

Subject Sexually exploited youth and youth at risk of sexual exploitation appropriation

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Summary

This bill appropriates \$11,125,000 in each fiscal year of the 2026-2027 biennium from the general fund to the commissioner of human services for the safe harbor shelter and housing grant program and specifies that at least \$9,000,000 of the appropriation in each year must be for sustaining and expanding street outreach, emergency shelter, regional navigators, and housing for sexually exploited youth or youth at risk of sexual exploitation.

The safe harbor shelter and housing grant program was established to provide grants to providers who are committed to serving sexually exploited youth and youth at risk of sexual exploitation. Grants must be used to provide street and community outreach programs, emergency shelter programs, or supportive housing programs to address the specialized outreach, shelter, and housing needs of sexually exploited youth and youth at risk of sexual exploitation.

Youth 24 years of age or younger are eligible for all shelter, housing beds, and services provided under this program and all services, support, and programs provided by the Department of Health to sexually exploited youth and youth at risk of sexual exploitation under the safe harbor for sexually exploited youth program.