

**Homeless Services Amendments**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Clinton D. Okerlund**

Senate Sponsor:

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**LONG TITLE****General Description:**

This bill amends provisions related to the Office of Homeless Services.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- repeals certain obsolete sections of code;
- amends provisions related to the Office of Homeless Services (office);
- amends the duties of the office and duties of the homeless services coordinator (coordinator);
- amends certain staffing requirements for certain boards or committees;
- amends certain reporting requirements; and
- makes technical and conforming changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:****AMENDS:**

- 35A-1-204 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 345
- 35A-8-2202 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 118
- 35A-16-102 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special Session, Chapter 16
- 35A-16-201 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 281
- 35A-16-202 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapters 338, 349
- 35A-16-203 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 530
- 35A-16-205 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 528, 530

31 **35A-16-207 (Effective 05/06/26) (Repealed 07/01/27)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah  
32 2025, Chapter 530

33 **35A-16-208 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 422,  
34 530

35 **35A-16-210 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 338

36 **35A-16-210.1 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 530

37 **35A-16-302 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 530

38 **63J-4-202 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapters 281,  
39 382 and last amended by Coordination Clause, Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 382

40 REPEALS:

41 **35A-16-101 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 281

42 **35A-16-209 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 338

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44 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

45 Section 1. Section **35A-1-204** is amended to read:

46 **35A-1-204 (Effective 05/06/26). Division directors -- Appointment --**  
47 **Compensation -- Qualifications.**

48 (1)(a) The chief officer of each division within the department shall be a director, who  
49 shall serve as the executive and administrative head of the division.

50 ~~[(2)]~~ (b) A director shall be appointed by the executive director with the concurrence of  
51 the governor and may be removed from that position at the will of the executive  
52 director.

53 (2)(a) Notwithstanding Subsection (1), the governor shall appoint a state homeless  
54 services coordinator to serve as the chief officer of the Office of Homeless Services  
55 created in Chapter 16, Part 2, Office of Homeless Services.

56 (b) The state homeless services coordinator may be removed from that position at the  
57 will of the governor.

58 (3) A director of a division shall receive compensation as provided by Title 63A, Chapter  
59 17, Utah State Personnel Management Act.

60 (4)(a) A director of a division shall be experienced in administration and possess such  
61 additional qualifications as determined by the executive director.

62 (b) In addition to the requirements of Subsection (4)(a), the director of the Division of  
63 Adjudication shall be admitted to the practice of law in Utah.

64 Section 2. Section **35A-8-2202** is amended to read:

**35A-8-2202 (Effective 05/06/26). Commission on Housing Affordability.**

- (1) There is created within the department the Commission on Housing Affordability.
- (2) The commission shall consist of 21 members as follows:
  - (a) one senator appointed by the president of the Senate;
  - (b) two representatives appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;
  - (c) the executive director of the department or the executive director's designee;
  - (d) the director of the division;
  - (e) the executive director of the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity or the executive director's designee;
  - (f) the president of the Utah Transit Authority or the president's designee;
  - (g) the chair of the board of trustees of the Utah Housing Corporation or the chair's designee;
  - (h) the state homelessness coordinator appointed under Section ~~[63J-4-202]~~ 35A-1-204 or the state homelessness coordinator's designee; and
  - (i) 12 members appointed by the governor as follows:
    - (i) one individual representing the land development community with experience and expertise in affordable, subsidized multi-family development, recommended by the Utah Homebuilders Association;
    - (ii) one individual representing the real estate industry, recommended by the Utah Association of Realtors;
    - (iii) one individual representing the banking industry, recommended by the Utah Bankers Association;
    - (iv) one individual representing public housing authorities, recommended by the director of the division;
    - (v) two individuals representing municipal government, recommended by the Utah League of Cities and Towns;
    - (vi) one individual representing redevelopment agencies and community reinvestment agencies, recommended by the Utah Redevelopment Association;
    - (vii) two individuals representing county government, recommended by the Utah Association of Counties, where:
      - (A) one of the individuals is from a county of the first class; and
      - (B) one of the individuals is from a county of the third, fourth, fifth, or sixth class;
    - (viii) one individual representing a nonprofit organization that addresses issues related to housing affordability;

