STATE OF NEW YORK

6861

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 14, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. COOK, SEAWRIGHT, CRUZ, RAGA, BORES -- read once and referred to the Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

AN ACT to establish senior citizen substance use disorder demonstration programs

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

Section 1. Legislative intent. The latest New York State census identifies twelve and three-tenths percent of the state's residents as age sixty-five or older. The New York state office of addiction services and supports has identified substance use disorders among the elder population as a serious and growing problem. This can result from isolation, depression or the interaction of prescribed drugs.

It is, therefore, the intention of the legislature to eliminate barriers to effective substance use disorder services through this act, by establishing substance use disorder prevention, education and treatment demonstration programs for senior citizens in the office of addiction services and supports.

§ 2. The commissioner of the office of addiction services and supports in consultation with the director of the office for the aging shall develop comprehensive substance use disorder prevention, education and treatment demonstration programs to address the unique needs of the elderly.

§ 3. Subject to appropriation, funds for support of demonstration projects for the purposes stated in section two of this act shall be allocated to eligible local governments and not-for-profit providers through a request for proposal process to be designed by the office of addiction services and supports in consultation with the office for the aging.

§ 4. In reviewing applications for funding, the commissioner of addiction services and supports shall consider such factors as program cost-effectiveness; the ability of such proposals to offer programmat-

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

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ically appropriate, long-term, stable services; and the ability of such proposals to enable elderly persons to receive substance use disorder services; and geographic need. While incidence and prevalence shall be significant factors in the distribution of funds, demonstration projects approved pursuant to this act shall be established in regions across the state.

§ 5. No expenditure shall be made until the commissioner of addiction services and supports has approved a program and fiscal plan for substance use disorder prevention, education and treatment demonstration projects. Such plan shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

i. Specific criteria to be applied in evaluating the requests for proposal;

ii. Uniform program and cost standards;

iii. Criteria to be used to evaluate the outcome of the demonstration projects, including specific requirements to be met by providers of service.

§ 6. This act shall take effect on the first of April next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.