S T A T E  O F  N E W  Y O R K

2217

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N  S E N A T E

February 13, 2009

Introduced by Sen. DIAZ -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Aging

AN ACT to amend the elder law, in relation to expanding the coverage of the naturally occurring retirement community supportive service program

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 209 of the elder law, subdivision 5-a as added and the opening paragraph of subdivision 8 as amended by section 2 of part E of chapter 58 of the laws of 2005, subdivision 6 as added and subdivisions 7 and 8 as renumbered by chapter 82 of the laws of 2008, is amended to read as follows:

S 209. Naturally occurring retirement community supportive service program. 1. As used in this section:

(a) "Advisory committee" or "committee" shall mean the advisory committee convened by the director pursuant to subdivision [three] TWO of this section. Such committee shall be broadly representative of housing and senior citizen groups, and all geographic areas of the state.

(b) "Elderly" or "elderly persons" shall mean persons who are sixty years of age or older [and who are heads of households].

(c) "Eligible applicant" shall mean a not-for-profit agency specializing in housing, health or other human services which serves or would serve the community within which a naturally occurring retirement community is located.

(d) "Eligible services" shall mean services including, but not limited to: case management, care coordination, counseling, health assessment and monitoring, transportation, socialization activities, home care facilitation and monitoring, and other services designed to address the needs of residents of naturally occurring retirement communities by helping them extend their independence, improve their quality of life, and avoid unnecessary hospital and nursing home stays.

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

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(e) ["Government assistance" shall mean and be broadly interpreted to mean any monetary assistance provided by the federal, the state or a local government, or any agency thereof, or any authority or public benefit corporation, in any form, including loans or loan subsidies, for the construction of an apartment building or housing complex for low and moderate income persons, as such term is defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(f)] "Naturally occurring retirement community" shall mean an apartment building or housing complex OR OTHER HOUSING WITH A LARGE CONCENTRATION OF ELDERLY, which:

(1) [was constructed with government assistance;

(2)] was not [originally built] DEVELOPED for elderly persons;

[(3)] (2) does not restrict admissions solely to the elderly;

[(4) fifty percent of the units have an occupant who is elderly or in which twenty-five hundred]

(3) FORTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE OCCUPANTS OF WHICH ARE ELDERLY OR IN WHICH TWO HUNDRED FIFTY of the residents are elderly; and

[(5)] (4) a majority of the elderly to be served are low or moderate income, as defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

2. [A naturally occurring retirement community supportive service program is established as a demonstration program to be administered by the director.

3.] The director shall convene an advisory committee to aid in developing appropriate criteria for the selection of grantees of funds provided pursuant to this section. The functions otherwise required to be performed by the advisory committee shall be performed by the director until such committee is convened; provided, however, that the director shall under no circumstances perform such functions after the expiration of six months after the effective date of this section.

[4.] 3. The criteria recommended by the committee and adopted by the director for the award of grants shall be consistent with the provisions of this section and shall include, at a minimum:

(a) the number, size, type and location of the projects to be served; provided, that the committee and director shall make reasonable efforts to assure that geographic balance in the distribution of such projects is maintained, consistent with the needs to be addressed, funding available, applications for eligible applicants, other requirements of this section, ABILITY TO COORDINATE SERVICES AND PLANNING WITH THE AREA AGENCY ON AGING and other criteria developed by the committee and director;

(b) the appropriate number and concentration of elderly residents to be served by an individual project; provided, that such criteria need not specify, in the case of a project which includes several buildings, the number of elderly to be served in any individual building;

(c) the demographic characteristics of the residents to be served;

(d) the financial support required to be provided to the project by the owners, managers and residents of the housing development; provided, however, that such criteria need not address whether the funding is public or private, or the source of such support;

(e) the scope and intensity of the services to be provided, and their appropriateness for the residents proposed to be served. The criteria shall not require that the applicant agency be the sole provider of such services, but shall require that the applicant at a minimum actively manage the provision of such services;

(f) the experience and financial stability of the applicant agency, [provided that the criteria shall require that priority be given to

programs already in operation, including those projects participating in the resident advisor program administered by the office, and enriched housing programs] which meet the requirements of this section and which have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the director [and the committee] their fiscal and managerial stability and programmatic success in serving residents;

(g) the nature and extent of requirements proposed to be established for active, meaningful participation for residents proposed to be served in project design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and governance;

(h) an agreement by the applicant to participate in [the] data collection and evaluation project [necessary] SUFFICIENT to complete the [report required by this section] REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE DIRECTOR;

