



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

HB5838

Introduced 11/16/2022, by Rep. Denyse Wang Stoneback

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 1305/1-76 new
30 ILCS 105/5.990 new

Amends the Department of Human Services Act. Provides that the amendatory Act may be referred to as the Transitional Shelter Village Pilot Program Act. Provides that, subject to appropriation, the Department of Human Services shall establish and administer a transitional shelter village pilot program to provide transitional shelter and housing to individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Requires the Department to use funds appropriated for the pilot program to purchase materials to install a transitional shelter village in an area of the State with a high concentration of persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Requires the transitional shelter village to consist of no less than 55 climate-controlled prefabricated shelter units that are purchased from a public benefit corporation with a demonstrable commitment to end unsheltered homelessness. Requires each prefabricated shelter unit to be equipped with certain features. Provides that funds appropriated for the pilot program shall be used to cover the cost of purchasing, assembling, and installing the prefabricated shelter units. Requires the Department to also fund and provide continuous wraparound services aimed at helping residents of the shelter village transition out of homelessness. Requires appropriations made for the pilot program to be deposited into the Transitional Shelter Village Pilot Program Fund. Amends the State Finance Act to create the Transitional Shelter Village Pilot Program Fund. Effective immediately.

LRB102 29391 KTG 41383 b

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. This Act may be referred to as the Transitional
5 Shelter Village Pilot Program Act.

6 Section 5. The Department of Human Services Act is amended
7 by adding Section 1-76 as follows:

8 (20 ILCS 1305/1-76 new)

9 Sec. 1-76. Transitional Shelter Village Pilot Program.

10 (a) The General Assembly finds the following:

11 (1) Homelessness is a matter of life and death. The
12 scope of the homelessness crisis and the immediate need
13 for housing in Illinois is staggering.

14 (2) In 2020, at least 10,431 Illinoisans experienced
15 homelessness. When the number of people experiencing
16 doubled-up homelessness is combined with those who
17 requested services from the U.S. Department of Housing and
18 Urban Development over the course of 2020, the count is
19 over 65,000 people experiencing homelessness in Chicago
20 alone.

21 (3) According to Illinois State Board of Education
22 data, 47,455 school children were identified as

1 experiencing homelessness in the 2019-2020 school year.

2 (4) Chronic homelessness has increased both in number
3 and percentage. The percentage of the homeless population
4 made up of chronically homeless rose from 9% in 2016 to 22%
5 in 2020.

6 (5) People experiencing homelessness include those
7 with substance use disorders, HIV/AIDS, serious mental
8 illness, veterans, and survivors of domestic violence.

9 (6) Black people are 8 times more likely to experience
10 homelessness than white people. Black Illinoisans make up
11 14% of the population of the State, but they make up 61% of
12 residents experiencing homelessness.

13 (7) Regions of the State with high concentrations of
14 disabled populations are considered at greater risk for
15 homelessness.

16 (8) People experiencing unsheltered homelessness may
17 become frequent utilizers of hospital emergency rooms.
18 Encampments, tents, cars, abandoned buildings, and park
19 benches, are unsafe, unhealthy, and undignified, and
20 unsheltered homelessness is especially dangerous during
21 cold weather, heat waves, and extreme weather conditions.

22 (9) Crisis housing, the foundational safety net for
23 persons in immediate need of shelter, includes overnight
24 emergency and domestic violence shelters, transitional
25 housing, recuperative care/medical respite, and recovery
26 homes.

1 (10) During COVID-19, shelter capacity diminished
2 significantly, and many areas across Illinois lack any
3 fixed-site emergency shelters for people who are
4 experiencing homelessness. Prior to the pandemic, a
5 significant proportion of emergency shelter bed capacity
6 included rotating, congregate shelter. Non-congregate
7 shelter became necessary to protect highly vulnerable
8 people experiencing homelessness during the pandemic. The
9 rotating shelter model, which has never been adequate for
10 many reasons, no longer exists and building it back
11 requires significant investment.

