.

The bill has a significant, negative fiscal impact on state expenditures. See Section V., Fiscal Impact Statement.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

II. Present Situation:

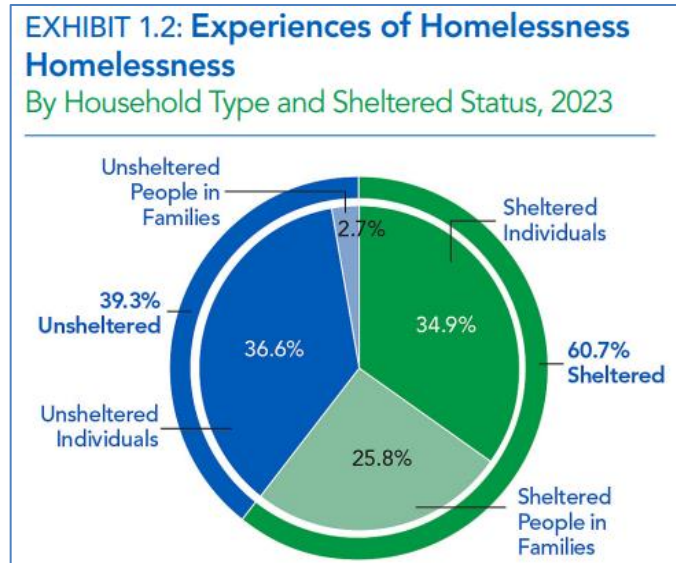
Homelessness in the United States

Homeless persons are defined as those who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, or those living in shelters and temporary housing, or public and private places not designed for sleeping accommodations. While many homeless individuals are alone, others are couples, families with children, or unaccompanied youth.¹

¹ Florida Department of Children and Families, *Homelessness Frequently Asked Questions*, available at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/public-assistance/homelessness/homelessness-frequently-asked-questions> (last visited Feb. 1, 2024).

There are two types of homelessness: “sheltered” and “unsheltered.” Unsheltered homeless persons live on the streets or live in tents, cars, or abandoned buildings. Sheltered homeless persons stay in emergency or transitional housing temporarily. Sheltered homeless persons are still considered homeless due to a lack of stable permanent housing.²

On a single night in 2023, roughly 653,100 people, about 20 of every 10,000 people in the U.S., were experiencing homelessness. This is the highest number reported since the inception of point-in-time count reporting in 2007. The data indicated that six in ten people were experiencing sheltered homelessness, while the remaining four in ten were experiencing unsheltered homelessness in places not meant for human habitation.³



Reporting has also shown experiences of homelessness increased nationwide across all household types. Between 2022 and 2023, the number of people experiencing homelessness increased by 12 percent, roughly 70,650 more people. Nearly three of every ten people experiencing homelessness (28 percent or approximately 186,100 people) did so as part of a family with children. Between 2022 and 2023, the number of people in families with children who were experiencing homelessness increased by more than 25,000 people (or 16 percent), ending a downward trend in families experiencing homelessness that began in 2012.⁴

The following exhibits demonstrate the approximate U.S. homeless population by state, as well as the people in families with children experiencing homelessness by sheltered status from 2007 to 2023.⁵

² *Id.*

³ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Office of Community Planning and Development, *The 2023 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress – Part 1: Point-in-Time Estimates of Homelessness (December 2023)*, available at <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2023-AHAR-Part-1.pdf> (last visited Feb. 1, 2024).

