

A bill to be entitled
 An act relating to pregnancy support services;
 creating s. 381.97, F.S.; providing legislative
 intent; establishing the Florida State Maternity
 Housing Grant Program within the Department of Health;
 requiring the program to provide certain resources;
 requiring the department to use grant funds for
 specified expenses; providing a limitation on the
 amount of grants awarded under the program;
 authorizing the department to adopt rules necessary to
 administer the program; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 381.97, Florida Statutes, is created to
 read:

381.97 Florida State Maternity Housing Grant Program.—

(1) It is the intent of the Legislature to provide housing
 resources for resident women and families experiencing
 homelessness during the prenatal period, regardless of age or
 marital status, whose financial resources have been determined
 inadequate to meet residential costs.

(2) There is created within the department the Florida
 State Maternity Housing Grant Program to provide approved living
 arrangements for residents experiencing homelessness during the

26 prenatal period.

27 (3) The grant program shall provide resources for approved
 28 persons to reside in an alternative living arrangement for a
 29 period not to exceed 8 months, which includes a maximum of 6
 30 weeks of postpartum care.

31 (4) The department shall use grant funds specifically
 32 appropriated for the grant program to cover expenses related to
 33 any of the following:

34 (a) Housing in an authorized living arrangement for a
 35 period of time determined by the mother's estimated delivery
 36 date.

37 (b) Services recommended by the department for women and
 38 families approved for the grant program to encourage economic
 39 independence and positive health outcomes for participants.

40 (c) Staffing and reimbursements for providers of
 41 authorized living arrangements.

42 (d) All other related costs for the administration of the
 43 program, not to exceed five percent of the total grant funds.

44 (5) The total amount of grants awarded may not exceed the
 45 funding appropriated for the grant program.

46 (6) The department may adopt rules necessary to administer
 47 the program. The rules may include, but need not be limited to:

48 (a) A framework for the payment or reimbursement of funds
 49 to the mother for authorized living arrangements.

50 (b) Eligibility criteria for pregnant mothers and

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51 expecting families seeking maternity housing services, including
52 a sliding fee scale for participants.

53 (c) Requirements for maternity housing grant program
54 applications.

55 (d) Guidelines for assessing the appropriateness of
56 authorized living arrangements and for a determination of
57 approval for authorized living arrangements.

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