(i) the policy and program roles of the applicant agency and any other agencies involved in the provision of services or the management of the project, including the housing development governing body, or other owners or managers of the apartment buildings and housing complexes and the residents of such apartment buildings and housing complexes. The criteria shall require a clear delineation of such policy and program roles;

(j) a requirement that each eligible agency document the need for the project and financial commitments to it from such sources as the committee and the director shall deem appropriate given the character and nature of the proposed project, and written evidence of support from the appropriate housing development governing body or other owners or managers of the apartment buildings and housing complexes. The purpose of such documentation shall be to demonstrate the need for the project, support for it in the areas to be served, and the financial and managerial ability to sustain the project;

(k) a requirement that any aid provided pursuant to this section be matched by an equal amount from other sources and that at least twenty-five percent of such amount be contributed by the housing development governing body or other owners or managers and residents of the apartment buildings and housing complexes in which the project is proposed; and

(l) the circumstances under which the director may waive all or part of the requirement for provision of an equal amount of funding from other sources required pursuant to paragraph (k) of this subdivision, provided that such criteria shall include provision for waiver at the discretion of the director upon a finding by the director that the program will serve a low income or hardship community, and that such waiver is required to assure that such community receive a fair share of the funding available. The committee shall develop appropriate criteria for determining whether a community is a low income or hardship community.

[5.] 4. Within amounts specifically appropriated therefor and consistent with the criteria developed and required pursuant to this section the director shall approve grants to eligible applicants in amounts not to exceed one hundred fifty thousand dollars for a project in any twelve month period. [The director shall not approve more than ten grants in the first twelve month period after the effective date of this section.

5-a.] 5. The director may, in addition recognize neighborhood naturally occurring retirement communities, or Neighborhood NORCs, and provide program support within amounts specifically available by appro-

priation therefor, which shall be subject to the requirements, rules and regulations of this section, provided however that:

(a) the term Neighborhood NORC as used in this subdivision shall mean and refer to a residential dwelling or group of residential dwellings in a geographically defined neighborhood of a municipality containing not more than two thousand persons who are elderly reside in at least forty percent of the units and which is made up of low-rise buildings six stories or less in height and/or single and multi-family homes and which area was not originally developed for elderly persons, and which does not restrict admission strictly to the elderly;

(b) grants to an eligible Neighborhood NORC shall be no less than sixty thousand dollars for any twelve-month period;

(c) the director shall convene an advisory committee to help develop criteria for the selection of grants provided pursuant to this section. The functions otherwise required to be performed by the advisory committee shall be performed by the director until the committee is convened, or for six months after the effective date of this subdivision, whichever occurs earlier. The criteria recommended by the committee and adopted by the director for the award of grants shall be consistent with the provisions of this subdivision and shall include, at a minimum, the following requirements or items of information using such criteria as the advisory committee and the director shall approve:

(1) the number, size, type and location of residential dwellings or group of residential dwellings selected as candidates for [neighborhood] NEIGHBORHOOD NORCs funding. The director shall make reasonable efforts to assure that geographic balance in the distribution of such grants is maintained, consistent with the needs to be addressed, funding available, applications from eligible applicants, ability to coordinate services and other requirements of this section;

(2) the appropriate number and concentration of elderly residents to be served by an individual Neighborhood NORC. The criteria need not specify the number of elderly to be served in any individual building;

(3) the demographic characteristics of the residents to be served;

(4) a requirement that the applicant demonstrate the development or intent to develop community wide support from residents, neighborhood associations, community groups, nonprofit organizations and others;

(5) a requirement that the boundaries of the geographic area to be served are clear and coherent and create an identifiable program and supportive community;

(6) a requirement that the applicant commit to raising matching funds from non-state sources of fifteen percent of the state grant in the second year after the program is approved, twenty-five percent in the third year, forty percent in the fourth year, and fifty percent in the fifth year, and further commit that in each year, twenty-five percent of such required matching funds be raised within the community served. Such local community matching funds shall include but not be limited to: dues, fees for service, individual and community contributions, and such other funds as the advisory committee and the director shall deem appropriate;

(7) a requirement that the applicant demonstrate experience and financial stability;

(8) a requirement that priority in selection be given to programs in existence prior to the effective date of this subdivision which, except for designation and funding requirements established herein, would have otherwise generally qualified as a Neighborhood NORC;