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

EXHIBIT 1.6: Estimates of People Experiencing Homelessness
By State, 2023

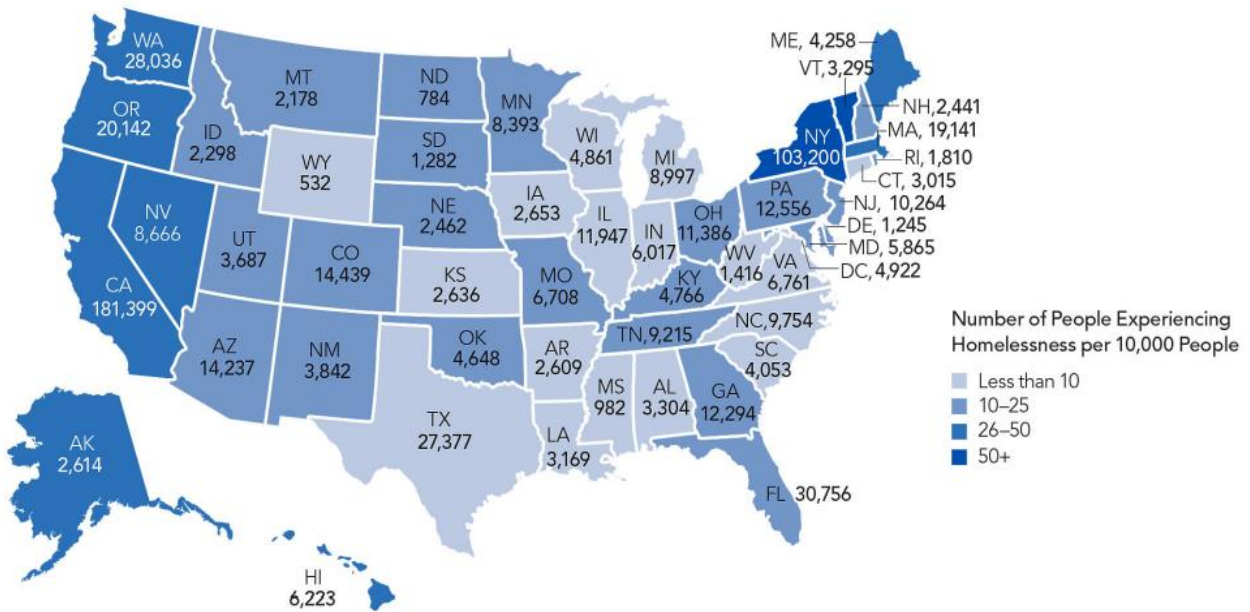
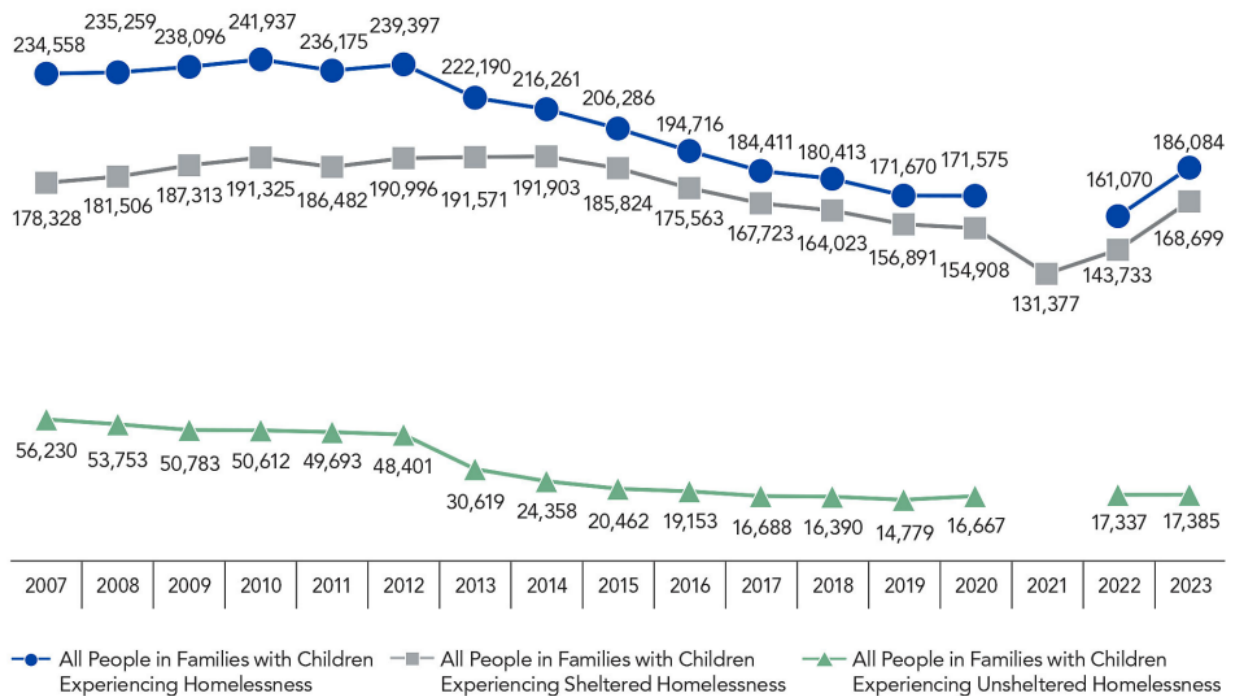


EXHIBIT 3.1: PIT Estimates of People in Families with Children Experiencing Homelessness
By Sheltered Status, 2007-2023



Note: The data for 2021 does not display the total count of people in families with children experiencing homelessness or the count of all people in families with children experiencing unsheltered homelessness because of pandemic-related disruptions to counts. Also, estimates of the number of people in families with children experiencing sheltered homelessness at a point in time in 2021 should be viewed with caution, as the number could be artificially reduced compared with non-pandemic times, reflecting reduced capacity in some communities or safety concerns regarding staying in shelters.

