

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
 Third Reader

House Bill 189
 Appropriations

(Delegate Qi)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Mobile Laundry for the Homeless Pilot Program

This bill establishes the Mobile Laundry for the Homeless Pilot Program within the Division of Neighborhood Revitalization of the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to assist nonprofit organizations in providing mobile laundry services for the homeless. **The bill terminates September 30, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$75,000 annually from FY 2022 through 2025 for DHCD to award grants. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	0
Net Effect	(\$75,000)	(\$75,000)	(\$75,000)	(\$75,000)	\$0

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The stated purpose of the pilot program is to provide funds to nonprofit organizations to establish or expand mobile laundry services for the homeless. The bill defines “mobile laundry services” as the washing, drying, and folding of clothes performed from a vehicle equipped with washing and drying machines.

The division must award funds under the program through a matching grant to establish mobile laundry services for the homeless that (1) serve homeless populations lacking access to clean water and laundry services and (2) integrate delivery of laundry services with other services provided by the applicant. To be eligible for a grant under the program, a nonprofit organization must (1) have a mission that includes service to the homeless and (2) secure contributions at least equal in value to half the amount of funding sought under the pilot program. In-kind contributions may be used to meet the funding requirement.

In selecting grantees, the division must positively rate applicants that (1) demonstrate fiscal controls, including by making use of multiple sources of funding; (2) exhibit project effectiveness, as specified; (3) show previous successful experience administering grants; and (4) meet any other criteria the division considers relevant.

The division must establish a system of outcome measurement to assess the effectiveness of the pilot program. A grant recipient must submit any information that the division determines is necessary for the system of outcome measurement. By October 1, 2023, the division must report to DHCD the outcomes measured pursuant to the bill.

By December 15, 2024, DHCD must report to the Governor and the General Assembly on whether the pilot program should continue to operate.

Current Law: The majority of State-funded homeless service grants are managed by DHCD; the Office of Community Programs within DHCD oversees efforts to reduce homelessness in the State. DHCD does not provide direct housing placement or emergency support services specifically to homeless individuals; instead, it coordinates with and awards grant funding to local administering agencies and service providers to support various programs.

Within DHCD's portfolio, the Shelter and Transitional Housing Facilities Grant Program provides grants to local governments and nonprofit organizations for the creation of emergency shelters and transitional housing for individuals and families.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures increase by \$75,000 annually from fiscal 2022 through 2025 for DHCD to award matching grants to eligible nonprofit organizations. This analysis assumes that grant awards are not made in fiscal 2026, despite the bill's September 30, 2025 termination date.

Any administrative duties can be handled with existing staff. DHCD advises, however, that a larger grant program likely requires additional staff to administer.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 746 of 2020 passed the House as amended and was referred to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, but no further action was taken.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Housing and Community Development;
Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 13, 2021
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