- 99 (ix) one individual with expertise on housing affordability issues in rural  
100 communities; and
- 101 (x) one individual representing the Salt Lake Chamber, recommended by the Salt  
102 Lake Chamber.
- 103 (3)(a) When a vacancy occurs in a position appointed by the governor under Subsection  
104 (2)(i), the governor shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy.
- 105 (b) Members appointed under Subsection (2)(i) may be removed by the governor for  
106 cause.
- 107 (c) A member appointed under Subsection (2)(i) shall be removed from the commission  
108 and replaced by an appointee of the governor if the member is absent for three  
109 consecutive meetings of the commission without being excused by a cochair of the  
110 commission.
- 111 (d) A member serves until the member's successor is appointed.
- 112 (4)(a) The commission shall select two members to serve as cochairs, one of whom shall  
113 be a legislator.
- 114 (b) Subject to the other provisions of this Subsection (4), the cochairs are responsible for  
115 the call and conduct of meetings.
- 116 (c) The cochairs shall call and hold meetings of the commission at least four times each  
117 year.
- 118 (d) One or more additional meetings may be called upon request by a majority of the  
119 commission's members.
- 120 (5)(a) A majority of the members of the commission constitutes a quorum.
- 121 (b) The action of a majority of a quorum constitutes the action of the commission.
- 122 (6)(a) A member of the commission described in Subsections (2)(c) through (i) may not  
123 receive compensation or benefits for the member's service, but may receive per diem  
124 and travel expenses in accordance with:
- 125 (i) Section 63A-3-106;
- 126 (ii) Section 63A-3-107; and
- 127 (iii) rules made by the Division of Finance pursuant to Sections 63A-3-106 and  
128 63A-3-107.
- 129 (b) Compensation and expenses of a member who is a legislator are governed by Section  
130 36-2-2 and Legislative Joint Rules, Title 5, Legislative Compensation and Expenses.
- 131 (7) The division shall provide staff support to the commission.
- 132 Section 3. Section **35A-16-102** is amended to read:

**35A-16-102 (Effective 05/06/26). Definitions.**

As used in this chapter:

- (1) "Board" means the Utah Homeless Services Board created in Section 35A-16-204.
- (2) "Chief executive officer" means the same as that term is defined in Section 11-51-102.
- (3) "Client" means an individual who is experiencing homelessness or an individual at risk of becoming homeless.
- (4) "Collaborative applicant" means the entity designated by a continuum of care to collect and submit data and apply for funds on behalf of the continuum of care, as required by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- (5) "Continuum of care" means a regional or local planning body designated by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to coordinate services for individuals experiencing homelessness within an area of the state.
- (6) "Coordinator" means the state homelessness coordinator appointed under Section [ ~~63J-4-202~~ ] 35A-1-204.
- (7) "County of the first class" means the same as that term is defined in Section 17-60-104.
- (8) "County of the second class" means the same as that term is defined in Section 17-60-104.
- (9) "Eligible services" means any activities or services that mitigate the impacts of the location of an eligible shelter, including direct services, public safety services, and emergency services, as further defined by rule made by the office in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act.
- (10) "Executive committee" means the executive committee of the board.
- (11) "Exit destination" means:
  - (a) a homeless situation;
  - (b) an institutional situation;
  - (c) a temporary housing situation;
  - (d) a permanent housing situation; or
  - (e) other.
- (12) "First-tier eligible municipality" means a municipality that:
  - (a) is located within:
    - (i) a county of the first or second class, as classified in Section 17-60-104; or
    - (ii) a county of the third class, as classified in Section 17-60-104, if the municipality has a population of 100,000 or more;
  - (b) as determined by the office, has or is proposed to have an eligible shelter within the

- 167 municipality's geographic boundaries within the following fiscal year;
- 168 (c) due to the location of an eligible shelter within the municipality's geographic
- 169 boundaries, requires eligible services; and
- 170 (d) is certified as a first-tier eligible municipality in accordance with Section 35A-16-404.
- 171 (13) "Homeless Management Information System" or "HMIS" means an information
- 172 technology system that:
- 173 (a) is used to collect client-level data and data on the provision of housing and services
- 174 to homeless individuals and individuals at risk of homelessness in the state; and
- 175 (b) meets the requirements of the United States Department of Housing and Urban
- 176 Development.
- 177 (14) "Homeless services budget" means the comprehensive annual budget and overview of
- 178 all homeless services available in the state described in Subsection 35A-16-203(1)(b).
- 179 (15) "Local homeless council" means a local planning body designated by the steering
- 180 committee ~~[to coordinate]~~ that coordinates services for individuals experiencing
- 181 homelessness within an area of the state.
- 182 (16) "Office" means the Office of Homeless Services.
- 183 (17) "Residential, vocational and life skills program" means the same as that term is defined
- 184 in Section 13-53-102.
- 185 (18) "Second-tier eligible municipality" means a municipality that:
- 186 (a) is located within:
- 187 (i) a county of the fourth, fifth, or sixth class; or
- 188 (ii) a county of the third class, if the municipality has a population of less than
- 189 100,000;
- 190 (b) as determined by the office, has or is proposed to have an eligible shelter within the
- 191 municipality's geographic boundaries within the following fiscal year;
- 192 (c) due to the location of an eligible shelter within the municipality's geographic
- 193 boundaries, requires eligible services; and
- 194 (d) is certified as a second-tier eligible municipality in accordance with Section
- 195 35A-16-404.
- 196 (19)(a) "Service provider" means a state agency, a local government, or a private
- 197 organization that provides services to clients.
- 198 (b) "Service provider" includes a correctional facility and the Administrative Office of
- 199 the Courts.
- 200 (20) "Steering committee" means the Utah Homeless Network Steering Committee created

in Section 35A-16-206.