Homelessness in Florida

On a given night in January 2023, more than half of all people experiencing homelessness in the U.S. were in four states:⁶

- California (28 percent of all people experiencing homelessness in the U.S., or 181,399 people);
- New York (16 percent or 103,200 people);
- Florida (5 percent or 30,756 people); and
- Washington (4 percent or 28,036 people).

Between 2022 and 2023, the states with the largest absolute increases in homelessness were:⁷

- New York (29,022 more people);
- California (9,878);
- Florida (4,797);
- Colorado (4,042); and
- Massachusetts (3,634).

Over a longer period, from 2007 to 2023, the number of people experiencing homelessness declined in 25 states and the District of Columbia. The largest absolute decreases were in Florida (17,313 fewer people) and Texas (12,411 fewer people).⁸

Between 2022 and 2023, the number of people in families with children experiencing homelessness increased in 34 states and the District of Columbia. The largest increases were in:⁹

- New York (18,890 more people, a 54 percent increase);
- Massachusetts (2,906 more people or 29 percent);
- Colorado (1,490 more people or 69 percent);
- Florida (1,391 more people or 22 percent); and
- Illinois (1,077 more people or 36 percent).

Pregnant Women Experiencing Homelessness

Due to the very transient nature of homelessness, the exact number of pregnant homeless women is difficult to determine. This represents a significant knowledge gap that could be used to inform social and health policy, as well as service delivery, thus researchers have continued in their attempts to identify the extent of pregnancy among the homeless population.¹⁰

In the U.S., one study estimated that one in five homeless women are pregnant at any given time, almost twice the rate of the general population. Other research uncovered even higher rates of

⁶ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Community Planning and Development, The 2023 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress – Part 1: Point-in-Time Estimates of Homelessness (December 2023), available at <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2023-AHAR-Part-1.pdf> (last visited Feb. 1, 2024).

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ Council to Homeless Persons, *The Extent, Nature and Impact of Homelessness on Pregnant Women and Their Babies*, available at <https://chp.org.au/parity/the-extent-nature-and-impact-of-homelessness-on-pregnant-women-and-their-babies/> (last visited Feb. 1, 2024).

pregnancy among homeless women, finding that while ten percent of women in the U.S. were pregnant in 2009, 50 to 60 percent of homeless women were pregnant.¹¹

Another study conducted in Florida determined about 183 pregnant homeless women live in Northeast Florida in any given month.¹²

The Impact of Homelessness on Maternal and Infant Health

Stable housing has been identified as one of the most important predictors of health as housing instability or homelessness lessens access to health care. This is more pressing during pregnancy, a time when access to affordable, high-quality health care is crucial. Although prenatal care is available, pregnant mothers and parents experiencing homelessness face barriers (e.g., lack of transportation, site-related factors, provider-client relationship, inconvenience, fear, cost, etc.).¹³ For some, these obstacles bar them from accessing care altogether. Additionally, people experiencing housing instability or homelessness are more likely to live in conditions that are hazardous to their health.¹⁴

Several studies have shown that homelessness has a negative impact on the health of pregnant mothers and infants:¹⁵

- Pregnant mothers experiencing homelessness are significantly less likely to have a prenatal visit during the first trimester, breastfeed, and have a well-baby checkup than their housed counterparts.
- In comparison with a housing-secure group with similar characteristics, pregnant mothers experiencing homelessness are significantly more likely to have various pregnancy-related conditions and complications, including high blood pressure, iron deficiency and other anemia, nausea and vomiting, hemorrhage, placental problems, and abdominal pain.
- One in five mothers who experienced homelessness in the year before giving birth had an infant with low birth weight, a nearly 50 percent increase in risk compared to consistently housed people with otherwise similar characteristics.
- Newborn infants of people experiencing homelessness have longer stays in the hospital and are more likely to require intensive care than infants of consistently housed people.
- People who were homeless as infants are more likely to have upper respiratory infections, other respiratory diseases, fever, allergies, injuries, developmental disorders, and asthma, compared to people who were stably housed during infancy. These individuals also show a propensity for increased emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and health care costs.