12 (11) Emergency housing provided through converted
13 hotels, dorms, and schools and the construction of new
14 non-congregate emergency housing is not expected to
15 eliminate the need for other types of crisis housing.

16 (12) Crisis housing is a critical part of and the
17 gateway to the continuum of housing, including affordable
18 and permanent supportive housing. Illinois lacks
19 sufficient crisis housing to meet its needs, allowing many
20 people experiencing unsheltered homelessness to languish
21 for months and even years until other housing options
22 become available. There is an urgent need for effective,
23 safe, and dignified non-congregate crisis housing.

24 (13) A model of rapid-response transitional shelter
25 villages with case management has emerged. This model of
26 transitional housing can serve as a bridge from

1 unsheltered homelessness to long-term housing. The faster
2 people are moved off the street, the sooner their path to
3 stability can begin.

4 (14) Residents of these transitional shelter villages
5 are connected to housing with wraparound social services
6 such as mental health care from a local service provider
7 and on-site amenities such as showers and laundry. With a
8 safe place to sleep, a supportive environment, access to
9 meals, hygiene facilities, and a case manager, residents
10 can focus on finding permanent housing and employment
11 opportunities.

12 (15) Transitional shelter villages combine the safety
13 of private units with the benefits of a communal
14 environment to offer residents security and pathway to
15 stability. Residents can lock their belongings in their
16 unit, access on-site social services, and be a part of a
17 community.

18 (16) At least 9 other states across the country have
19 successfully launched dozens of rapid-response
20 transitional shelter villages and have achieved successful
21 outcomes. Transitional shelter villages have been launched
22 in cold weather climates including Madison, Wisconsin and
23 Boston, Massachusetts.

24 (17) This model is more cost-effective than any
25 institutional setting per person or unit, and can be built
26 at a fraction of the cost of traditional homeless

1 shelters, which can take years to build. Prefabricated
2 shelters can be quickly installed and are proven to help
3 people transition into permanent housing.

4 (18) It is therefore incumbent upon the State to
5 explore this model to help meet crisis housing and
6 emergency shelter needs by launching a pilot program to
7 establish a transitional shelter village. This temporary
8 transitional shelter housing opportunity will support the
9 crisis housing and health needs of people currently
10 experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

11 (b) Subject to appropriation, the Department shall
12 establish and administer a transitional shelter village pilot
13 program to provide transitional shelter and housing to
14 Illinois residents experiencing unsheltered homelessness. The
15 Department shall use funds appropriated to the pilot program
16 to purchase materials to install a transitional shelter
17 village in an area of the State with a high concentration of
18 persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness. The
19 transitional shelter village must consist of no less than 55
20 climate-controlled prefabricated shelter units that are
21 purchased from a public benefit corporation with a
22 demonstrable commitment to end unsheltered homelessness. Each
23 prefabricated shelter unit must be equipped with a
24 wall-mounted heater, an air conditioner, electrical outlets, 2
25 foldable bunk beds, and a lockable door. The transitional
26 shelter village must also include community bathroom units, a

1 community laundry unit, and a communal unit for recreation and
2 to access meals. Funds appropriated to the Department for the
3 pilot program shall be used to cover the cost of purchasing,
4 assembling, and installing the prefabricated shelter units.
5 The Department shall also fund and provide continuous
6 wraparound services under the pilot program that are aimed at
7 helping residents of the shelter village transition out of
8 homelessness. The Department shall provide these wraparound
9 services in coordination with one or more social service
10 providers or providers of case management services.

11 Any money appropriated to the transitional shelter village
12 pilot program shall be deposited into the Transitional Shelter
13 Village Pilot Program Fund, a special fund created in the
14 State treasury. Money in the Fund shall be used by the
15 Department for the Transitional Shelter Village Pilot Program
16 and for no other purpose. All interest earned on money in the
17 Fund shall be deposited into the Fund.

18 Section 10. The State Finance Act is amended by adding
19 Section 5.990 as follows:

20 (30 ILCS 105/5.990 new)

21 Sec. 5.990. The Transitional Shelter Village Pilot Program
22 Fund.

23 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
24 becoming law.