STATE OF NEW YORK

8088

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

September 29, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. FORREST -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to services available to immigrants residing in certain family and adult shelter facilities

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Paragraphs (m) and (n) of subdivision 5 of section 94-b of the executive law, as added by chapter 206 of the laws of 2014, are amended and a new paragraph (o) is added to read as follows:

(m) Encourage and assist local governments in the development of activities to enhance civic engagement among immigrants and in immigrant communities; [~~and~~]

(n) Beginning in two thousand fifteen, by June fifteenth of each year, produce a report to the governor, the speaker of the assembly, and the temporary president of the senate describing the activities of the office, including but not limited to, summarizing calls received through the hotline and website, information on ESOL training services provided by the office, the number of immigrants assisted through the opportunity centers **and within shelters**, or an estimation thereof, **information on services provided within shelters,** the status of any workforce development programs, and any other relevant information[~~.~~]**; and**

(o) Subject to available appropriations, establish a program to deliver comprehensive case management services to immigrants residing in family and adult shelter facilities operated within the state by a local government or provider under contract or similar agreement with a state agency or a local government.

(i) Such program shall contract with established community-based not-for-profit corporations, charitable organizations, or wholly-owned subsidiaries of a not-for-profit corporation or of a charitable organization that has a documented history of assisting immigrant individuals and has at least three years experience providing services to such indi-

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

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viduals including, but not limited to, ESOL services, legal assistance related to obtaining asylum or other documented statuses, naturalization programs, workforce development programs, and referral to other appropriate social services and programs.

(ii) Services offered by such a program shall be with the explicit goal of transitioning immigrants out of shelter facilities into stable long-term living arrangements.

(iii) For the purposes of carrying out such a program, providers shall be given access to shelter facilities and individuals who are residing therein, as well as access to a permanent space within or adjacent to such facilities which shall serve as an office and resource center.

(iv) Operators of facilities shall collaborate with contracted organizations and prioritize provider's recommendations regarding how to better integrate case management and services into their current operations and shall cooperate with providers to the maximal extent possible.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.