(9) a requirement that the applicant conduct or have conducted a needs assessment on the basis of which such applicant shall establish the nature and extent of services to be provided; and further that such services shall provide a mix of appropriate services that provide active and meaningful participation for residents;

(10) a requirement that residents to be served shall be involved in design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and governance of the Neighborhood NORC;

(11) an agreement by the applicant that it will participate in the data collection and evaluation necessary to complete the reporting requirements as established by the director;

(12) the policy and program roles of the applicant agency and any other agencies involved in the provision of services or the management of the Neighborhood NORC, provided that the criteria shall require a clear delineation of such policy and program roles;

(13) a requirement that each applicant document the need for the grant and financial commitments to it from such sources as the advisory committee and the director shall deem appropriate given the character and nature of the proposed Neighborhood NORC and written evidence of support from the community;

(14) the circumstances under which the director may waive all or part of the requirement for provision of an equal amount of funding from other sources required pursuant to this subdivision, provided that such criteria shall include provision for waiver at the discretion of the director upon a finding by the director that the Neighborhood NORC will serve a low income or hardship community, and that such waiver is required to assure that such community receive a fair share of the funding available. For purposes of this paragraph, a hardship community may be one that has developed a successful model but which needs additional time to raise matching funds required herein. An applicant applying for a hardship exception shall submit a written plan in a form and manner determined by the director detailing its plans to meet the matching funds requirement in the succeeding year;

(15) a requirement that any proposed Neighborhood NORC in a geographically defined neighborhood of a municipality containing more than two thousand seniors shall require the review and recommendation by the advisory committee before being approved by the director;

(d) on or before March first, two thousand eight, the director shall report to the governor and the fiscal and aging committees of the senate and the assembly concerning the effectiveness of Neighborhood NORCs in achieving the objectives set forth by this subdivision. Such report shall address each of the items required for Neighborhood NORCs in achieving the objectives set forth in this section and such other items of information as the director shall deem appropriate, including recommendations concerning continuation or modification of the program, and any recommendations from the advisory committee.

(e) in providing program support for Neighborhood NORCs as authorized by this subdivision, the director shall in no event divert or transfer funding for grants or program support from any naturally occurring retirement community supportive service programs authorized pursuant to other provisions of this section.

6. The director may allow services provided by a naturally occurring retirement community supportive service program or by a neighborhood naturally occurring retirement community to also include services to residents who live in neighborhoods contiguous to the boundaries of the geographic area served by such programs if: (a) the persons served are

elderly persons; (b) the services affect the health and welfare of such persons; and (c) the services are provided on a one-time basis in the year in which they are provided, and not in a manner which is said or intended to be continuous. The director may also consent to the provision of such services by such program if the program has received a grant which requires services to be provided beyond the geographic boundaries of the program. The director shall establish procedures under which a program may request the ability to provide such services.

7. The director shall promulgate rules and regulations as necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

[8. On or before March first, two thousand five, the director shall report to the governor and the finance committee of the senate and the ways and means committee of the assembly concerning the effectiveness of the naturally occurring retirement community supportive services program, other than Neighborhood NORCs, as defined in subdivision five-a of this section, in achieving the objectives set forth by this section, which include helping to address the needs of residents in such naturally occurring retirement communities, assuring access to a continuum of necessary services, increasing private, philanthropic and other public funding for programs, and preventing unnecessary hospital and nursing home stays. The report shall also include recommendations concerning continuation or modification of the program from the director and the committee, and shall note any divergence between the recommendations of the director and the committee. The director shall provide the required information and any other information deemed appropriate to the report in such form and detail as will be helpful to the legislature and the governor in determining to extend, eliminate or modify the program including, but not limited to, the following:

(a) the number, size, type and location of the projects developed and funded, including the number, kinds and functions of staff in each program;

(b) the number, size, type and location of the projects proposed but not funded, and the reasons for denial of funding for such projects;

(c) the age, sex, religion and other appropriate demographic information concerning the residents served;

(d) the services provided to residents, reported in such manner as to allow comparison of services by demographic group and region;

(e) a listing of the services provided by eligible applicants, including the number, kind and intensity of such services; and

(f) a listing of other organizations providing services, the number, kind and intensity of such services, the number of referrals to such organizations and, to the extent practicable, the outcomes of such referrals.]

S 2. Such moneys as may be necessary to effect the purposes of this act shall be appropriated to the director of the office for the aging for expenses associated with such purposes, but in no event shall funds be diverted from any of the naturally occurring retirement community supportive service programs in existence prior to the effective date of this act.

S 3. This act shall take effect immediately.