

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 1978 (Ward)

As Amended August 11, 2022

Majority vote

SUMMARY

- 1) Authorizes HCD to do any of the following in administering federally funded grant programs, as specified:
 - a) Publish a notice of funding availability and application deadlines ahead of, and contingent upon, the availability of funding;
 - b) Issue funding to an award recipient up-front rather than as a reimbursement, as specified; and
 - c) Provide technical assistance to applicants that meet program submission deadlines to correct technical errors or provide missing information, as specified.
- 2) Requires HCD to establish a tracking system for all programs that, at a minimum, includes the deadlines for each step of a program application. Requires the tracking system to be on the HCD's internet website.

Senate Amendments

Clarifies that the requirements of this bill regarding how Notices of Funding Availability (NOFA) are awarded are limited to federally funded programs. Make other technical changes.

COMMENTS

HCD: HCD administers federal housing funding for the state for programs, including Community Development Block Program (CDBG), HOME, Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program and the National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF). Cities and counties must sign a contract with HCD before they can receive federal funds. Some jurisdictions have complained that HCD is slow to provide contracts and release funding once the contracts are executed. This bill would require that HCD establish a tracking system for program applicants so they can follow the progression of their program application. The bill requires the tracking system to be on the department's internet website.

In addition, HCD would be required to publish a NOFA and application deadlines ahead of, and contingent upon, the availability of funding; issue funding to an award recipient up-front rather than as a reimbursement, provided that the department provides ongoing support and monitoring of the funding; and provide technical assistance to applicants that meet program submission deadlines to correct technical errors or provide missing information, so that applications are not ultimately rejected because of a minor error or oversight.

According to the Author

"Continuum of Care (CoC) programs are increasingly depended on by the State to provide critical services which address wide-ranging support needed to resolve homelessness. Unfortunately, existing administrative processes present unnecessary delays and limitations in

delivering appropriations to CoCs so they may turn resources into action faster to meet the crisis in the moment.

AB 1978 will support CoCs by providing the Department of Housing and Community Development with the legislative direction and allowances to publish timelines for grants, issue funds up-front, provide applicants with technical assistance during the application review process, and expand the authority of certain departmental leaders to expedite decisions."

Arguments in Support

"AB 1978 will support CoCs by providing the Department of Housing and Community Development with the legislative direction and allowances to publish timelines for grants, issue funds up-front, provide applicants with technical assistance during the application review process, and expand the authority of certain departmental leaders to expedite decisions."

Arguments in Opposition

None on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

Estimated ongoing costs to HCD of \$371,000 (General Fund (GF)) annually, for two staff positions to update guidelines more frequently on select federal programs, provide additional technical assistance to applicants to those programs, update databases to conform to the standards of the bill and perform ongoing reporting and publishing work related to making these tracking systems publicly accessible.

VOTES:

ASM HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: 7-0-1

YES: Wicks, Seyarto, Carrillo, Gabriel, Kalra, Quirk-Silva, Ward

ABS, ABST OR NV: Kiley

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 16-0-0

YES: Holden, Bigelow, Bryan, Calderon, Carrillo, Megan Dahle, Davies, Mike Fong, Fong, Gabriel, Eduardo Garcia, Levine, Quirk, Robert Rivas, Akilah Weber, Wilson

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0-4

YES: Aguiar-Curry, Arambula, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Bigelow, Bloom, Boerner Horvath, Bryan, Calderon, Carrillo, Cervantes, Chen, Choi, Cooley, Cooper, Cunningham, Megan Dahle, Daly, Davies, Flora, Mike Fong, Fong, Friedman, Gabriel, Gallagher, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gipson, Gray, Grayson, Haney, Holden, Irwin, Jones-Sawyer, Kalra, Kiley, Lackey, Lee, Levine, Low, Maienschein, Mathis, Mayes, McCarty, Medina, Mullin, Muratsuchi, Nazarian, Nguyen, Patterson, Petrie-Norris, Quirk, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Reyes, Luz Rivas, Robert Rivas, Rodriguez, Salas, Santiago, Seyarto, Smith, Stone, Ting, Valladares, Villapudua, Voepel, Waldron, Ward, Akilah Weber, Wicks, Wilson, Wood, Rendon

ABS, ABST OR NV: Berman, Mia Bonta, O'Donnell, Blanca Rubio

SENATE FLOOR: 40-0-0

YES: Allen, Archuleta, Atkins, Bates, Becker, Borgeas, Bradford, Caballero, Cortese, Dahle, Dodd, Durazo, Eggman, Glazer, Gonzalez, Grove, Hertzberg, Hueso, Hurtado, Jones, Kamlager, Laird, Leyva, Limón, McGuire, Melendez, Min, Newman, Nielsen, Ochoa Bogh, Pan, Portantino, Roth, Rubio, Skinner, Stern, Umberg, Wieckowski, Wiener, Wilk

UPDATED

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