~~[(21) "Strategic plan" means the statewide strategic plan to minimize homelessness in the state described in Subsection 35A-16-203(1)(e).]~~

~~[(22)]~~ (21) "Type of homelessness" means:

- (a) chronic homelessness;
- (b) episodic homelessness;
- (c) situational homelessness; or
- (d) family homelessness.

Section 4. Section **35A-16-201** is amended to read:

**35A-16-201 (Effective 05/06/26). Office of Homeless Services.**

- (1) The Office of Homeless Services is under the direction of the state homelessness coordinator appointed under ~~[Section 63J-4-202]~~ Section 35A-1-204.
- (2) The coordinator shall serve as:
  - (a) an advisor to the governor on homelessness issues; and
  - (b) subject to Subsection (3), the chief administrative officer of the Office of Homeless Services created ~~[in Section 35A-1-202]~~ under this part.
- (3) The executive director has administrative oversight over the office.

Section 5. Section **35A-16-202** is amended to read:

**35A-16-202 (Effective 05/06/26). Powers and duties of the office.**

- (1) The office shall, under the direction of the coordinator:
  - (a) assist in providing homeless services in the state;
  - (b) coordinate the provision of homeless services in the state;
  - (c) coordinate statewide emergency and crisis response in relation to services for individuals experiencing homelessness;
  - ~~[(e)]~~ (d) manage, with the concurrence of continuum of care organizations approved by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, a Homeless Management Information System for the state that:
    - (i) shares client-level data between service providers in the state;
    - (ii) is effective as a case management system;
    - (iii) except for individuals receiving services who are victims of domestic violence, includes an effective authorization protocol for encouraging individuals who are provided with any homeless services in the state to provide accurate information to providers for inclusion in the HMIS; and
    - (iv) meets the requirements of the United States Department of Housing and Urban

Development and other federal requirements; and  
[(d) in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act,  
make rules defining "successful exit," "unsuccessful exit," and "neutral exit"; and]  
(e) provide support to the steering committee in developing the formula described in  
Section 35A-16-211.

(2) The office may:

- (a) by following the procedures and requirements of Title 63J, Chapter 5, Federal Funds Procedures Act, seek federal grants, loans, or participation in federal programs; and
- (b) for any federal program that requires the expenditure of state funds as a condition for participation by the state in a fund, property, or service, with the governor's approval, expend whatever funds are necessary out of the money provided by the Legislature for the use of the office.

Section 6. Section **35A-16-203** is amended to read:

**35A-16-203 (Effective 05/06/26). Powers and duties of the coordinator.**

(1) The coordinator shall:

- (a) coordinate the provision of homeless services in the state;
- (b) in cooperation with the board, develop and maintain a comprehensive annual budget and overview of all homeless services available in the state, which homeless services budget shall receive final approval by the board;
- [(c) in cooperation with the board, create a statewide strategic plan to minimize homelessness in the state, which strategic plan shall receive final approval by the board;]
- [(d)] (c) in cooperation with the board, oversee funding provided for the provision of homeless services, which funding shall receive final approval by the board, including funding from the:
  - (i) Pamela Atkinson Homeless Account created in Section 35A-16-301;
  - (ii) Homeless to Housing Reform Restricted Account created in Section 35A-16-303; and
  - (iii) Homeless Shelter Cities Mitigation Restricted Account created in Section 35A-16-402;
- [(e)] (d) provide administrative support to and serve as a member of the board;
- [(f)] (e) at the governor's request, report directly to the governor on issues regarding homelessness in the state and the provision of homeless services in the state;[-and]
- [(g)] (f) [report directly to] at the request of the president of the Senate and the speaker of



the House of Representatives[ -at least twice each year] , report directly to the Legislature on issues regarding homelessness in the state and the provision of homeless services in the state[-] ;

(g) outline specific goals and measurable benchmarks for minimizing homelessness in the state; and

(h) coordinate services for individuals experiencing homelessness among all service providers in the state.

