

A-Engrossed
Senate Bill 496

Ordered by the Senate February 9
Including Senate Amendments dated February 9

Sponsored by Senators PATTERSON, GELSER BLOUIN; Senators ANDERSON, CAMPOS, WAGNER, Representatives GOMBERG, LIVELY, NERON, NOSSE (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Amends allowable purposes of Emergency Housing Account to include account moneys to be used for grants to assist [*pets*] **companion animals** of individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Appropriates moneys to account from General Fund for those purposes.

Requires Housing and Community Services Department to report on use of funds to interim committee of Legislative Assembly on or before [*September 15,*] **December 31, 2024.**

Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2023.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to assisting vulnerable populations with pets; creating new provisions; amending ORS
3 458.650; and declaring an emergency.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 458.650 is amended to read:

6 458.650. (1) The Housing and Community Services Department shall administer the Emergency
7 Housing Account to assist homeless individuals and individuals who are at risk of becoming
8 homeless, through means including the emergency housing assistance program and the state
9 homeless assistance program. Notwithstanding subsection (3)(a) of this section, the state homeless
10 assistance program shall serve individuals experiencing homelessness, especially unsheltered
11 homelessness, without respect to income.

12 (2) The Oregon Housing Stability Council shall develop a policy for the use of program funds
13 with the advice of:

14 (a) Persons who have experienced housing instability;

15 (b) Tribes;

16 (c) The Community Action Partnership of Oregon;

17 (d) Continuums of care, as defined in 24 C.F.R. part 578;

18 (e) Local governments;

19 (f) Nonprofit organizations;

20 (g) Homeless services providers;

21 (h) Culturally specific organizations;

22 (i) Housing providers;

23 (j) Veterans' services organizations; and

24 (k) Other entities identified by the department by rule.

25 (3) The policy under subsection (2) of this section shall direct that program funds shall be used:

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (a) To provide to low and very low income individuals, including but not limited to individuals
2 more than 65 years of age, persons with disabilities, agricultural workers and Native Americans:

3 (A) Emergency shelters and attendant services;

4 (B) Transitional housing services designed to assist individuals to make the transition from
5 homelessness to permanent housing and economic independence;

6 (C) Supportive housing services to enable individuals to continue living in their own homes or
7 to provide in-home services for such individuals for whom suitable programs do not exist in their
8 geographic area;

9 (D) Programs that provide emergency payment of home payments, rents or utilities; [or]

10 **(E) Support for individuals with companion animals, as defined in ORS 401.977, that in-**
11 **cludes:**

12 **(i) Food for both companion animals and their owners;**

13 **(ii) Crates or kennels on-site or off-site that are easily accessible to the companion ani-**
14 **mal owners;**

15 **(iii) Basic veterinary services, including behavioral services; and**

16 **(iv) Rules of conduct and responsibility regarding companion animals and their owners;**

17 **or**

18 [(E)] **(F) Some or all of the needs described in subparagraphs (A) to [(D)] (E) of this paragraph.**

19 (b) To align with federal strategies and resources that are available to prevent and end
20 homelessness, including the requirement of providing culturally responsive services and using
21 evidence-based and emerging practices effective in ending homelessness, including practices unique
22 to rural communities.

23 (4)(a) The council shall require as a condition of awarding a grant that the organization dem-
24 onstrate to the satisfaction of the council that the organization:

25 (A) Has the capacity to deliver any service proposed by the organization;

26 (B) Is a culturally responsive organization or is engaged in a process to become a culturally
27 responsive organization;

28 (C) Engages with culturally specific organizations; and

29 (D) Supports local homelessness system planning efforts.

30 (b) Any funds granted under this section may not be used to replace existing funds. Funds
31 granted under this section may be used to supplement existing funds. An organization may use funds
32 to support existing programs or to establish new programs.

33 (5) The department may expend funds from the account for:

34 (a) The administration of the account as provided for in the legislatively approved budget, as
35 that term is defined in ORS 291.002, for the department in support of directing a statewide policy
36 on homelessness that ensures use of evidence-based and emerging practices, service equity in fund-
37 ing and local planning processes.

38 (b) The development of technical assistance and training resources for organizations developing
39 and operating emergency shelters as defined in ORS 197.782 and transitional housing accommo-
40 dations as described in ORS 197.746.

41 (6) The department shall utilize outcome-oriented contracting processes and evidence-based and
42 emerging practices for account program funds, including evidence-based and emerging practices for
43 serving rural communities.

44 (7) Twenty-five percent of moneys deposited in the account pursuant to ORS 294.187 are dedi-
45 cated to the emergency housing assistance program for assistance to veterans who are homeless or

1 at risk of becoming homeless.

2 **SECTION 2.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
3 ated to the Housing and Community Services Department, for the biennium beginning July
4 1, 2023, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$6,000,000, for deposit into the Emergency
5 Housing Account to provide grants to organizations described in ORS 458.650 (4)(b).

6 **SECTION 3.** (1) An organization that receives a grant from the Emergency Housing Ac-
7 count to provide services to companion animals under ORS 458.650 (3)(a)(E) shall submit a
8 report to the Housing and Community Services Department that includes:

9 (a) A description of the activities undertaken by the organization using the grant;

10 (b) A statement showing the costs expended under paragraph (a) of this subsection; and

11 (c) An assessment of the effectiveness of the program grants under ORS 458.650 (3)(a)(E)
12 and any recommendations for improving the program.

13 (2) On or before December 31, 2024, the department shall provide a report to an appro-
14 priate interim committee of the Legislative Assembly in the manner provided in ORS 192.245
15 summarizing the information collected in the reports under subsection (1) of this section.

16 **SECTION 4.** This 2023 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
17 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2023 Act takes effect
18 July 1, 2023.