SENATE BILL SB-11

Introduced by Senator Angelique Ashby (D-8)

An act relating to Family Housing Stability Partnership Act.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB-11, Angelique Ashby (D-8). Family Housing Stability Partnership Act.

Under existing law, California requires cities and counties to have a housing element that addresses the housing needs of people at different income levels. Local governments must also include programs to help develop affordable housing.

Existing law allows local governments to work with nonprofit and community based housing organizations to develop and manage affordable housing projects.

This bill would create the Family Housing Stability Partnership Program within the Department of Housing and Community Development. The program would fund affordable housing projects that partner with local organizations to connect families with housing, employment, transportation, and family support services.

The bill would appropriate five million dollars ($5,000,000) from the General Fund to the Department of Housing and Community Development to establish and operate the program.

Vote: 2/3rds. **Appropriations/fiscal:** yes. **Local program:** yes.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1.

The purpose of this act is to establish the Family Housing Stability Partnership Program within the California Department of Housing and Community Development. The program would provide grants to eligible affordable housing projects that partner with community organizations to connect families experiencing housing instability with existing housing assistance, employment services, transportation resources, and family support services. The program would prioritize families with minor children and survivors of domestic violence and evaluate its effectiveness over a two-year period.

SECTION 2.

(a) Establishment.

The California Department of Housing and Community Development shall establish the Family Housing Stability Partnership Program to provide grants to eligible affordable housing projects that partner with community based organizations.

(b) Eligible Projects.

To qualify for funding, a project must:

(1) Provide affordable housing or housing related assistance to low income residents or families experiencing housing instability.

(2) Partner with at least one nonprofit organization, local government agency, or community based service provider.

(3) Provide residents with referrals and assistance accessing existing housing, employment, transportation, or family support programs.

(4) Submit a plan explaining how the project will connect residents to services and measure its results.

(c) Required Service Partnerships.

Funded projects shall connect eligible residents with existing programs and services, including:

(1) **CalWORKS Housing Support Program (HSP).** Projects shall help eligible CalWORKS families experiencing or at risk of homelessness access housing assistance, housing navigation, and case management.

(2) **America's Job Center of California and CalJOBS**. Projects shall connect residents with employment services, job-search assistance, workforce training opportunities, and other available employment resources.

(3) **California Domestic Violence Assistance Program and participating domestic violence service providers.** Projects shall help survivors and their children access referrals for emergency shelters, counseling, and other available victim services.

(4) **Local public transit agencies and available reduced fare programs.** Projects shall help eligible residents identify transportation assistance and reduced face options that can support access to work, school, appointments, and essential services.

(5) **Local family support services.** Projects may connect residents with other existing services addressing family needs, including assistance for families with minor children.

Funded projects shall provide information and referrals based on each resident's needs and eligibility.

(d) Priority Populations.

The Department of Housing and Community Development shall prioritize projects that serve:

(1) Families with minor children who are experiencing housing instability.

(2) Survivors of domestic violence and their children who need safe and stable housing.

(3) Low income households at risk of homelessness.

(4) Residents facing barriers to employment, transportation, or access to essential family support services.

(e) Supplementing Existing Funding.

Funds provided under this act shall supplement, and shall not replace, existing funding for resident services or other housing and family support programs.

SECTION 3.

(a) Annual Reporting.

Each grant receipt shall submit an annual report to the Department of Housing and Community Development describing how grant funds were used and the services provided to residents. Reports shall include:

(1) The number of families and individuals served.

(2) The number of residents connected with housing assistance and other support services.

(3) Housing stability and housing retention outcomes.

(4) Employment service referrals and employment outcomes.

(5) Referrals to domestic violence services and other family support services, reported in a manner that protects survivors' safety and confidentiality.

(6) Challenges encountered and recommendations for improving the program.

(b) Report to the Legislature

The Department of Housing and Community Development shall submit an annual report to the Legislature summarizing grant distribution, program outcomes, and recommendation for improvement. The report shall evaluate whether the program is effectively connecting families with existing services and improving housing stability.

SECTION 4.

The sum of $5,000,000 from the General Fund shall be appropriated to the California Department of Housing and Community Development for the purposes of this act.

The Department of Housing and Community Development shall establish grant guidelines and procedures to ensure that funds are used for eligible purposes and that grant recipients comply with reporting requirements.

SECTION 5.

The Family Housing Stability Partnership Program shall operate a pilot program for two years following the establishment of the grant program.

At the conclusion of the pilot program period, the Department of Housing and Community Development shall evaluate the program's effectiveness using annual reports and other available information. The Legislature may use the evaluation to determine whether the program should be continued, modified, or expanded.

SECTION 6.

The Department of Housing and Community Development may adopt guidelines and procedures necessary to implement this act, including grant requirements, eligibility verification, funding distribution, and reporting standards.