~~[(2) The coordinator, in cooperation with the board, shall ensure that the homeless services budget described in Subsection (1)(b) includes an overview and coordination plan for all funding sources for homeless services in the state, including from state agencies, continuum of care organizations, housing authorities, local governments, federal sources, and private organizations.]~~

~~[(3) The coordinator, in cooperation with the board and taking into account the metrics established and data reported in accordance with Section 35A-16-211, shall ensure that the strategic plan described in Subsection (1)(c):]~~

~~[(a) outlines specific goals and measurable benchmarks for minimizing homelessness in the state and for coordinating services for individuals experiencing homelessness among all service providers in the state;]~~

~~[(b) identifies best practices or innovative strategies and recommends improvements to the provision of services to individuals experiencing homelessness in the state to ensure the services are provided in a safe, cost-effective, and efficient manner;]~~

~~[(c) identifies best practices or innovative strategies and recommends improvements in coordinating the delivery of services to the variety of populations experiencing homelessness in the state, including through the use of electronic databases and improved data sharing among all service providers in the state;-]~~

~~[(d) identifies gaps and recommends solutions in the delivery of services to the variety of populations experiencing homelessness in the state; and]~~

~~[(e) takes into consideration the success of the HOME Court Pilot Program established in Section 26B-5-382.]~~

~~[(4)]~~ (2) In overseeing funding for the provision of homeless services as described in Subsection ~~[(1)(d)]~~ (1)(c), the coordinator:

(a) shall prioritize the funding of programs and providers that have a documented history of successfully reducing the number of individuals experiencing homelessness, reducing the time individuals spend experiencing homelessness, moving individuals

303 experiencing homelessness to permanent housing, or reducing the number of  
304 individuals who return to experiencing homelessness;

305 (b) except for a program or provider providing services to victims of domestic violence,  
306 may not approve funding to a program or provider that does not enter into a written  
307 agreement with the office to collect and share HMIS data regarding the provision of  
308 services to individuals experiencing homelessness so that the provision of services  
309 can be coordinated among state agencies, local governments, and private  
310 organizations; and

311 (c) if the board has approved a funding formula developed by the steering committee, as  
312 described in Section 35A-16-205:

313 (i) except as provided in Subsection ~~[(4)(e)(ii)]~~ (2)(c)(ii), shall utilize that funding  
314 formula in disbursing funds for the provision of homeless services; and

315 (ii) shall ensure that any federal funds not subject to the funding formula are  
316 disbursed in accordance with any applicable federal requirements.

317 ~~[(5) In cooperation with the board, the coordinator shall update the annual statewide budget  
318 and the strategic plan described in this section on an annual basis.]~~

319 ~~[(6)]~~ (3)(a) On or before October 1, the coordinator shall provide a written report to the  
320 department for inclusion in the department's annual written report described in  
321 Section 35A-1-109.

322 (b) The written report shall include:

323 (i) the homeless services budget;

324 ~~[(ii) the strategic plan;]~~

325 ~~[(iii)]~~ (ii) recommendations regarding improvements to coordinating and providing  
326 services to individuals experiencing homelessness in the state;

327 ~~[(iv)]~~ (iii) in coordination with the board, a complete accounting of the office's  
328 disbursement of funds during the previous fiscal year from:

329 (A) the Pamela Atkinson Homeless Account created in Section 35A-16-301;

330 (B) the Homeless to Housing Reform Restricted Account created in Section  
331 35A-16-303;

332 (C) the Homeless Shelter Cities Mitigation Restricted Account created in Section  
333 35A-16-402; and

334 ~~[(D) the COVID-19 Homeless Housing and Services Grant Program created in  
335 Section 35A-16-602; and]~~

336 ~~[(E)]~~ (D) any other grant program created in statute that is administered by the

office[; and] .

~~[(v) the data described in Section 35A-16-211.]~~

Section 7. Section **35A-16-205** is amended to read:

**35A-16-205 (Effective 05/06/26). Duties of the board.**

(1) The board:

(a) shall provide final approval for:

(i) a funding formula developed by the steering committee under Section 35A-16-211;

(ii) the homeless services budget; and

~~[(iii) the strategic plan; and]~~

~~[(iv)]~~ (iii) the awarding of funding for the provision of homeless services as described

in Subsection ~~[35A-16-203(1)(d)]~~ 35A-16-203(1)(c);

(b) in cooperation with the coordinator, shall:

(i) develop and maintain the homeless services budget; and

~~[(ii) develop and maintain the strategic plan; and]~~

~~[(iii)]~~ (ii) review applications and approve funding for the provision of homeless

services in the state as described in Subsection ~~[35A-16-203(1)(d)]~~

35A-16-203(1)(c);

(c) shall review local and regional plans for providing services to individuals

experiencing homelessness;

(d) shall cooperate with local homeless councils to:

