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.**

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 or substance abuse treatment who meet

7 the 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

16   or peer 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

25 stronger long-term success—when compared to existing low-barrier,

26 housing-first models. The Program is designed to provide a more direct

27 pathway to housing for individuals who voluntarily agree to maintain

28 sobriety as a condition of participation and to provide a needed transition

29 support from treatment centers to stable housing. The Program is intended

30 to be temporary in nature and provide up to one year of support for

31 qualified individuals.

32   SECTION 3. HOUSING OPTIONS. The Program shall utilize housing

33 vouchers designated as *Continuing Sobriety Vouchers* (CSV).

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

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

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

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

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

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

a) Enrollment and retention statistics;

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

c) Rates of compliance or termination;

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

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

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

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