

Chapter 249

(Senate Bill 810)

AN ACT concerning

Housing – Local Housing Grant Program for Homeless Veterans and Survivors of Domestic Violence

FOR the purpose of establishing the Local Housing Grant Program for Homeless Veterans and Survivors of Domestic Violence to provide certain grants for housing voucher funds to counties for use to house homeless veterans and survivors of domestic violence; requiring the Department of Housing and Community Development to distribute certain grants to counties under certain circumstances, establish procedures for receiving and evaluating certain grant applications, monitor the operation of the grants, and adopt certain regulations; authorizing the Governor to include ~~at least a certain amount of money~~ funding in the annual budget for the Program; specifying that the money is supplemental to and is not intended to take the place of certain funding; authorizing the Department to establish preferences under the Program for counties that take certain actions; defining a certain term; and generally relating to the Local Housing Grant Program for Homeless Veterans and Survivors of Domestic Violence.

BY adding to

Article – Housing and Community Development

Section 4–2501 through 4–2505 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 25. Local Housing Grant Program for Homeless Veterans and Survivors of Domestic Violence”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2006 Volume and 2018 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Housing and Community Development

SUBTITLE 25. LOCAL HOUSING GRANT PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS VETERANS AND SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

4–2501.

IN THIS SUBTITLE, “PROGRAM” MEANS THE LOCAL HOUSING GRANT PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS VETERANS AND SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

4–2502.

(A) THERE IS A LOCAL HOUSING GRANT ~~INCENTIVE~~ PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS VETERANS AND SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE GRANTS FOR HOUSING VOUCHER FUNDS TO COUNTIES FOR USE TO HOUSE HOMELESS VETERANS AND SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

4-2503.

THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

(1) DISTRIBUTE GRANTS TO COUNTIES THAT MAY APPLY UNDER THE PROGRAM FOR RAPID OR PERMANENT HOUSING VOUCHER FUNDS FOR HOMELESS VETERANS AND SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE;

(2) ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR RECEIVING AND EVALUATING GRANT APPLICATIONS FROM COUNTIES UNDER THE PROGRAM;

(3) MONITOR THE OPERATION OF THE GRANTS; AND

(4) ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SUBTITLE.

4-2504.

(A) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE GOVERNOR MAY INCLUDE ~~AT LEAST \$2,000,000~~ FUNDING IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE PROGRAM.

(B) MONEY EXPENDED FROM THE PROGRAM IS SUPPLEMENTAL TO AND IS NOT INTENDED TO TAKE THE PLACE OF FUNDING THAT OTHERWISE WOULD BE APPROPRIATED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS.

4-2505.

THE DEPARTMENT MAY ESTABLISH PREFERENCES UNDER THE PROGRAM FOR COUNTIES THAT:

(1) ENACT AN ORDINANCE THAT PROHIBITS DISCRIMINATION IN HOUSING ON THE BASIS OF SOURCE OF INCOME;

(2) ADOPT A HOUSING FIRST POLICY, AS DEFINED BY THE DEPARTMENT; OR

(3) PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL 25% COUNTY DEDICATED FUNDING OR VOUCHER MATCH.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2019.

Approved by the Governor, April 30, 2019.