(i) develop a common agenda and vision for reducing homelessness in each local

oversight body's respective region;

(ii) as part of the homeless services budget, develop a spending plan that coordinates

the funding supplied to local stakeholders; and

(iii) align local funding to projects that improve outcomes and target specific needs in

each community;

(e) shall coordinate gap funding with private entities for providing services to

individuals experiencing homelessness;

(f) shall recommend performance and accountability measures for service providers,

including the support of collecting consistent and transparent data;

(g) when reviewing and giving final approval for requests as described in Subsection [

~~35A-16-203(1)(d)]~~ 35A-16-203(1)(c):

(i) may only recommend funding if the proposed recipient has a policy to share

client-level service information with other entities in accordance with state and

371 federal law to enhance the coordination of services for individuals who are  
372 experiencing homelessness; and  
373 (ii) shall identify specific targets and benchmarks ~~[that align with the strategic plan]~~  
374 for each recommended award;  
375 ~~[(h) shall regularly update the state strategic plan on homelessness to reflect:]~~  
376 ~~[(i) trends in homelessness as identified by the review of:]~~  
377 ~~[(A) local data; and]~~  
378 ~~[(B) performance and accountability metrics in accordance with this section; and]~~  
379 ~~[(ii) proven strategies to reduce homelessness among:]~~  
380 ~~[(A) the unsheltered;]~~  
381 ~~[(B) the chronically or episodically homeless; and]~~  
382 ~~[(C) the situationally homeless;]~~  
383 ~~[(i)]~~ (h) shall develop annual state and local goals for reducing homelessness among the  
384 target subpopulations identified by the board;  
385 ~~[(j)]~~ (i) shall work with the local homeless councils to carry out the requirements of  
386 Subsection 35A-16-211(3);  
387 ~~[(k)]~~ (j) shall develop metrics for measuring the effectiveness of providers in assisting  
388 clients to successfully progress through the services coordinated by a continuum of  
389 care;  
390 ~~[(l)]~~ (k) shall create best practices or innovative strategies for a service provider to  
391 administer services to an individual experiencing homelessness, including promotion  
392 of:  
393 (i) a recognition of the human dignity of clients served;  
394 (ii) a need to develop self-reliance;  
395 (iii) the value of work;  
396 (iv) personal accountability; and  
397 (v) personal progress toward greater personal independence;  
398 ~~[(m)]~~ (l) shall make recommendations for uniform standards for enforcing pedestrian  
399 safety and unsanctioned camping laws and ordinances;  
400 ~~[(n)]~~ (m) shall identify best practices or innovative strategies for responding to  
401 unsheltered individuals experiencing mental health disorder and substance use  
402 disorder;  
403 ~~[(o)]~~ (n) shall make recommendations for strategies to reduce illegal drug use within  
404 homeless shelters, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing;

~~[(p)]~~ (o) shall facilitate client connection to alternative support systems, including behavioral health services, addiction recovery, and residential services;  
~~[(q)]~~ (p) shall facilitate participation in HMIS, where appropriate and in alignment with established HMIS policies, and data sharing agreements among all participants in a client support network, including homeless services, physical health systems, mental health systems, and the criminal justice system;  
~~[(r)]~~ shall make recommendations to the office for defining "successful exit," "unsuccessful exit," and "neutral exit";  
~~[(s)]~~ (q) shall evaluate additional opportunities for the office to become a collaborative applicant;  
~~[(t)]~~ (r) shall coordinate with the continuums of care to provide for cooperative distribution of available funding;  
~~[(u)]~~ (s) shall work in conjunction with the executive directors of the Department of Workforce Services, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Corrections to create best practices or innovative strategies for helping individuals exiting from incarceration or an institution to avoid homelessness;  
~~[(v)]~~ (t) shall establish standards for the prioritization of beds located in homeless shelters in accordance with Section 35A-16-205.1; and  
~~[(w)]~~ (u) shall work in conjunction with the Department of Veterans and Military Affairs to create best practices for helping veterans, as that term is defined in Section 68-3-12.5, avoid homelessness.

- (2)(a) In approving a funding formula, as described in Subsection (1)(a)(i), the board shall take action on a proposed funding formula by a two-thirds vote.  
 (b) If the board cannot approve a proposed funding formula, the board shall refer the proposed funding formula back to the steering committee for further consideration.  
 (3)(a) The executive committee shall act in an advisory capacity for the board and make recommendations regarding the board's duties under Subsection (1).  
 (b) The executive committee does not have authority to make decisions independent of the board.

