

General Assistance Emergency Housing changes proposed by the House and FY25 Budget

**Presentation from the Department for Children and Families for
Senate Appropriation Committee**

Housing Budget Pressures

Projected Expenses	SFY24	SFY25	SFY26
Staffing	2,000,000	4,749,265	4,749,265
Call Center	1,312,500	2,489,344	2,489,344
Hotel Costs	65,928,121	55,585,665	46,481,034
Security	964,000	500,000	500,000
Total Projected Cost	70,204,621	63,324,274	54,219,643

Budget

Non-Hotel (Staffing/Security)	2,350,000	1,873,249	839,184
Hotel Base	7,500,000	7,500,000	7,500,000
Hotel 1x	55,584,553	16,500,000	
Total (No-Contingency)	65,434,553	25,873,249	8,339,184
1x Contingency		20,000,000	
Total (w/ Contingency)	65,434,553	45,873,249	8,339,184

Projected Surplus/(Deficit)*	(4,770,068)	(17,451,025)	(45,880,459)
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*Assumes contingency funds available. SFY25 deficit projected at \$37.5M without contingency

Housing Budget Pressures

Hotel/Motel Financial Comparison

	Gov Rec SFY25	H.883 SFY25
Staffing	\$1.0M	\$7.2M
Operating (IT & Security)	\$0.87M	\$0.5M
Hotel	\$24.0M	\$55.6M
Total Cost	\$25.9M	\$63.3M

Questions for Consideration:

- What happens when we run out of funding in SFY25?
 - (Will happen even with contingency funding.)
- How does Legislature see AHS working “within appropriated funds”?
 - Modulate # of rooms to remain aligned with budget? Intent needs to be clearly stated.
- How does DCF determine eligibility for people who leave and return to emergency housing within the 12-month period, given changing vacancy rates?
- How will DCF manage the large cliffs created in this policy?
 - Need clarity to determine if language results in September and/or July cliff due to not counting Adverse Weather Conditions (AWC) nights.
 - September cliff happens only if bill is interpreted to mean everyone gets 90 days starting 7/1/24.
 - Annual July cliff because people who enter during entire course of AWC will have day limits start simultaneously on 4/15/25.

Stability is critical, continuing to change the eligibility criteria causes confusion and disruption.

Eligible Day Limit Comparison

AWC:

Gov Rec: Hybrid Model

- Weather Dependent before Dec. 15 and after March 15.
- Date-to-Date Dec. 15 - March 15

H.883: Date-to-Date Nov. 15 - April 15

Non-AWC

(within 12-month Period):

Gov Rec: 28 Days

H.883: Depends on Vacancy Rates:

- If $<5\%$ = 90 Days
- If $\geq 5\%$ = 45 Days

Comparison of Eligibility Categories

Gov Rec – SFY 25 Proposed EH	H.883 – SFY 25 Proposed EH
Children up to Age 19	Children up to age 19
Pregnancy at any stage	Pregnancy at any stage
Age 65+	Age 60+
Death of Spouse or minor Child	Death of Spouse (within last 30 days)
Disability (SSI or SSDI)	Disability (documented via variety of ways)
Lost Housing due to Natural Disaster	Lost Housing Due to Natural Disaster (within last 30 days)
Court-Ordered/Construction Eviction	Court-Ordered/Construction Eviction
Lost Housing due to Domestic Violence	Lost Housing due to Domestic Violence

Bill H.883 implementation concerns:

Page 160, lines 18-19 “households that attest to lack of fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence...”

Page 161, lines 8 (2, D): “intake staff-recorded observation of a disability that, not later than 45 days after the application for assistance, is confirmed and accompanied by evidence of this; or...”

Page 161, line 11: “(E) other documentation approved by either the Department or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development”

Page 161, line 13: “3) is experiencing a serious short-term medical condition or has been discharged from a health care facility where the individual was being treated for a serious short-term medical condition within the last 30 days”

Page 161, lines 19-20 “(6) has experienced the death of a spouse or domestic partner within the last 30 days”

Page 162, line 7, “has experienced a natural disaster, such as a flood, fire, or hurricane within the last 30 days;”

Page 162, line 9: “(b) The maximum number of days that a household receives shelter in a hotel or motel under this section, per 12-month period, shall be determined by the statewide vacancy rate”

Page 162, line 9, “Maximum number of days that a household receives shelter in a hotel or motel under this section, per 12-month period...”

Page 163, Line 4 : “Shelter in a hotel or motel provided pursuant to this section shall not count toward the maximum days of eligibility per 12-month period provided in subsection (b) of this section.”

Page 164, lines 18-19 “(2) begin to transition eligible households to the policy established in this section on a rolling basis through September 30, 2024.”

Page 164, line 20: “The Department for Children and Families may work with either a shelter provider or a community housing agency to enter into a full or partial facility lease or sales agreement with a hotel or motel provider. Any facility conversion under this section shall comply with the Office of Economic Opportunity’s shelter standards”

Page 165, line 10:“...however, that in no event shall such an agreement cause a household to become unhoused...”

Page 167, Sec. E.325 Department for Children and Families – Office of Economic Opportunity

Page 168 “Grant decisions and the administration of funds shall be done in consultation with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development recognized Continuum of Care Program.”