



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5458**

February Session, 2024



**AN ACT CONCERNING HOMELESSNESS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) As used in this section,  
2 "Connecticut Housing Engagement and Support Services" or "CHESS"  
3 means a home and community-based services program established  
4 pursuant to a Medicaid state plan amendment under Section 1915(i) of  
5 the Social Security Act and a Medicaid waiver pursuant to Section  
6 1915(b)(4) of the Social Security Act to improve housing stability and  
7 health outcomes for persons in accordance with federally approved  
8 criteria.

9 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services, in consultation with the  
10 Commissioners of Housing and Mental Health and Addiction Services,  
11 shall develop a strategic plan to improve outcomes for participants in  
12 the CHESS program and to reduce housing instability state-wide. The  
13 plan shall include, but need not be limited to: (1) Any amendments to  
14 the state plan or waiver programs established pursuant to Sections  
15 1915(i) and 1915(b)(4) of the Social Security Act necessary to achieve the  
16 goals of the strategic plan, (2) streamlining multiagency administrative  
17 procedures to ensure timely benefits to persons who have experienced  
18 or are at risk of homelessness, and (3) exploring and applying for federal  
19 approval for additional Medicaid waiver programs or Medicaid state

20 plan amendments to target social determinants of health with support,  
21 including, but not limited to, housing, nutritional and health  
22 management supports. For purposes of this section, "social  
23 determinants of health" means the conditions in which people are born,  
24 grow, work and age.

25 (c) Not later than January 1, 2025, the Commissioner of Social  
26 Services, in consultation with the Commissioners of Housing and  
27 Mental Health and Addiction Services, shall file a report, in accordance  
28 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, with the joint  
29 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
30 matters relating to aging, children, human services and public health.  
31 The report shall include, but need not be limited to: (1) Metrics related  
32 to health, housing and economic stability of participants in the CHEAD  
33 program, (2) plans and progress regarding streamlining multiagency  
34 administrative procedures in such program, (3) identification of  
35 additional Medicaid waiver programs or state plan amendments to  
36 address social determinants of health, and (4) a timeline for applications  
37 for such Medicaid waiver programs or state plan amendments.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 1(b)(3), "federal approval for" was inserted after "applying for" for clarity.

**HS**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*