SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure as introduced. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: Makes the office charged with helping persons who are new to the U.S. and Oregon award contracts to entities to provide the persons 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. (Flesch Readability Score: 61.3).

Requires the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement to contract with entities to provide eligible newcomers with case management, 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

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 support 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, in consultation with the Department of Human Services, coordinate with community-based organizations and award contracts to entities to equitably provide eligible newcomers with the following support services:

(a) Streamlined intake, initial reception and case management services.

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

(c) Long-term support services related to housing, education, employment, leadership development and technology.

(3) The support services provided under this section must be provided in a manner that is equitable and culturally and linguistically appropriate.

(4) An eligible newcomer who receives support services under this section may receive:
(a) Case management services for a period of up to 15 months from when the eligible newcomer first receives case management services.

(b) Housing or rental assistance for a period of up to 12 months from when the eligible newcomer first receives housing or rental assistance.

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

(a) Assist eligible newcomers in accessing, to the greatest extent possible, existing federal, state and local support services and programs to receive the support services provided under this section;

(b) Provide eligible newcomers with those support services that eligible newcomers are unable to access through existing federal, state or local support services and programs; and

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

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

(b) Funding awarded under a contract shall be used to provide support services under the contract to eligible newcomers and the contract shall specify the percentage or amount of funding that may be used to cover an entity’s administrative costs in providing the support services.

(c) Funding under a contract shall be on a per person basis based on the number of persons for whom the contracted entity provides support services, except for funding for housing or rental assistance, a family consisting of two persons shall count as one person.

(7) An entity that has an active contract under this section shall:

(a) For the purpose of improving the delivery of support services, outcomes and practices, conduct an annual survey of the eligible newcomers served by the entity;

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

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

(8) In carrying the provisions of this section, the office shall consult with the Department of Human Services.

SECTION 2. The Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement shall require an annual performance audit of each entity that has an active contract with the office under section 1 of this 2024 Act to evaluate compliance with the contract and the financial effectiveness with which the contracted entity provides support services under the contract. The office shall provide a copy of each audit to the advisory council created under section 3 of this 2024 Act.

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

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

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

(c) Immigrant and refugee communities;

(d) City and county governments; and

(e) The Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement.

(2) The advisory council shall:
(a) Serve as a forum for sharing information and recommendations on providing support services;
(b) Serve as a channel of communication between eligible newcomers being served under section 1 of this 2024 Act and the office;
(c) Review the summaries of annual surveys and audits provided to the advisory council under sections 1 and 2 of this 2024 Act; and
(d) Advise and make policy recommendations to the office regarding the delivery of support services, outcomes, financial effectiveness and use of best practices.

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

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

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

(6) Members of the advisory council may not receive compensation for their services. Members of the advisory council other than members employed in full-time public service shall be reimbursed by the office for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. The reimbursements shall be subject to the provisions of ORS 292.210 to 292.288. Members of the advisory council who are employed in full-time public service may be reimbursed by their employing agencies for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

SECTION 4. This 2024 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2024 Act takes effect on its passage.