



Legislation Text

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A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to establishing a domestic violence survivor housing stability program

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Subchapter 8 of chapter 1 of title 3 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new section 3-185 to read as follows:

§ 3-185 Domestic violence survivor housing stability program. a. Definitions. For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

Community-based organization. The term “community-based organization” means a community-based organization that works with survivors of domestic violence who are English language learners, homeless, immigrants, individuals with a criminal history, individuals with disabilities, the LGBTQ community or communities of color.

Covered individual. The term “covered individual” means an income-eligible survivor of domestic violence who is a resident of the city of New York, irrespective of such person’s consumer credit history, criminal history or immigration status.

Designated organizations. The term “designated organizations” means at least five community-based organizations designated by the office to participate in the program established pursuant to this section.

Domestic violence-related service. The term “domestic violence-related service” means a service that will help a survivor of domestic violence maintain housing, including, but not limited to, counseling, health

services, housing services and legal services.

Income-eligible. The term “income-eligible” means an individual whose annual gross household income is not in excess of 300 percent of the federal poverty guidelines, as updated periodically in the federal register by the United States department of health and human services pursuant to subsection (2) of section 9902 of title 42 of the United States code.

Legal services. The term “legal services” means brief legal assistance or full legal representation that relates to the domestic violence or housing instability that the program participant experiences.

Low-barrier grant. The term “low-barrier grant” means a grant of financial assistance, free from as many requirements as possible that might deter or exclude a recipient.

Relevant expense. The term “relevant expense” means any expense the office determines the low-barrier grant issued pursuant to this section may be used towards to help such individual maintain housing including, but not limited to, the costs of a safety plan, housing costs, legal services costs, medical bills, mobile phone costs, moving costs and transportation costs.

Survivor of domestic violence. The term “survivor of domestic violence” means any individual who has experienced domestic violence, pursuant to documentation from an agency, a community-based organization or an order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

b. Program established. 1. Subject to appropriation, within 150 days of the effective date of the local law that added this section, the office, in consultation with the department of social services and the designated organizations, shall establish a program to provide covered individuals with a low-barrier grant and domestic violence-related services to help such individuals maintain housing.

2. The office, in consultation with the designated organizations, shall administer such program and coordinate the following:

(a) The application for such program, which shall be facilitated by the designated organizations and made available on a website designated by the office;

(b) The process for the disbursement of the low-barrier grant to program participants; and

(c) The provision of domestic violence-related services to program participants.

3. The office, in consultation with the mayor's office of information privacy, shall take steps to protect the privacy of covered individuals and to ensure the information that such individuals provide to access information about, apply for and participate in such program is secure and confidential.

4. The office shall promulgate such rules as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.

c. Outreach. Prior to the establishment of the program as required by subdivision b of this section, and continuing thereafter, the office, the department of social services and the designated organizations shall conduct culturally appropriate outreach to spread awareness of such program. Such outreach shall include, but need not be limited to, written materials, which shall be made available to survivors of domestic violence in the designated citywide languages as defined in section 23-1101 and in Braille.

d. Report. No later than 180 days after the office establishes the program required by subdivision b of this section, and annually thereafter, the office, in consultation with the department of social services and the designated organizations, shall issue a report on such program, which the office shall submit to the mayor and the speaker of the council and post on the office website. The information in such report shall be anonymized and include, but need not be limited to, the following:

1. The first report shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(a) For each program applicant, the individual's age group, community district, disability status, ethnicity, gender, household size, housing status, income, primary language, race and sexuality;

(b) For each program participant, the individual's age group, community district, disability status, ethnicity, gender, household size, housing status, income, primary language and sexuality;

(c) The amount of every low-barrier grant provided to such participants;

(d) The amount of time that it took each participant to receive and use such grant;

(e) A description of the types of relevant expenses that such participants used such grant for and how

such grant helped them maintain housing;

(f) A description of the domestic violence-related services that such participants were connected to and how such services helped them maintain housing;

(g) A description of any changes in the housing status of such participants; and

(h) A description of any challenges the office had implementing such program and any efforts the office took to address such challenges; and

2. The annual report shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(a) The information in the initial report, updated for such annual report;

(b) A description of any barriers that prevented survivors of domestic violence from qualifying for and participating in the program and any efforts the office took to address them;

(c) A description of how such program does or does not help the program participants to maintain housing;

(d) Any recommendations on how to improve such program; and

(e) Such program's budget.

§ 2. This local law takes effect immediately, except that the director of the office to end domestic and gender-based violence shall take such measures as are necessary for the implementation of this local law, including the promulgation of any rules, before such date.