

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 6, 2016

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 28, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1699**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Kim**

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Travis Allen, Baker, Brough, Chávez, Gipson, Lackey, Linder, Maienschein, Mayes, and Waldron)**

(Coauthors: Senators Anderson, Bates, and Huff)

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 amended, 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 require the Office of Emergency Services to establish additional homeless youth emergency service projects in other counties with a priority given to counties that lack existing services for runaway and homeless youth. The bill would require the Office of Emergency Services to develop, with input from specified stakeholders, criteria for the selection of grantees and the determination of grant amounts under the grant program.~~ The bill would additionally require each project to provide transitional living services for designated homeless youth 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 (1) There are homeless minors living on the streets of major
- 6 urban centers, suburban communities, and in rural areas in this
- 7 state without adequate food, shelter, health care, or financial
- 8 support.
- 9 (2) Many of these homeless youth in these urban centers come
- 10 from out-of-city or out-of-county locations.
- 11 (3) The homeless child, in many instances, has a history of
- 12 physical or sexual abuse at home, and of having been rejected or
- 13 forced out of the parental home.
- 14 (4) While living on the streets, these youth fall prey to drug
- 15 abuse, human trafficking, prostitution, and other illegal activities.
- 16 (5) Local public agencies are unable to provide these youth with
- 17 an adequate level or range of remedial services.
- 18 (6) These homeless minors are urgently in need of specialized
- 19 services to locate them, to assist them with their immediate survival

1 needs, and to address their long-term need to reunite with their  
2 parents or find a suitable home.

3 (7) Two homeless youth emergency service pilot programs, one  
4 in the City of Los Angeles, and one in the City and County of San  
5 Francisco, have demonstrated the need for ongoing programs to  
6 meet the needs of homeless minors and the effectiveness of these  
7 programs in meeting these needs.

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

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

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

27 13700.5. For purposes of this chapter, “office” means the Office  
28 of Emergency Services.

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

31 13701. Each homeless youth project established under this  
32 chapter shall provide services that shall include, but are not limited  
33 to, all of the following:

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

35 (b) Counseling to address immediate emotional crises or  
36 problems.

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

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

3 (e) Linkage to other services offered by public and private  
4 agencies.

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

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

12 (h) Transitional living services for homeless youth 18 through  
13 24 years of age, inclusive, for a period of up to 36 months, with  
14 access to education and employment assistance, independent living  
15 skill development, and family engagement and interventions.

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

18 13703. (a) One homeless youth emergency service project  
19 shall be established in the County of Los Angeles and one shall  
20 be established in the City and County of San Francisco. One  
21 homeless youth emergency service project shall also be established  
22 in the County of San Diego, and one shall be established in the  
23 County of Santa Clara. The office shall establish additional  
24 homeless youth emergency service projects in ~~the County of~~  
25 ~~Orange~~ and other counties, with a priority given to counties that  
26 lack existing services for runaway and homeless youth. *The office*  
27 *shall, with input from stakeholders, develop criteria for the*  
28 *selection of grantees and the determination of grant amounts under*  
29 *the grant program. For purposes of this section, stakeholders shall*  
30 *include, but not be limited to, current and former homeless youth*  
31 *and representatives from advocacy groups serving homeless youth.*  
32 Each project may have one central location or may have more than  
33 one location in the service area in order to serve effectively the  
34 area population of homeless youth. Each project shall be operated  
35 by an agency in accordance with the grant award agreement with  
36 the office.

37 (b) (1) The office shall prepare and disseminate a request for  
38 proposals for grantees under this chapter by February 15, 1986.  
39 The office shall enter into grant award agreements, and the  
40 operation of pilot projects shall begin, not later than June 1, 1986.

1 With respect to projects to be established in the County of San  
2 Diego and the County of Santa Clara, the office shall prepare and  
3 disseminate a request for proposals for grantees under this chapter  
4 by March 31, 1992. The office shall enter into grant award  
5 agreements and the operation of these projects shall begin not later  
6 than July 1, 1992.

7 (2) With respect to additional homeless youth emergency service  
8 projects to be established pursuant to funding appropriated by the  
9 act that added this paragraph, the office shall prepare and  
10 disseminate requests for proposals ~~not~~ *no* later than March 31,  
11 2017.

12 (c) An agency eligible to apply for funds under this chapter and  
13 to operate a homeless youth emergency service project shall be a  
14 private, nonprofit agency with a demonstrated record of success  
15 in the delivery of services to homeless youth. The agency selected  
16 for each project shall demonstrate the ability to provide each of  
17 the services described in Section 13701, either directly or under  
18 subcontract with a competent provider. Preference shall be given  
19 to agencies that demonstrate a history of coordination with other  
20 public and private agencies in the service region that provide  
21 services to homeless youth. Preference shall also be given to  
22 agencies that will involve a network of youth-serving agencies in  
23 the delivery of services to homeless youth under this chapter.

24 SEC. 5. The sum of twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000)  
25 is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the Office of  
26 Emergency Services to provide additional funding for homeless  
27 youth emergency service projects established pursuant to Chapter  
28 6 (commencing with Section 13700) of Part 3 of Division 9 of the  
29 Welfare and Institutions Code.