Section 8. Section **35A-16-207** is amended to read:

**35A-16-207 (Effective 05/06/26) (Repealed 07/01/27). Duties of the steering committee.**

- (1) The steering committee shall:  
 (a) support connections across continuums of care, local homeless councils, and state

- and local governments;
- (b) coordinate statewide emergency and crisis response in relation to services for individuals experiencing homelessness;
- (c) provide training to providers of services for individuals experiencing homelessness, stakeholders, and policymakers;
- (d) educate the general public and other interested persons regarding the needs, challenges, and opportunities for individuals experiencing homelessness; and
- (e) make recommendations to the board regarding the awarding of funding for the provision of homeless services as described in Subsection [35A-16-203(1)(d)] 35A-16-203(1)(c).

- (2) The steering committee shall, in consultation with members of the board, the office, members of local homeless councils, and the coordinator, develop a funding formula as described in Section 35A-16-211.

Section 9. Section **35A-16-208** is amended to read:

**35A-16-208 (Effective 05/06/26). Reporting requirements -- Outcome measures.**

- ~~[(1)(a) The office shall report, for the state and for each local homeless council:]~~
  - ~~[(i) the state's year-to-date progress toward reaching a functional zero level of homelessness for each type of homelessness and subpopulation, including:]~~
    - ~~[(A) the number of individuals who are homeless for the first time;]~~
    - ~~[(B) the number of individuals who returned to homelessness after having exited homelessness within the two previous years;]~~
    - ~~[(C) the number of individuals who remained homeless since the last report;]~~
    - ~~[(D) the number of individuals experiencing homelessness since the last report by household type;]~~
    - ~~[(E) the number of individuals who exited by exit destination; and]~~
    - ~~[(F) the number of individuals who are experiencing homelessness for the first time plus the number of individuals who are returning to homelessness minus the number of individuals who are exiting homelessness;]~~
  - ~~[(ii) the percentage of individuals experiencing homelessness who:]~~
    - ~~[(A) have a mental health disorder;]~~
    - ~~[(B) have a substance use disorder;]~~
    - ~~[(C) have a chronic health condition;]~~
    - ~~[(D) have a physical disability;]~~
    - ~~[(E) have a developmental disability;]~~

473           ~~[(F) have HIV/AIDS;]~~  
474           ~~[(G) are survivors of domestic violence;]~~  
475           ~~[(H) are veterans; and]~~  
476           ~~[(I) are unaccompanied youth 24 years old or younger;]~~  
477           ~~[(iii) the number of individuals who exited homeless services since the last report by:]~~  
478           ~~[(A) type of homelessness;]~~  
479           ~~[(B) subpopulation; and]~~  
480           ~~[(C) exit destination;]~~  
481           ~~[(iv) the progress, by project type, on each goal established in accordance with~~  
482           ~~Subsection (3); and]~~  
483           ~~[(v) the data provided by the homeless services provider ombudsman as described in~~  
484           ~~Section 35A-16-1002.]~~  
485           ~~[(b) The reports described in this Subsection (1) shall contain aggregated, de-identified~~  
486           ~~information.]~~  
487           ~~[(2) The office shall report the data described in Subsection (1):]~~  
488           ~~[(a) in the annual report required by Section 35A-16-203;]~~  
489           ~~[(b) on or before October 1 of each year, through an oral presentation to the Economic~~  
490           ~~Development and Workforce Services Interim Committee; and]~~  
491           ~~[(c) on a data dashboard for the public with specific additional data points recommended~~  
492           ~~by the board.]~~  
493           ~~[(3) The board and the local homeless councils shall jointly establish quarterly goals for~~  
494           ~~each project type.]~~  
495           ~~[(4) The board and the local homeless councils shall jointly make annual progress reports~~  
496           ~~identifying:]~~  
497           ~~[(a) the percentage of clients:]~~  
498           ~~[(i) screened for social needs; and]~~  
499           ~~[(ii) referred for services that match the clients' social needs;]~~  
500           ~~[(b) the percentage of clients subsequently referred to community-based providers who~~  
501           ~~can:]~~  
502           ~~[(i) address the client's needs;]~~  
503           ~~[(ii) follow-up on status of addressing the client's needs; and]~~  
504           ~~[(iii) report back to the referring entity;]~~  
505           ~~[(c) the number of youth receiving parent or guardian bereavement support services; and]~~  
506           ~~[(d) the number of clients with:]~~

507 ~~[(i) a successful exit;]~~

508 ~~[(ii) an unsuccessful exit;]~~

509 ~~[(iii) a neutral exit; and]~~

510 ~~[(iv) continued enrollment in the project.]~~

511 (1)(a) The office shall report, for the state and for each local homeless council:

512 (i) the state's year-to-date progress toward reaching a functional zero level of  
513 homelessness for each type of homelessness and subpopulation;

514 (ii) the number of individuals who are experiencing homelessness for the first time  
515 plus the number of individuals who are returning to homelessness minus the  
516 number of individuals who are exiting homelessness;

517 (iii) the progress, by project type, on each goal established in accordance with  
518 Subsection (3); and

519 (iv) the data provided by the homeless services provider ombudsman as described in  
520 Section 35A-16-1002.