¹¹ Council to Homeless Persons, *The Extent, Nature and Impact of Homelessness on Pregnant Women and Their Babies*, available at <https://chp.org.au/parity/the-extent-nature-and-impact-of-homelessness-on-pregnant-women-and-their-babies/> (last visited Feb. 1, 2024).

¹² Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic, and Neonatal Nursing, Bloom, K. C., Bednarzyk, M. S., Devitt, D. L., Renault, R. A., Teaman, V., & Van Loock, D. M., *Barriers to prenatal care for homeless pregnant women (2004)*, available at [https://www.jognn.org/article/S0884-2175\(15\)34192-7/fulltext](https://www.jognn.org/article/S0884-2175(15)34192-7/fulltext) (last visited Feb. 1, 2024).

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ National Partnership for Women & Families, *Homelessness Hurts Moms and Babies*, available at <https://nationalpartnership.org/report/homelessness-hurts-moms-and-babies/> (last visited Feb. 1, 2024).

¹⁵ *Id.*

The Department of Children and Families (DCF)

Office on Homelessness

The Office on Homelessness (office), through the DCF, oversees policy and funding toward ending and serving persons experiencing homelessness. The office recognizes and designates local Continuum of Care (CoC) entities to serve as lead agencies for the homeless assistance system throughout the state of Florida.¹⁶

CoCs are organizations composed of representatives of nonprofit homeless providers, victim service providers, faith-based organizations, governments, businesses, advocates, public housing agencies, school districts, social service providers, and mental health agencies, among other stakeholders.¹⁷

Services offered through CoCs and their providers include operation and maintenance of emergency shelters, outreach to individuals who are homeless, rental assistance to prevent individuals from becoming homeless, and rapid rehousing of individuals from shelters or homelessness.¹⁸

The CoC model creates a framework for a comprehensive array of emergency, transitional, and permanent housing, and supportive services to address the varying needs of the persons who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless. The purpose of the CoC is to help communities envision, plan, and implement coordinated, long-term solutions to address homelessness.¹⁹

Currently, Florida has 28 CoCs.²⁰

Council on Homelessness

The Council on Homelessness (council) was created in 2001 to develop and coordinate policy to reduce the prevalence and duration of homelessness and work toward ending homelessness in Florida.²¹ With this goal in mind, the council annually produces a report documenting its findings and recommendations, which offers insight into homelessness among special populations not captured by the federal point-in-time count, such as parenting youth.²²

Parenting youth are a percentage of youth who experience homelessness and are pregnant or parenting. While lack of permanent housing can be traumatic in itself, these youth are also

¹⁶ Florida Department of Children and Families, *Homelessness*, available at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/public-assistance/homelessness> (last visited Feb. 1, 2024).

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ *Id.*

²⁰ *Id.*

²¹ Florida Department of Children and Families, *Council on Homelessness*, available at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/public-assistance/homelessness/council-homelessness> (last visited Feb. 1, 2024).

²² Florida Department of Children and Families, Florida's Council on Homelessness, *Annual Report (June 2023)*, available at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/sites/default/files/2023-07/Florida%27s%20Council%20On%20Homelessness%20Annual%20Report%202023.pdf#:~:text=The%20number%20of%20people%20experiencing%20unsheltered%20homelessness%20in%20Florida%20increased,the%20number%20of%20unsheltered%20homeless>. (last visited Feb. 1, 2024).

burdened with concerns of trying to provide stable and safe housing for their children. One hundred and ninety-four parenting youth were accounted for in the council’s 2023 report. Data from 2018 also indicated that about 1.1 million children had a young parent who experienced homelessness during the past year. The challenges faced by this segment of the homeless youth population require systems of care to support developmentally appropriate services that address the unique needs of young homeless parents.²³

Affordable Housing

Affordable housing is defined in terms of household income. Housing is considered affordable when it costs less than 30 percent of a family’s gross income.²⁴ A family paying more than 30 percent of its income for housing is considered “cost-burdened,” while those paying more than 50 percent are considered “extremely cost-burdened.”²⁵ Severely cost-burdened households are more likely to sacrifice other necessities such as healthy food and healthcare to pay for housing, and to experience unstable housing situations such as eviction.²⁶

