

Subject Housing stabilization services

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Overview

This bill modifies provider duties under housing stabilization services and modifies the housing support supplemental services rate reduction.

MA housing stabilization services were established by the legislature in 2017 and are administered by DHS. The program provides housing stabilization services to an individual with a disability, including mental illness and substance use disorder, that limits the individual's ability to obtain or maintain stable housing to support an individual's transition to housing in the community and increase long-term stability in housing.

The Housing Support Program (formerly known as group residential housing or GRH) is a state program that provides payments on behalf of eligible persons to pay for room and board and related housing services.

Nearly all housing support providers are authorized to receive the housing support basic room and board rate of \$1,170 per month for group settings or \$1,220 per month for community settings. Recipients in certain housing support settings may also qualify for a supplemental payment that is in addition to this base rate.

The Housing Support Program is funded with state general fund dollars and receives some federal reimbursement for food and nutrition costs. In state fiscal year 2023, an average of 20,218 persons received housing support payments each month. Expenditures for the fiscal year were nearly \$200 million. The average monthly payment per person was \$794. More than half of housing support recipients are aged, blind, or disabled, and the rest of the recipients are unable to support themselves due to a disabling condition.

Summary

| Section | Description |
|---------|---|
| 1 | Provider qualifications and duties. Amends § 256B.051, subd. 6. Requires eligible providers to submit an application to the commissioner and requires the commissioner to complete the processing of each application within two weeks. |
| 2 | Housing support supplemental services rates. Amends § 256B.051, subd. 7. Modifies the reduction in housing support supplemental service rates to apply the reduction to people receiving housing stabilization services who reside in certain settings. Specifies services must not be duplicative for individuals receiving both housing support supplemental services and housing stabilization services. Suspends the reduction in housing support supplemental services for services provided from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. |



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