521 (b) The reports described in this Subsection (1) shall contain aggregated, de-identified  
522 information.

523 (2) The office shall report the data described in Subsection (1):

524 (a) in the annual report required by Section 35A-16-203; and

525 (b) on a data dashboard for the public with specific additional data points recommended  
526 by the board.

527 (3) The board and the local homeless councils shall jointly establish quarterly goals for  
528 each project type.

529 Section 10. Section **35A-16-210** is amended to read:

530 **35A-16-210 (Effective 05/06/26). Shelter Cities Advisory Board.**

531 (1) There is established the Shelter Cities Advisory Board.

532 (2) The Shelter Cities Advisory Board shall consist of the following members:

533 (a) the chief executive officer of each first-tier eligible municipality, or the chief  
534 executive officer's designee; and

535 (b) the chief executive officer of each second-tier eligible municipality, or the chief  
536 executive officer's designee.

537 (3)(a) The Shelter Cities Advisory Board shall appoint, in accordance with this section,  
538 one chief executive officer representing a municipality as a member to the board.

539 (b) The members of the Shelter Cities Advisory Board shall make an appointment, or fill  
540 a vacancy, by a majority vote of all members of the Shelter Cities Advisory Board



who are present at the meeting during which an appointment is made.

(c) The Shelter Cities Advisory Board may not appoint the chief executive officer described in Subsection 35A-16-204(2)(a)(vi).

(d) Section 35A-16-204 governs other terms of appointment.

(4) The Shelter Cities Advisory Board may make recommendations to the board regarding improvements to coordinating and providing services to individuals experiencing homelessness in the state.

(5) ~~[The office and an]~~ An association representing at least two municipalities in the state shall ~~[jointly]~~ provide staff and administrative support to the Shelter Cities Advisory Board.

Section 11. Section **35A-16-210.1** is amended to read:

**35A-16-210.1 (Effective 05/06/26). Shelter Counties Advisory Board.**

(1) There is established the Shelter Counties Advisory Board.

(2) The Shelter Counties Advisory Board shall consist of the chief executive officer of each county that maintains a homeless shelter year round, or the chief executive officer's designee.

(3) The Shelter Counties Advisory Board may make recommendations to the board regarding improvements to coordinating and providing services to individuals experiencing homelessness in the state.

(4) ~~[The office and an]~~ An association representing at least two counties in the state shall ~~[jointly]~~ provide staff and administrative support to the Shelter Counties Advisory Board.

Section 12. Section **35A-16-302** is amended to read:

**35A-16-302 (Effective 05/06/26). Uses of Homeless to Housing Reform Restricted Account.**

(1) The board may award ongoing or one-time grants or contracts funded from the Homeless to Housing Reform Restricted Account created in Section 35A-16-303.

(2) As a condition of receiving money, including any ongoing money, from the restricted account, an entity awarded a grant or contract under this section shall provide detailed and accurate reporting on at least an annual basis to the board and the coordinator that describes:

(a) how money provided from the restricted account has been spent by the entity; and

(b) the progress towards measurable outcome-based benchmarks agreed to between the entity and the board before the awarding of the grant or contract.

(3) In determining the awarding of a grant or contract under this section, the board and the

575 coordinator shall:

- 576 (a) ensure that the services to be provided through the grant or contract will be provided  
577 in a cost-effective manner;
- 578 (b) give priority to a project or contract that will include significant additional or  
579 matching funds from a private organization, nonprofit organization, or local  
580 government entity;
- 581 (c) ensure that the project or contract will target the distinct housing needs of one or  
582 more at-risk or homeless subpopulations, which may include:
- 583 (i) families with children;
  - 584 (ii) transitional-aged youth;
  - 585 (iii) single men or single women;
  - 586 (iv) veterans;
  - 587 (v) victims of domestic violence;
  - 588 (vi) individuals with behavioral health disorders, including mental health or  
589 substance use disorders;
  - 590 (vii) individuals who are medically frail or terminally ill;
  - 591 (viii) individuals exiting prison or jail; or
  - 592 (ix) individuals who are homeless without shelter; and
- 593 (d) consider whether the project will address one or more of the following goals:
- 594 (i) diverting homeless or imminently homeless individuals and families from  
595 emergency shelters by providing better housing-based solutions;
  - 596 (ii) meeting the basic needs of homeless individuals and families in crisis;
  - 597 (iii) providing homeless individuals and families with needed stabilization services;
  - 598 (iv) decreasing the state's homeless rate;
  - 599 (v) implementing a coordinated entry system with consistent assessment tools to  
600 provide appropriate and timely access to services for homeless individuals and  
601 families;
  - 602 (vi) providing access to caseworkers or other individualized support for homeless  
603 individuals and families;
  - 604 (vii) encouraging employment and increased financial stability for individuals and  
605 families being diverted from or exiting homelessness;
  - 606 (viii) creating additional affordable housing for state residents;
  - 607 (ix) providing services and support to prevent homelessness among at-risk  
608 individuals and adults;

- 609 (x) providing services and support to prevent homelessness among at-risk children,  
610 adolescents, and young adults;
- 611 (xi) preventing the reoccurrence of homelessness among individuals and families  
612 exiting homelessness; and
- 613 (xii) providing medical respite care for homeless individuals where the homeless  
614 individuals can access medical care and other supportive services[;and] .
- 615 ~~[(e) address the needs identified in the strategic plan described in Section 35A-16-203~~  
616 ~~for inclusion in the annual written report described in Section 35A-1-109.]~~
- 617 (4) In addition to the other provisions of this section, in determining the awarding of a grant  
618 or contract under this section to design, build, create, or renovate a facility that will  
619 provide shelter or other resources for the homeless, the board, with the concurrence of  
620 the coordinator, may consider whether the facility will be:
- 621 (a) located near mass transit services;
- 622 (b) located in an area that meets or will meet all zoning regulations before a final  
623 dispersal of funds;
- 624 (c) safe and welcoming both for individuals using the facility and for members of the  
625 surrounding community; and
- 626 (d) located in an area with access to employment, job training, and positive activities.
- 627 (5) In accordance with Subsection (4), and subject to the approval of the board, with the  
628 concurrence of the coordinator, the following may recommend a site location, acquire a  
629 site location, and hold title to real property, buildings, fixtures, and appurtenances of a  
630 facility that provides or will provide shelter or other resources for the homeless:
- 631 (a) the county executive of a county of the first class on behalf of the county of the first  
632 class, if the facility is or will be located in the county of the first class in a location  
633 other than Salt Lake City;
- 634 (b) the state;
- 635 (c) a nonprofit entity approved by the board, with the concurrence of the coordinator; and
- 636 (d) a mayor of a municipality on behalf of the municipality where a facility is or will be  
637 located.
- 638 (6)(a) If a homeless shelter commits to provide any amount of matching funds under this  
639 Subsection (6), the board, with the concurrence of the coordinator, may award a grant  
640 for the ongoing operations of the homeless shelter.
- 641 (b) In awarding a grant under this Subsection (6), the board, with the concurrence of the  
642 coordinator, shall consider:

- 643 (i) the number of beds available at the homeless shelter;
- 644 (ii) the number and quality of the homeless services provided by the homeless
- 645 shelter; and
- 646 (iii) the amount of matching funds provided by the homeless shelter.
- 647 (7)(a) To meet the goals described in Subsection (3), the office may expend money from
- 648 the restricted account to provide individuals experiencing homelessness
- 649 transportation costs to connect the individual with a support network outside of the
- 650 state.
- 651 (b) A service provider that applies for a grant award for the purposes described under
- 652 Subsection (7)(a) shall provide the office with a detailed report that includes:
- 653 (i) the name and address of the person to provide support services for the individual
- 654 experiencing homelessness; and
- 655 (ii) the transportation costs that the individual experiencing homelessness may
- 656 require.
- 657 (8) The office may expend money from the restricted account to offset actual office and
- 658 board expenses related to administering this section.

659 Section 13. Section **63J-4-202** is amended to read:

660 **63J-4-202 (Effective 05/06/26). Appointment of executive director.**

- 661 (1)~~[(a)]~~ The governor shall appoint~~[-]~~ an executive director of the office to serve at the
- 662 governor's pleasure~~[-]~~ .
- 663 ~~[(i) an executive director of the office; and]~~
- 664 ~~[(ii) a state homelessness coordinator.]~~
- 665 ~~[(b) The state homelessness coordinator shall serve as:]~~
- 666 ~~[(i) an advisor to the governor on homelessness issues; and]~~
- 667 ~~[(ii) the chief administrative officer of the Office of Homeless Services created in~~
- 668 ~~Section 35A-1-202.]~~

- 669 (2) The governor shall establish the executive director's salary within the salary range fixed
- 670 by the Legislature in Title 67, Chapter 22, State Officer Compensation.

671 Section 14. **Repealer.**

672 This bill repeals:

673 Section **35A-16-101, Title.**

674 Section **35A-16-209, Cost measures.**

675 Section 15. **Effective Date.**

676 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.