

# Chapter 425

## (House Bill 794)

AN ACT concerning

### ~~Department of Planning~~— Maryland Unaccompanied Homeless Youth and Young Adult Count Demonstration Project

FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Unaccompanied Homeless Youth and Young Adult Count Demonstration Project; requiring the Department of ~~Planning~~ Housing and Community Development to select and monitor a coordinating entity to oversee the ~~Maryland Unaccompanied Homeless Youth and Young Adult Count Demonstration~~ Project; establishing the purpose of the Project; requiring the coordinating entity to be selected through a competitive request for proposal or by sole source contract; requiring the coordinating entity to determine the number and characteristics of unaccompanied homeless youth and young adults in certain ~~jurisdictions~~ Continuums of Care using certain methods; requiring the coordinating entity to assign each youth participant a unique identifier; requiring the Department of Planning to provide certain technical assistance; requiring the ~~Department~~ Departments to make every effort to identify non-State sources of funding to fund the cost of the Project; ~~providing for the termination of this Act~~; requiring the coordinating entity to submit a certain report on or before a certain date; making this Act subject to a certain contingency; and generally relating to the ~~Unaccompanied~~ Maryland Unaccompanied Homeless Youth and Young Adult Count Demonstration Project.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

(a) ~~The Department of Planning shall select a coordinating entity to oversee the~~ There is a Maryland Unaccompanied Homeless Youth and Young Adult Count Demonstration Project.

(b) The purpose of the Project is to:

(1) ~~conduct data collection and analysis to determine the number and characteristics of unaccompanied homeless youth and young adults in each jurisdiction; and~~

(c) (1) The Department of Housing and Community Development shall select and monitor a coordinating entity to oversee the Project.

(2) The coordinating entity shall be selected through a competitive request for proposal or by sole source contract.

~~(2) on or before September 30, 2016, submit a report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, on the results of the Project.~~

~~(e) The coordinating entity shall be selected through a competitive request for proposal or by sole source contract.~~

(d) The Project shall require the coordinating entity to determine the number and characteristics of unaccompanied homeless youth and young adults in ~~the following jurisdictions:~~

~~(1) Anne Arundel County;~~

~~(2) Baltimore City; and~~

~~(3) Wicomico County~~ at least the following Continuums of Care established under Subtitle C of Title IV of the McKinney–Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 11381 through 11389:

(1) MD 501 – Baltimore City Continuum of Care;

(2) MD 503 – Annapolis/Anne Arundel County Continuum of Care;

(3) MD 505 – Baltimore County Continuum of Care;

(4) MD 512 – Hagerstown/Washington County Continuum of Care;

(5) MD 513 – Wicomico/Somerset/Worcester County Continuum of Care; and

(6) MD 600 – Prince George’s County Continuum of Care.

(e) (1) To determine the number of unaccompanied homeless youth and young adults in each jurisdiction, the coordinating entity, in partnership with Continuums of Care and local communities, shall:

(i) utilize data on the number of homeless students in public schools reported under the federal McKinney–Vento Homeless Assistance Act;

(ii) conduct a street count of unaccompanied homeless youth and young adults;

~~(iii) survey service providers; and~~

youth; and (iii) conduct a service provider count of unaccompanied homeless

(iv) conduct qualitative data collection, including conducting:

1. surveys;
2. focus groups; and
3. in-depth interviews.

(2) The coordinating entity shall work with local ~~jurisdictions~~ communities to tailor data collection methodology used under paragraph (1) of this subsection, as appropriate.

(3) Any survey conducted under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall include a uniform set of questions but may include additional questions if the additional questions are agreed on by the local ~~jurisdictions~~ communities and the coordinating entity.

(4) The methods of data collection described under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall employ promising practices, including those identified through the federal Youth Count! Pilot Project, including:

- (i) employing youth outreach workers;
- (ii) using magnet events; and
- (iii) providing stipends to encourage participation.

(5) Data collection conducted under this subsection shall be conducted to coincide with the end of the K–12 school year and the reporting of data under the federal McKinney–Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

(6) To protect the anonymity of youth participants and avoid duplication, the coordinating entity shall assign each youth participant a unique identifier that does not reveal the participant's identity.

(f) The Department of Planning shall:

(1) assist with presurvey data collection consultation and mapping support;

(2) analyze and compile data after the survey is completed; and

(3) provide a technical review of draft reports.

~~(g)~~ (g) The ~~Department~~ Departments shall make every effort to identify non-State sources of funding to fund the cost of the Project, including:

- (1) applying for federal or university grants; and
- (2) partnering with private entities to share the cost.

(h) On or before September 30, 2017, the coordinating entity shall submit a report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, on the results of the Project.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is contingent on the receipt of funding ~~from~~ through an appropriation in the State budget or through non-State sources of funding to select a coordinating entity to oversee the Maryland Unaccompanied Homeless Youth and Young Adult Count Demonstration Project. The Department of Housing and Community Development shall notify the Department of Legislative Services within 5 days after funding is received. If notice of the receipt of funding is not received by the Department of Legislative Services on or before June 30, 2018, this Act shall be null and void without the necessity of further action by the General Assembly.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to the provisions of Section 2 of this Act, this Act shall take effect ~~October~~ July 1, 2014. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of September 30, 2017, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

**Approved by the Governor, May 5, 2014.**