Resident eligibility for Florida’s state and federally funded housing programs is typically governed by area median income (AMI) levels. These levels are published annually by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for every county and metropolitan area. The following are standard household income level definitions and their relationship to the 2023 Florida state AMI of \$85,500²⁷ for a family of four (as family size increases or decreases, the income range also increases or decreases):²⁸

- Extremely low income – earning up to 30 percent AMI (at or below \$25,650);²⁹
- Very low income – earning from 30.01 to 50 percent AMI (\$25,651 to \$42,750);³⁰
- Low income – earning from 50.01 to 80 percent AMI (\$42,751 to \$68,400);³¹ and
- Moderate income – earning from 80.01 to 120 percent of AMI (\$68,401 to \$102,600).³²

Housing costs reflect what people are willing to pay to live in an area, which may make it difficult for growing families to find affordable homes and apartments. The government helps

²³ Florida Department of Children and Families, Florida’s Council on Homelessness, *Annual Report (June 2023)*, available at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/sites/default/files/2023-07/Florida%27s%20Council%20On%20Homelessness%20Annual%20Report%202023.pdf#:~:text=The%20number%20of%20people%20experiencing%20unsheltered%20homelessness%20in%20Florida%20increased,the%20number%20of%20unsheltered%20homeless>. (last visited Feb. 1, 2024).

²⁴ Florida Housing Coalition, *Affordable Housing in Florida*, available at <https://www.flhousing.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Affordable-Housing-in-Florida-Book-WEB.pdf> (last visited Feb. 2, 2024).

²⁵ *Id.*

²⁶ The Florida Senate Staff Analysis of SB 102, February 24, 2023, available at <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2023/102/Analyses/2023s00102.ap.PDF> (last visited Feb. 2, 2024).

²⁷ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Office of Policy Development and Research, *FY 2023 Median Family Income for States, Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Portions of States Attachment*, available at <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/il/il23/FY23-Median-Attachment-State-Medians.pdf> (last visited Feb. 1, 2024).

²⁸ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Office of Policy Development and Research, *Income Limits, Access Individual Income Limits Areas – Click Here for FY 2023 IL Documentation*, available at https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/il.html#query_2023 (last visited Feb. 1, 2024).

²⁹ Section 420.0004(9), F.S.

³⁰ Section 420.0004(17), F.S.

³¹ Section 420.0004(11), F.S.

³² Section 420.0004(12), F.S.

make housing affordable through decreased monthly rent or mortgage payments so that income eligible families can pay less for housing than it would otherwise cost at the “market rate.” Lower monthly payments or down payment assistance is a result of affordable housing financing.³³

Impact on Homelessness

Over the last 30 years, the lack of affordable rental housing for low-income households has fostered homelessness in the U.S. In 1970, there were 6.5 million low-cost rental units in the U.S. and 6.2 million low-income renter households with 300,000 available units. By 1985, the number of low-cost units fell to 5.6 million and the number of low-income renter households grew to 8.9 million, a disparity of 3.3 million units. In 2019, the National Low Income Housing Coalition reported that the State of Florida had a shortage of 428,622 affordable rental units.³⁴

In 2017, the median rent, including utilities, for an apartment in Florida was \$1,130 per month, a 16 percent increase since 2001, while income only increased by a disproportionate one percent³⁵. As a result, 1,666,000 people in 769,400 low-income Florida households paid more than half their income in rent. Often low-income individuals and families forego necessities, like food or medicine, to keep a roof over their heads.³⁶

According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 50 percent of low-income people in Florida are homeless or pay over half their income in rent. Currently, most do not receive federal rental assistance due to limited funding, but research has shown that rental assistance has helped 286,700 people in families with children in Florida avoid homelessness.³⁷

Florida Housing Finance Corporation

The 1997 Legislature created the Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC) as a public-private entity to assist in providing a range of affordable housing opportunities for Floridians.³⁸ The FHFC is a corporation held by the state and housed within the Department of Commerce. The FHFC is a separate budget entity, and its operations, including those relating to personnel, purchasing, transactions involving real or personal property, and budgetary matters, are not subject to control, supervision, or direction by the Department of Commerce.³⁹

The goal of the FHFC is to increase the supply of safe, affordable housing for individuals and families with very low to moderate incomes by stimulating investment of private capital and encouraging public and private sector housing partnerships. As a financial institution, the FHFC

³³ The Florida Senate Staff Analysis of SB 102, February 24, 2023, available at <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2023/102/Analyses/2023s00102.ap.PDF> (last visited Feb. 2, 2024).

