

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

—
S.P. 54 - L.D. 126

An Act to Expand the Use of the Veterans' Homelessness Prevention Partnership Fund

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 37-B MRSA §513-A, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 504, §2, is amended to read:

§513-A. Veterans' homelessness prevention coordination

1. Veterans' homelessness prevention partnership. The director ~~shall~~ may, through one or more collaborative agreements, establish a program of partnerships with human services-based volunteer organizations to provide transitional housing to homeless veterans and coordinate efforts to remedy and prevent homelessness among veterans in this State. The volunteer organizations must have as their core programs addressing homelessness and veterans' services and have been active in the State for at least 2 years. Priority must be given to an organization founded, chartered or organized in the State. The director may accept donations from outside sources and state and federal funding to accomplish the priorities of the partnerships. To the extent state, federal or outside funding is available, the priorities of these partnerships, listed in order of priority, include, but are not limited to:

- A. Identifying homeless veterans in the State;
- B. Identifying and securing temporary or permanent living space for veterans within the veterans' communities;
- C. Providing ~~reimbursement~~ disbursements to human services-based volunteer organizations that provide transitional housing to homeless veterans pursuant to collaborative agreements entered into pursuant to this subsection; and
- D. Conducting annual outreach events, targeted to reach the maximum number of veterans in need, to disseminate information on resources and services available to assist homeless veterans.

2. Rules. The bureau may adopt rules necessary to implement this section, including to define "veterans" for purposes of this section, to govern collaborative agreements with human services-based volunteer organizations and to govern ~~the reimbursement of~~

~~organizations that provide transitional housing to homeless veterans through~~ disbursements from the Veterans' Homelessness Prevention Partnership Fund.

Rules adopted under this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

3. Fund established. The Veterans' Homelessness Prevention Partnership Fund, a nonlapsing fund, is established under the bureau for the purpose of receiving funds from state, federal and other sources, including donations from private citizens, corporations and entities for the purpose of this section. The bureau shall use the fund to provide ~~reimbursement to human services-based volunteer organizations that provide transitional housing to homeless veterans~~ disbursements to organizations, businesses, landlords or other entities to prevent homelessness among veterans in this State and to otherwise carry out the purposes of this section.