

Substance Use and Recovery Services Plan Recommendation

Recommendation –LGBTQIA+ housing options and *policy changes*.

Bill requirement: Section 1(3)(a), (c), (d), (e)

Synopsis – Housing providers have several individuals who apply and are accepted into housing that they identify with. At times, housing providers could also place individuals into single rooms for privacy purposes. This group must be intentional when it comes to housing, and to the safety of community members. Addressing LGBTQIA+ housing options requires more input and representation from the community. There is a lack of affordable housing or recovery housing in rural areas. Develop housing operator training that is culturally and linguistically inclusive and representative of this population.

- ❖ Organizations invited to participate in this discussion:
 - Trans Women of Color Solidarity Network
 - Utopia
 - Mockingbird Society – Keeping Kids in Kent
 - Lambert House in Seattle was given as an example of place that supports marginalized communities.
 - Disability Rights Washington
 - POCAAN
 - Asian Counseling Referral Services
 - Creative Justice
 - Lavender Rights Project

Plan of Action:

- ❖ Policy from Drug Court to identify individuals of the LGBTQIA+ community.
- ❖ Housing policy to be inclusive of LGBTQIA+
 - State funded training for housing providers on how to service this community in an informed and appropriate manner. A mandatory training annually for those who have direct contact with residents. This training should incorporate a multifaceted approach including:
 - Harassment Training
 - Communication
 - Antiracism training

- Gender affirming/diversity training
- Cultural competency training

These models and training should be provided top down from the director and board to the staff.

- Staff should also identify with the LGBTQIA+ community.
 - Incorporating community members to help inform the training and policies.
- ❖ A low-barrier grant program operated through Department of Commerce geared at recovery-based housing in underserved and rural areas for priority populations where funding is contingent on implementing inclusionary policies.
 - Smaller organizations/programs that are more experienced in this area. Can utilize these groups to share the funding component to create focused funding sources to established housing programs along with adding funds for newer programs or smaller organizations to also get a chance to establish these housing programs that may be more experienced in this realm.
 - Grants can be focused on youth and rural areas as part of this recommendation.
- ❖ Make sure that long term funding is sustainable, something like revolving funds for other recovery housing.
- ❖ Expand the definition of Fair housing and allow more people to be housing providers.

Financial Impact:

Dollars	FY23	FY24	FY25
5476 Funding	\$525,000/ Adult Housing Grants	\$525,000/ Adult Housing Grants	\$525,000/ Adult Housing Grants
	\$525,000/ Youth Housing Grants	\$525,000/ Youth Housing Grants	\$525,000/ Youth Housing Grants
	\$60,000/ Training	\$60,000/ Training	\$60,000/ Training
Grant Funding			
Total Funds	\$1,110,000	\$1,110,000	\$1,110,000
Staff (FTE)			

Consideration of youth, rural areas, and tribes:

Youth: Grants in this recommendation are not only focused on adult housing but also youth housing.

Rural Areas: Rural areas will be prioritized for providing these grants.

Tribes:

Marginalized Communities: This recommendation is specifically focused on marginalized communities in Washington that identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ community as well as focusing on rural areas and youth programs.

Collaboration/Existing Programs:

COM and HCA have existing housing grants through 5476, this recommendation would be an expansion of these grants to focus on the LGBTQIA+ community in Washington.

SURSA Committee Feedback: