

Utah Homeless Services Board Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Luz Escamilla

House Sponsor: Sandra Hollins

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends the membership of the Utah Homeless Services Board.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- defines "homeless services campus" (campus);
- amends the membership of the Utah Homeless Services Board (board) by requiring, within one month of the announcement of a campus, a member to be appointed to the board who:

- resides within a certain distance from the campus, appointed by a community organization that advocates on behalf of residents of that area, and which organization shall be chosen by the Office of Homeless Services; or
 - if a campus is announced for the west side of Salt Lake City, represents the west side of Salt Lake City, appointed by the Westside Coalition; and
 - makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

35A-16-102, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special Session, Chapter 16

35A-16-204, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 530

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

Section 1. Section **35A-16-102** is amended to read:

35A-16-102 . Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

31 (1) "Board" means the Utah Homeless Services Board created in Section 35A-16-204.

32 (2) "Chief executive officer" means the same as that term is defined in Section 11-51-102.

33 (3) "Client" means an individual who is experiencing homelessness or an individual at risk

34 of becoming homeless.

35 (4) "Collaborative applicant" means the entity designated by a continuum of care to collect

36 and submit data and apply for funds on behalf of the continuum of care, as required by

37 the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

38 (5) "Continuum of care" means a regional or local planning body designated by the United

39 States Department of Housing and Urban Development to coordinate services for

40 individuals experiencing homelessness within an area of the state.

41 (6) "Coordinator" means the state homelessness coordinator appointed under Section

42 63J-4-202.

43 (7) "County of the first class" means the same as that term is defined in Section 17-60-104.

44 (8) "County of the second class" means the same as that term is defined in Section

45 17-60-104.

46 (9) "Eligible services" means any activities or services that mitigate the impacts of the

47 location of an eligible shelter, including direct services, public safety services, and

48 emergency services, as further defined by rule made by the office in accordance with

49 Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act.

50 (10) "Executive committee" means the executive committee of the board.

51 (11) "Exit destination" means:

52 (a) a homeless situation;

53 (b) an institutional situation;

54 (c) a temporary housing situation;

55 (d) a permanent housing situation; or

56 (e) other situation.

57 (12) "First-tier eligible municipality" means a municipality that:

58 (a) is located within:

59 (i) a county of the first or second class, as classified in Section 17-60-104; or

60 (ii) a county of the third class, as classified in Section 17-60-104, if the municipality

61 has a population of 100,000 or more;

62 (b) as determined by the office, has or is proposed to have an eligible shelter within the

63 municipality's geographic boundaries within the following fiscal year;

64 (c) due to the location of an eligible shelter within the municipality's geographic

65 boundaries, requires eligible services; and

66 (d) is certified as a first-tier eligible municipality in accordance with Section 35A-16-404.

67 (13) "Homeless services campus" means a state homeless services campus facility where
68 individuals who are experiencing homelessness have access to emergency shelter,
69 behavioral and mental health treatment, and support services at one location.

70 (14) "Homeless Management Information System" or "HMIS" means an information
71 technology system that:

72 (a) is used to collect client-level data and data on the provision of housing and services
73 to homeless individuals and individuals at risk of homelessness in the state; and
74 (b) meets the requirements of the United States Department of Housing and Urban
75 Development.

76 [(14)] (15) "Homeless services budget" means the comprehensive annual budget and
77 overview of all homeless services available in the state described in Subsection
78 35A-16-203(1)(b).

79 [(15)] (16) "Local homeless council" means a local planning body designated by the steering
80 committee to coordinate services for individuals experiencing homelessness within an
81 area of the state.

82 [(16)] (17) "Office" means the Office of Homeless Services.

83 [(17)] (18) "Residential, vocational and life skills program" means the same as that term is
84 defined in Section 13-53-102.

85 [(18)] (19) "Second-tier eligible municipality" means a municipality that:

86 (a) is located within:

87 (i) a county of the fourth, fifth, or sixth class; or
88 (ii) a county of the third class, if the municipality has a population of less than
89 100,000;

90 (b) as determined by the office, has or is proposed to have an eligible shelter within the
91 municipality's geographic boundaries within the following fiscal year;

92 (c) due to the location of an eligible shelter within the municipality's geographic
93 boundaries, requires eligible services; and

94 (d) is certified as a second-tier eligible municipality in accordance with Section
95 35A-16-404.

96 [(19)] (20)(a) "Service provider" means a state agency, a local government, or a private
97 organization that provides services to clients.

98 (b) "Service provider" includes a correctional facility and the Administrative Office of

99 the Courts.

100 ~~[20]~~ (21) "Steering committee" means the Utah Homeless Network Steering Committee
101 created in Section 35A-16-206.

102 ~~[21]~~ (22) "Strategic plan" means the statewide strategic plan to minimize homelessness in
103 the state described in Subsection 35A-16-203(1)(c).

104 ~~[22]~~ (23) "Type of homelessness" means:

- 105 (a) chronic homelessness;
- 106 (b) episodic homelessness;
- 107 (c) situational homelessness; or
- 108 (d) family homelessness.

109 Section 2. Section **35A-16-204** is amended to read:

110 **35A-16-204 . Utah Homeless Services Board.**

111 (1) There is created within the office the Utah Homeless Services Board.

112 (2)(a) The board shall consist of the following members:

- 113 (i) a representative, appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;
- 114 (ii) a representative, appointed by the president of the Senate;
- 115 (iii) a private sector representative, appointed by the governor;
- 116 (iv) a representative, appointed by the governor;
- 117 (v) a statewide philanthropic leader, appointed by the Utah Impact Partnership or the
118 partnership's successor organization;
- 119 (vi) the mayor of Salt Lake City;
- 120 (vii) the chief executive officer appointed by the Shelter Cities Advisory Council in
121 accordance with Section 35A-16-210;
- 122 (viii) an individual with lived experience of homelessness, appointed by the chair of
123 the board;
- 124 (ix) a representative, appointed by the Utah Association of Counties or the
125 association's successor organization;
- 126 (x) an individual who represents the Utah Homeless Network; and
- 127 (xi) the coordinator.

128 (b) No later than 30 days after the day on which the location of a homeless services
129 campus, as that term is defined in Section 35A-16-102, is announced, an individual
130 shall serve on the board described in Subsection (2)(a) who:

- 131 (i) resides within five miles from the homeless services campus, appointed by a
132 community organization that advocates on behalf of residents of that area, and

which community organization shall be chosen by the office; or

(ii) if the homeless services campus is announced for the west side of Salt Lake City, represents the west side of Salt Lake City, appointed by the Westside Coalition.

[~~(b)~~] (c) The governor shall select a board member to serve as chair of the board.

The appointment described in Subsection (2)(b) shall be made no more than 30 days after the day on which the location of a homeless services campus is announced.

(4) The following four members of the board shall serve as the executive committee:

(a) the coordinator; and

(b) three board members chosen by the board chair, which shall include one of the members described in Subsection (2)(a)(vi) or (2)(a)(vii).

[(4)] (5)(a) The board shall meet at least once per calendar quarter.

(b) The chair, the coordinator, or three of the board members may call a board meeting.

(c) The individual calling the meeting shall provide notice of the meeting to the board members at least three calendar days in advance of the meeting.

[(5)] (6) A majority of the voting members of the board constitutes a quorum of the board at any meeting, and the action of the majority of voting members present constitutes the action of the board.

[6] (7)(a) A majority of members of the executive committee constitutes a quorum of the executive committee at any meeting, and the action of the majority of members present constitutes the action of the executive committee.

(b) The executive committee is exempt from the requirements described in Title 52, Chapter 4, Open and Public Meetings Act.

[(7)] (8)(a) Except as required by Subsection [(7)(e)] (8)(c):

(i) each appointed member of the board, other than a board member described in Subsection (2)(a)(vii), shall serve a four-year term; and

(ii) the board member appointed in accordance with Subsection (2)(a)(vii) shall serve a two-year term.

(b) A board member may serve more than one term.

(c) The appointing authority, at the time of appointment or reappointment, may adjust the length of terms to ensure that the terms of board members are staggered so that approximately half of the appointed board members are appointed every two years.

[8) (9) When a vacancy occurs in the appointed membership for any reason, the replacement is appointed for the unexpired term.

[9] (10)(a) Except as described in Subsection [9](b) (10)(b), a member may not

167 receive compensation or benefits for the member's service but may receive per diem
168 and travel expenses in accordance with:
169 (i) Section 63A-3-106;
170 (ii) Section 63A-3-107; and
171 (iii) rules made by the Division of Finance in accordance with Sections 63A-3-106
172 and 63A-3-107.

173 (b) Compensation and expenses of a board member who is a legislator are governed by
174 Section 36-2-2 and Legislative Joint Rules, Title 5, Legislative Compensation and
175 Expenses.

176 [~~(10)~~] (11) The office shall provide staff and administrative support to the board.

177 **Section 3. Effective Date.**

178 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.