

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1699**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Kim**

January 25, 2016

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An act to amend Sections 13700, 13700.5, 13701, and 13703 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to homeless youth, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1699, as introduced, Kim. Homeless youth emergency service projects.

Existing law establishes the Homeless Youth and Exploitation Program, under which homeless youth emergency service projects are established in the Counties of Los Angeles, Santa Clara, San Diego, and the City and County of San Francisco through a grant program to eligible private, nonprofit agencies with a demonstrated record of success in the delivery of services to homeless youth. Under existing law, this program is administered by the Office of Emergency Services. Existing law requires each project to provide specified services, including food and access to overnight shelter, counseling to address immediate emotional crises and problems, and long-term stabilization planning.

This bill would require a homeless youth emergency service project to be established in the County of Orange, and would authorize the Office of Emergency Services to establish additional projects in other counties, with a priority given to underserved counties. The bill would additionally require each project to provide transitional living services, for a period of up to 36 months, with access to education and employment assistance, independent living skill development, and

family engagement and interventions. The bill would appropriate \$25,000,000 from the General Fund to the Office of Emergency Services to provide additional funding for these homeless youth emergency service projects.

Vote:  $\frac{2}{3}$ . Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1     SECTION 1. Section 13700 of the Welfare and Institutions  
2     Code is amended to read:  
3     13700. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
4     following:  
5     ~~(a)~~  
6     (1) There are homeless minors living on the streets of major  
7     urban centers in this state without adequate food, shelter, health  
8     care, or financial support.  
9     ~~(b)~~  
10    (2) Many of these homeless youth in these urban centers come  
11    from out-of-city or out-of-county locations.  
12    ~~(c)~~  
13    (3) The homeless child, in many instances, has a history of  
14    physical or sexual abuse at home, and of having been rejected or  
15    forced out of the parental home.  
16    ~~(d)~~  
17    (4) While living on the streets, these youth fall prey to drug  
18    abuse, prostitution, and other illegal activities.  
19    ~~(e)~~  
20    (5) Local public agencies are unable to provide these youth with  
21    an adequate level or range of remedial services.  
22    ~~(f)~~  
23    (6) These homeless minors are urgently in need of specialized  
24    services to locate them, to assist them with their immediate survival  
25    needs, and to address their long-term need to reunite with their  
26    parents or find a suitable home.  
27    ~~(g)~~  
28    (7) Two homeless youth emergency service pilot programs, one  
29    in the City of Los Angeles, and one in the City and County of San  
30    Francisco, have demonstrated the need for ongoing programs to

1 meet the needs of homeless minors and the effectiveness of these  
2 programs in meeting these needs.

3 (8) *While critical, immediate crisis intervention does not go far*  
4 *enough to help these youth make a successful transition to*  
5 *adulthood. Evidence supports transitional living programs as the*  
6 *key driver of positive outcomes for homeless youth.*

7 The

8 (b) *The purpose of this chapter is therefore to maintain one*  
9 *homeless youth emergency project in the County of Los Angeles*  
10 *and one in the City and County of San Francisco, where the*  
11 *problem is most acute, and to the extent funds are appropriated in*  
12 *the Budget Act of 1991, to establish additional homeless youth*  
13 *emergency service pilot projects pursuant to this chapter. It is the*  
14 *further purpose of this chapter to examine the condition of*  
15 *homeless youth in major urban areas of this state with populations*  
16 *of 500,000 or more, as well as other urban, suburban, and rural*  
17 *areas, and develop a profile of homeless youth in terms of*  
18 *background and available services, in order to locate these youth,*  
19 *to provide for their emergency survival needs, and to assist them*  
20 *in reunification with their parents or in finding a suitable home.*

21 SEC. 2. Section 13700.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code  
22 is amended to read:

23 13700.5. For purposes of this chapter, “office” means the Office  
24 of ~~Criminal Justice Planning~~ *Emergency Services*.

25 SEC. 3. Section 13701 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is  
26 amended to read:

27 13701. Each homeless youth project established under this  
28 chapter shall provide services ~~which~~ *that* shall include, but are not  
29 limited to, all of the following:

30 (a) Food and access to an overnight shelter.

31 (b) Counseling to address immediate emotional crises or  
32 problems.

33 (c) Outreach services to locate homeless youth and link them  
34 with services, and drop-in facilities to make the services accessible  
35 to the street population.

36 (d) Screening for basic health needs and referral to public and  
37 private agencies for health care.

38 (e) Linkage to other services offered by public and private  
39 agencies.

1 (f) Long-term stabilization planning so that the youth may be  
2 returned to the parental home under circumstances favoring  
3 long-term reunification with the family, or so that the youth can  
4 be suitably placed in a situation outside the family when family  
5 reunification is not possible.

6 (g) Followup services to ensure that the return to the family or  
7 the placement outside the family is stable.

8 (h) *Transitional living services, for a period of up to 36 months,*  
9 *with access to education and employment assistance, independent*  
10 *living skill development, and family engagement and interventions.*

11 SEC. 4. Section 13703 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is  
12 amended to read:

13 13703. (a) One homeless youth emergency service project  
14 shall be established in the County of Los Angeles and one shall  
15 be established in the City and County of San Francisco. One  
16 homeless youth emergency service project shall also be established  
17 in the County of San ~~Diego and Diego~~, one shall be established in  
18 the County of Santa ~~Clara~~. *Clara, and one shall be established in*  
19 *the County of Orange. The office may establish additional homeless*  
20 *youth emergency service projects in other counties, with a priority*  
21 *given to underserved counties.* Each project may have one central  
22 location or may have more than one location in the service area in  
23 order to serve effectively the area population of homeless youth.  
24 Each project shall be operated by an agency in accordance with  
25 the grant award agreement with the office.

26 (b) The office shall prepare and disseminate a request for  
27 proposals for grantees under this chapter by February 15, 1986.  
28 The office shall enter into grant award agreements, and the  
29 operation of pilot projects shall begin, not later than June 1, 1986.  
30 With respect to projects to be established in the County of San  
31 Diego and the County of Santa Clara, the office shall prepare and  
32 disseminate a request for proposals for grantees under this chapter  
33 by March 31, 1992. The office shall enter into grant award  
34 agreements and the operation of these projects shall begin not later  
35 than July 1, 1992.

36 (c) An agency eligible to apply for funds under this chapter and  
37 to operate a homeless youth emergency service project shall be a  
38 private, nonprofit agency with a demonstrated record of success  
39 in the delivery of services to homeless youth. The agency selected  
40 for each project shall demonstrate the ability to provide each of

1 the services described in Section 13701, either directly or under  
2 subcontract with a competent provider. Preference shall be given  
3 to agencies that demonstrate a history of coordination with other  
4 public and private agencies in the service region that provide  
5 services to homeless youth. Preference shall also be given to  
6 agencies that will involve a network of youth-serving agencies in  
7 the delivery of services to homeless youth under this chapter.

8 SEC. 5. The sum of twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000)  
9 is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the Office of  
10 Emergency Services to provide additional funding for homeless  
11 youth emergency service projects established pursuant Chapter 6  
12 (commencing with Section 13700) of Part 3 of Division 9 of the  
13 Welfare and Institutions Code.