

D R A F T

SUMMARY

Digest: Makes the office charged with helping persons who are new to the U.S. and Oregon provide them with support services. Creates a council to advise the office on the support services. Makes the office conduct an annual audit of groups providing the support services. The Act goes into effect when the Governor signs it. (Flesch Readability Score: 69.3).

Requires the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement to contract with entities to provide eligible newcomers with case management and short-term and long-term support services. Defines “eligible newcomers.”

Creates an advisory council to serve as a forum for sharing information and to advise the office on the provision of the support services. Directs the office to conduct an annual performance audit of each entity contracted by the office to provide the support services.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

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Relating to support services; and declaring an emergency.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section, “eligible newcomer” means:

(a) An individual who:

(A) Is not a United States citizen;

(B) Is not receiving services under an eligible immigration status designated by the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement;

(C) Has been in the United States for 24 months or less; and

(D) Has been residing in Oregon for 18 months or less.

(b) A minor child, who is residing in Oregon, of an individual described in paragraph (a) of this subsection.

(2) The Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement shall award

1 **contracts to and coordinate with entities to provide eligible newcomers**
2 **with the following support services:**

3 **(a) Streamlined intake, initial reception and case management ser-**
4 **vices.**

5 **(b) Short-term wraparound support services, including shelter, food,**
6 **clothing, health care and transportation.**

7 **(c) Long-term support services related to housing, education, em-**
8 **ployment, leadership development and technology.**

9 **(3) The support services provided under this section must be pro-**
10 **vided in a manner that is equitable and culturally and linguistically**
11 **appropriate.**

12 **(4) An eligible newcomer may receive:**

13 **(a) Case management services for a period of up to 15 months from**
14 **when the eligible newcomer first receives case management services.**

15 **(b) Housing or rental assistance for a period of up to 12 months**
16 **from when the eligible newcomer first receives housing or rental as-**
17 **sistance.**

18 **(5) An entity that is awarded a contract to provide support services**
19 **under this section shall:**

20 **(a) Assist eligible newcomers in accessing, to the greatest extent**
21 **possible, existing federal, state and local support services and pro-**
22 **grams to receive the support services;**

23 **(b) Provide eligible newcomers with those support services that el-**
24 **igible newcomers are unable to access through existing federal, state**
25 **or local support services and programs; and**

26 **(c) Coordinate and work collaboratively with all entities that are**
27 **awarded a contract under this section.**

28 **(6)(a) The office shall award contracts under this section by using**
29 **a competitive request for proposal process.**

30 **(b) Funding awarded under a contract shall be used to provide**
31 **support services to eligible newcomers and the contract shall specify**

1 the percentage or amount of funding that may be used to cover an
2 entity's administrative costs in providing the support services.

3 (c) Funding under a contract to provide support services shall be
4 on a per person basis based on the number of persons for whom the
5 entity provides support services, except when funding under a contract
6 for housing or rental assistance, a family consisting of two persons
7 shall be funded as one person.

8 (7) An entity that has a contract under this section shall:

9 (a) Conduct an annual survey of the eligible newcomers served by
10 the entity for the purpose of improving the delivery of support ser-
11 vices, outcomes and practices;

12 (b) Provide a summary of the annual survey to the office and the
13 advisory council created under section 3 of this 2024 Act; and

14 (c) Make public the summary of the annual survey.

15 (8) In carrying the provisions of this section, the office shall consult
16 with the Department of Human Services and the department shall
17 support the office.

18 **SECTION 2.** The Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement
19 shall require an annual performance audit of each entity that has a
20 contract with the office under section 1 of this 2024 Act to evaluate
21 contract compliance and financial effectiveness and shall provide a
22 copy of each audit to the advisory council created under section 3 of
23 this 2024 Act.

24 **SECTION 3.** (1) There is created an advisory council that shall
25 consist of at least seven, but not more than 11, members. Members
26 shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the director of the
27 Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement. The advisory council
28 shall be composed of representatives from:

29 (a) Entities contracted under section 1 of this 2024 Act;

30 (b) Community-based organizations that serve immigrant or refugee
31 communities;

1 (c) Immigrant and refugee communities;

2 (d) City and county governments; and

3 (e) The Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement.

4 (2) The advisory council shall:

5 (a) Serve as a forum for sharing information and recommendations
6 on providing support services;

7 (b) Serve as a channel of communication between eligible newcom-
8 ers being served under section 1 of this 2024 Act and the office;

9 (c) Review the summaries of annual surveys and audits provided to
10 the advisory council under sections 1 and 2 of this 2024 Act; and

11 (d) Advise and make policy recommendations to the office regarding
12 the delivery of support services, outcomes, financial effectiveness and
13 use of best practices.

14 (3) The advisory council shall meet at times and places specified by
15 the call of the chairperson or of a majority of members of the advisory
16 council and shall meet at least once every six months.

17 (4) A majority of members of the advisory council constitutes a
18 quorum for the transaction of business.

19 (5) Members of the advisory council may elect a person from among
20 the membership to chair the advisory council.

21 (6) Members of the advisory council may not receive compensation
22 for their services. Members of the advisory council other than mem-
23 bers employed in full-time public service shall be reimbursed by the
24 office for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the per-
25 formance of their duties. The reimbursements shall be subject to the
26 provisions of ORS 292.210 to 292.288. Members of the advisory council
27 who are employed in full-time public service may be reimbursed by
28 their employing agencies for their actual and necessary expenses in-
29 curred in the performance of their duties.

30 **SECTION 4.** This 2024 Act being necessary for the immediate pres-
31 ervation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is de-

1 **clared to exist, and this 2024 Act takes effect on its passage.**

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