³⁴ Florida Coalition to End Homelessness, *The Issue – The Fight to End Homelessness: Past, Present, and Future*, available at <https://fchonline.org/the-issue/> (last visited Feb. 1, 2024).

³⁵ *Id.*

³⁶ Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, *Florida Federal Rental Assistance Fact Sheet*, available at <https://apps.cbpp.org/4-3-19hous/PDF/4-3-19hous-factsheet-fl.pdf> (last visited Feb. 1, 2024).

³⁷ *Id.*

³⁸ Chapter 97-167, Laws of Fla. From 1980 through 1997, the former Florida Housing Finance Agency, placed within the former Department of Community Affairs, performed similar duties.

³⁹ Section 420.504(1), F.S.

administers federal and state resources to finance the development and preservation of affordable rental housing and assist homebuyers with financing and down payment assistance.⁴⁰

State Apartment Incentive Loan Program

The State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) Program is administered by the FHFC and provides low-interest loans on a competitive basis to multifamily affordable housing developers.⁴¹ These funds often serve to bridge the gap between the developments' primary financing and the total cost of the development. SAIL dollars are available for developers proposing to construct or substantially rehabilitate multifamily rental housing.⁴²

At a minimum, developments financed by SAIL must set aside 20 percent of units for households at or below 50 percent of AMI, or if the development also receives Low Income Housing Tax Credits⁴³ (LIHTC), 40 percent of units for households up to 60 percent of AMI.⁴⁴ Loan interest rates are set at zero percent for those developments that maintain 80 percent of their occupancy for farmworkers, commercial fishing workers, or homeless people. The interest rates are set at one percent for all other developments. Generally, loans are issued for 15 years and cover approximately 25 to 35 percent of the total development cost.⁴⁵

State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program

The State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program was created in 1992⁴⁶ to provide funds to local governments as an incentive to create partnerships that produce and preserve affordable homeownership and multifamily housing. The SHIP program provides funds to all 67 counties and 52 Community Development Block Grant⁴⁷ entitlement cities on a population-based formula to finance and preserve affordable housing based on locally adopted housing plans.⁴⁸ The program was designed to serve very low, low-, and moderate-income families and is administered by the FHFC. SHIP funds may be used to pay for emergency repairs, rehabilitation, down payment and closing cost assistance, impact fees, construction and gap financing, mortgage buy-downs, acquisition of property for affordable housing, matching dollars for federal housing grants and programs, and homeownership counseling.⁴⁹

Funds are expended per each local government's adopted Local Housing Assistance Plan

⁴⁰ The Florida Senate Staff Analysis of SB 102, February 24, 2023, *available at* <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2023/102/Analyses/2023s00102.ap.PDF> (last visited Feb. 2, 2024).

⁴¹ Section 420.5087, F.S.

⁴² Florida Housing Finance Corporation, *State Apartment Incentive Loan*, *available at* <https://floridahousing.org/programs/developers-multifamily-programs/state-apartment-incentive-loan> (last visited Feb. 1, 2024).

⁴³ Low Income Housing Tax Credits are a financial instrument administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development that provide financing for low income housing developments. Credits are allocated to states on a per capita basis and state-level administration is performed by FHFC. Eligible developments are income-limited similarly to SAIL requirements.

⁴⁴ Section 420.5087(2), F.S.

⁴⁵ *Supra* note 40.

⁴⁶ Chapter 92-317, Laws of Fla.

⁴⁷ The Community Development Block Grant program is a federal program created in 1974 that provides funding for housing and community development activities.

⁴⁸ *See* ss. 420.907-420.9089, F.S.

⁴⁹ Section 420.9072(7), F.S.

(LHAP), which details the housing strategies that will be utilized, such as helping those affected by mobile home park closures, encouraging innovative housing design to reduce long-term housing costs, preserving assisted housing, and reducing homelessness.⁵⁰ Local governments submit their LHAPs to the FHFC for review to ensure that they meet the broad statutory guidelines and the requirements of the program rules.

