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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE RAPID RE-HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1.. The purpose of this Act is to statutorily  
2 establish the rapid re-housing assistance program.

3           SECTION 2. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended by adding a new section to part XVII to be appropriately  
5 designated and to read as follows:

6           "§346-A Rapid re-housing assistance program. (a) Subject  
7 to the availability of legislative appropriations, federal  
8 grants, or both, the department shall establish and operate a  
9 rapid re-housing assistance program.

10           The purpose of the program shall be to help homeless  
11 families and individuals move as quickly as possible into  
12 permanent housing and achieve stability in that housing.

13           (b) The rapid re-housing assistance program shall be  
14 designed and operated by the department to qualify for federal  
15 emergency shelter grants; provided that this provision shall not  
16 be construed as prohibiting the use of other federal grants for  
17 the program if allowable under federal law and regulations.



1        (c) As part of the rapid re-housing assistance program,  
2 the department may provide housing relocation and stabilization  
3 services and short- and medium-term rental assistance.

4        (d) The authority shall include information and data about  
5 the rapid re-housing program in its annual reports required  
6 under section 356D-20.

7        (e) As used in this section:

8        "Housing relocation and stabilization services" includes  
9 the following:

10       (1) Financial assistance, including payment to housing  
11 owners, utility companies, or other third parties on  
12 behalf of homeless families or individuals, for the  
13 following costs:

14       (A) Rental application fees;

15       (B) Security deposits;

16       (C) Last month's rent;

17       (D) Utility deposits;

18       (E) Utility payments; and

19       (F) Moving costs;

20       (2) Providing or making payment for the following  
21 services:



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- 1           (A) Housing search and placement to help homeless  
2           families or individuals locate, obtain, and  
3           retain suitable permanent housing;
- 4           (B) Housing stability case management to:
- 5           (i) Help homeless families or individuals  
6           overcome immediate barriers to obtaining  
7           permanent housing; or
- 8           (ii) Facilitate housing stability for homeless  
9           families or individuals who currently reside  
10           in permanent housing;
- 11           (C) Mediation between homeless families or  
12           individuals and other persons to prevent the  
13           families or individuals from losing permanent  
14           housing in which they currently reside;
- 15           (D) Legal services to:
- 16           (i) Help homeless families or individuals obtain  
17           permanent housing; or
- 18           (ii) Prevent homeless families or individuals  
19           from losing permanent housing in which they  
20           currently reside; and



1           (E) Credit counseling and services to help homeless  
2           families or individuals acquire skills needed for  
3           household budgeting, managing money, accessing  
4           free personal credit reports, and resolving  
5           credit problems.

6           "Short- and medium-term rental assistance" includes the  
7           following:

8           (1) Short-term rental assistance, under which rental  
9           payments on behalf of homeless families or individuals  
10           are made for a maximum of three months;

11           (2) Medium-term rental assistance, under which rental  
12           payments on behalf of homeless families or individuals  
13           are made for at least three, but not more than twenty-  
14           four months; and

15           (3) Rental arrears payment consisting of a one-time  
16           payment on behalf of homeless families or individuals  
17           for up to six months of rent in arrears, including any  
18           late fees on the arrears.

19           (f) The department may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91  
20           to implement the rapid re-housing assistance program. The rules  
21           may clarify the types of services and assistance that may be



1 provided as "housing relocation and stabilization services" or  
2 "short- and medium-term rental assistance"; provided that the  
3 rules shall not be inconsistent with applicable federal laws and  
4 regulations."

5 SECTION 3. Section 346-361, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
6 amended by amending the definition of "homeless" to read as  
7 follows:

8 "Homeless" or "homeless families or individuals" means:

- 9 (1) An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular,  
10 and adequate night-time residence; [~~or~~]
- 11 (2) An individual or family who has a primary night-time  
12 residence that is:
- 13 (A) A supervised publicly or privately operated  
14 shelter designed to provide temporary living  
15 accommodations;
- 16 (B) An institution that provides temporary residence  
17 for individuals intended to be institutionalized;  
18 or
- 19 (C) A public or private place not designed for or  
20 ordinarily used as sleeping accommodations for  
21 human beings [~~or~~]; or



1       (3) An individual or family who currently resides in  
2       permanent housing as participants in the rapid re-  
3       housing assistance program, but who was formerly  
4       homeless.

5 This term does not include any individual imprisoned or  
6 otherwise detained under an act of Congress or a state law."

7       SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much  
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the  
10 establishment and operation of the repaid re-housing assistance  
11 program, including the employment of .00 full-time equivalent  
12 program specialists for the program.

13       The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
14 human services for the purposes of this Act; provided that the  
15 department of human services shall commence planning the rapid  
16 re-housing assistance program upon the effective date of this  
17 section to ensure that the program may be implemented beginning  
18 January 1, 2017.

19       SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
20 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.





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**Report Title:**

Rapid Re-Housing Assistance Program.

**Description:**

Requires DHS to establish a rapid re-housing assistance program to move homeless families and individuals into permanent housing as quickly as possible and achieve stability in that housing. Requires the program to be designed and operated to qualify for federal emergency shelter grants. Appropriates general funds for fiscal year 2016-17. Effective 1/1/2017.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

