

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY SIXTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-25-179 ENACTMENT NO. _____

SPONSORED BY: Renée Grout

1 RESOLUTION

2 ESTABLISHING A CONTINUING SOBRIETY HOUSING VOUCHER PILOT
3 PROGRAM FOR INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS; DIRECTING
4 THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, HOUSING, AND HOMELESSNESS TO
5 DEVELOP A PLAN TO IMPLEMENT A PILOT PROGRAM AND REPORT ON
6 OUTCOMES.

7 WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque is committed to addressing
8 homelessness through a range of evidence-based housing interventions that
9 recognize the diverse needs, preferences, and pathways of unhoused
10 individuals; and

11 WHEREAS, the City lacks a dedicated housing voucher option for
12 individuals who are transitioning from rehabs, treatment centers, or detoxes
13 into housing; and

14 WHEREAS, continuing sobriety housing vouchers can serve as a
15 complement to ongoing investments in harm reduction and low-barrier shelter
16 models by providing options for individuals in recovery; and

17 WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to pilot a targeted program that offers
18 housing vouchers to individuals committed to maintaining sobriety while
19 participating in structured recovery supports; and

20 WHEREAS, evaluating whether individuals receiving sobriety-conditioned
21 housing vouchers experience better or different housing stability outcomes
22 than those served through traditional housing-first models will provide
23 valuable data to inform future policy and program design; and

24 WHEREAS, a limited pilot will allow the City to evaluate effectiveness,
25 demand, and program design before considering expansion of the current
26 housing voucher programs.

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1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF
2 ALBUQUERQUE:

3 SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF A PILOT PROGRAM. The Department of
4 Health, Housing, and Homelessness (HHH) is directed to create a Continuing
5 Sobriety Voucher Program (Program) to initially serve twenty-five individuals
6 coming out of rehab, detox, or other substance abuse treatment, who meet the
7 following criteria:

8 a) Are at least 18 years old;

9 b) Are experiencing homelessness;

10 c) Have successfully completed some form of detox, rehab, or other
11 substance abuse treatment;

12 d) Agree to abstain from the use of alcohol and illicit substance use during
13 participation in the Program;

14 e) Agree to continue treatment in Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics
15 Anonymous, out-patient recovery, or other substance abuse treatment or peer
16 support program;

17 f) Consent to routine drug and alcohol screenings as a condition of
18 ongoing participation in the Program; and

19 g) Participate in case management and any other supportive services
20 required by the administrating agency or provider.

21 SECTION 2. PROGRAM PURPOSE. This Pilot Program is intended to
22 evaluate whether requiring sobriety as a condition of receiving a housing
23 voucher leads to improved outcomes—such as continued employment,
24 increased housing stability, greater engagement with services, and stronger
25 long-term success—when compared to existing low-barrier, housing-first
26 models. The Program is designed to provide a more direct pathway to housing
27 for individuals who voluntarily agree to maintain sobriety as a condition of
28 participation and to provide a needed transition support from treatment
29 centers to stable housing. The Program is intended to be temporary in nature
30 and provide up to one year of support for qualified individuals.

31 SECTION 3. HOUSING OPTIONS. The Program shall utilize housing
32 vouchers designated as *Continuing Sobriety Vouchers* (CSV).

1 a) The Program shall operate similarly to the City's other housing voucher
2 programs with the highest level of wrap around services, including access to
3 the Landlord Engagement Program, and the added condition that participants
4 maintain sobriety throughout their participation in the Program.

5 b) Participants shall have the ability to choose their own housing units
6 within the private rental market and receive assistance from Landlord Liaisons
7 in locating and securing housing.

8 c) Allowable expenses under the Program shall mirror those permitted
9 under existing voucher programs, ensuring consistency in rental assistance,
10 supportive services, and administrative processes.

11 d) The Program shall comply will the City's existing housing voucher
12 policies and procedures.

13 **SECTION 4. SUBMISSION OF PLAN.** HHH shall develop a CSV Program
14 plan to contract with a qualified provider to deliver screening, CSV
15 administration, case management, compliance monitoring, and other supports
16 necessary to implement the Program successfully. The CSV Program plan
17 shall include a request for an appropriation to conduct the pilot program for
18 one year. HHH shall submit the CSV Program plan via resolution to City
19 Council for approval and appropriation within sixty (60) days of the passage of
20 this Resolution.

21 **SECTION 5. EVALUATION AND REPORTING.** HHH shall, within ninety (90)
22 days of the conclusion of the one-year pilot, submit a report to City Council
23 via Executive Communication detailing:

24 a) Enrollment and retention statistics;

25 b) Participation outcomes related to housing stability, employment,
26 recidivism, service engagement, and landlord satisfaction;

27 c) Rates of compliance or termination;

28 d) A comparative analysis of outcomes relative to the existing housing-
29 first voucher programs; and

30 e) Recommendations regarding the continuation of the Program, scaling,
31 or integration into the broader homelessness response system.

32 **SECTION 6. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE.** If any section, paragraph, sentence,
33 clause, word, or phrase of this Resolution is for any reason held to be invalid

1 or unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall
2 not affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this Resolution. The
3 Council hereby declares that it would have passed this Resolution and each
4 section, paragraph, sentence, clause, word, or phrase thereof irrespective of
5 any provision being declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid.

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