Certain statutory requirements restrict a local government's use of funds made available under the SHIP program (excluding amounts set aside for administrative costs):⁵¹

- At least 75 percent of SHIP funds must be reserved for construction, rehabilitation, or emergency repair of affordable, eligible housing; and
- Up to 25 percent of SHIP funds may be reserved for allowed rental services.⁵²

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill creates s. 381.97, F.S., to establish the Florida State Maternity Housing Grant Program (program) within the Department of Health (DOH), to provide approved housing to Florida's women and families experiencing homelessness during the prenatal period. The bill provides Legislative intent that the provisions of this bill assist those whose financial resources have been determined inadequate to meet residential costs, regardless of age or marital status.

The program provides housing and resources to eligible persons for a period not to exceed eight months, including six weeks of postpartum care.

The bill requires the DOH to use grant funds specifically appropriated for the grant program and specifies that the total amount of grants awarded may not exceed the funding appropriated for the grant program.

The bill authorizes the DOH to use grant funds for the following purposes:

- Housing in an authorized living arrangement for a period of time determined by the mother's estimated delivery date;
- Services recommended by the DOH for women and families approved for the program to encourage economic independence and positive health outcomes for participants;
- Staffing and reimbursements for providers of authorized living arrangements; and
- All other related costs for the administration of the program, not to exceed five percent of the total grant funds.

The bill authorizes the DOH to adopt rules necessary to administer the program, which may include:

- A framework for the payment or reimbursement of funds to the mother for authorized living arrangements.

⁵⁰ Section 420.9075(3), F.S.

⁵¹ Section 420.9075(5), F.S.

⁵² Section 420.9075(5)(b), F.S. However, a local government may not expend money distributed to it to provide ongoing rent subsidies, except for: security and utility deposit assistance; eviction prevention not to exceed six months' rent; or a rent subsidy program for very-low-income households with at least one adult who is a person with special needs or is homeless, not to exceed 12 months' rental assistance.

- Eligibility criteria for pregnant mothers and expecting families seeking maternity housing services, including a sliding fee scale for participants.
- Requirements for program applications.
- Guidelines for assessing the appropriateness of authorized living arrangements and for a determination of approval for authorized living arrangements.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Since funding has not been appropriated under the bill, no fiscal impact exists at this time for the private sector. However, should the Legislature appropriate funding for the program, the program's implementation may have an impact on community partners and Florida residents that receive grant funds.

Additionally, health care providers that treat homeless women and families identified in the bill may also be positively impacted. Through the provision of stable housing, illnesses and injuries can be better prevented, and conditions can be improved or better maintained. This could result in a decrease in potentially preventable emergency department visits, reducing costs and allowing facilities such as hospitals to utilize limited funds for others in need.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill has an indeterminate, significant negative fiscal on state expenditures. The costs to provide housing and services to homeless pregnant women and families are indeterminate, but the Department of Health (DOH) anticipates they will be significant.⁵³

The bill has a significant negative fiscal impact on the DOH. According to the DOH, the estimated cost to implement the bill's provisions is \$5,969,693. The breakdown of the costs are below:⁵⁴

- Salary and Benefits: \$396,772 recurring;
- Expense: \$70,846 recurring and \$26,636 non-recurring;
- Contracted Services for regional case managers and procurement of an administrative data system: \$5,474,000 recurring; and
- Human Resources: \$1,439 recurring.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

The Department of Health (DOH) staff analysis indicates that the department does not have programs or an established infrastructure to address homelessness in Florida. At a minimum, the DOH will require one year to establish the framework for the program, as the department will need to procure staff for authorized living arrangements and develop rules, an administrative system, the application process, and the payment methodology for eligible pregnant women and families.⁵⁵

The bill does not define “postpartum care,” leaving its meaning unclear as used in the bill. For a better understanding of the intent, it is recommended that an amendment be filed to provide further clarity.

The bill may duplicate services currently provided by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC).⁵⁶ The bill may also duplicate pregnancy support and wellness services provided by the DOH under s. 381.96, F.S.⁵⁷

While the bill does not directly impact Medicaid, postpartum care as used in ch. 409, F.S., is a service provided to eligible low-income mothers via Medicaid, potentially suggesting there could be a duplication of services already reimbursed by the Agency for Health Care Administration and the federal government.

⁵³ Department of Health Staff Analysis of SB 1442, January 12, 2024. On file with Senate Health Policy Committee staff.

⁵⁴ *Id.*

⁵⁵ *Id.*

⁵⁶ *Id.*

⁵⁷ *Id.*

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill creates section 381.97 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.
