STATE OF NEW YORK

861

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

(Prefiled)

January 8, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. FORREST, SHIMSKY -- 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 (n),(o) and (p) of subdivision 5 of section 94-b of the executive law, paragraph (n) as amended and paragraphs (o) and (p) as added by chapter 625 of the laws of 2024, are amended and a new paragraph (q) is added to read as follows:

(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;

(o) Encourage the development of and provide for the establishment of a state military immigrant family legacy program liaison, as provided in section twenty-nine-b of the veterans' services law **as added by chapter 625 of the laws of 2024**; [~~and~~]

(p) Request individuals seeking assistance from the office answer the following questions: "Have you served in the United States military?" "Has someone in your family served in the United States military?" Individuals identifying themselves or a family member as "intended recipients" of the staff sergeant Alex R. Jimenez New York state military immigrant family legacy program as such term is defined in paragraph (e) of subdivision one of section twenty-nine-b of the veterans'

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

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services law **as added by chapter 625 of the laws of 2024**, shall be advised of such program. In addition, such individuals shall be informed that the department of veterans' services and local veterans' service agencies established pursuant to section seventeen of the veterans' services law provide assistance to uniformed service members, veterans and their families regarding benefits available under federal and state law. Information regarding veterans and military status provided by assisted individuals shall be protected as personal confidential material, and used only to identify such individuals as "intended recipients" of the staff sergeant Alex R. Jimenez New York State military immigrant family legacy program, and to assist such individuals in matters relating to immigration status and citizenship, and in referring such individuals to the department of veterans' services or local veterans' service agencies for information and assistance with regard to benefits and entitlements under federal and state law[.]**; and**

(q) 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 individuals 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; provided, however, that if chapter 625 of the laws of 2024 shall not have taken effect on or before such date then section one of this act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as such chapter of the laws of 2024 takes effect.