


Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Glen Lee
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Glen Lee
Chief Financial Officer 

DATE: October 7, 2024

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Local Rent Supplement Program Eligibility
Amendment Act of 2024

REFERENCE: Bill 25-49, Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue
Analysis on October 6, 2024

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2025 through fiscal year 2028 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

Background

The Local Rent Supplement Program (“LRSP”)¹ provides District-funded rental subsidies for families with incomes below 30 percent of the area median income and is administered by the District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA). LRSP is similar to the federally funded Housing Choice Voucher program (“HCV”), which is also administered by DCHA, and mostly mirrors the policies of the federal program, including in areas of eligibility for the subsidy. Both programs limit eligibility from asylum seekers, undocumented residents, people with certain criminal histories, people with certain immigration status, and people without certain documentation. The bill changes eligibility rules for LRSP applications only to include these populations in certain circumstances. The federal program requirements remain unchanged.

Specifically, the bill prohibits DCHA from inquiring from applicants about citizenship, immigration status, or criminal history with regard to eligibility or continued participation in LRSP. The bill permits DCHA to conduct criminal background checks in certain circumstances, including for receipt of supportive services. However, DCHA may not terminate participation in LSRP based solely on a

¹¹ D.C. Official Code § 6-226.

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: Bill 25-49, "Local Rent Supplement Program Eligibility Amendment Act of 2024," Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on October 6, 2024

criminal arrest. If a person's participation is terminated, DCHA must seek the person's consent to disclose the termination information to the Department of Human Services and the Department of Behavioral health for to additional support. The bill also permits applicants to self-certify required factors for eligibility, admission, or continued occupancy when documentation is not easily obtained. If a person self-certifies, DCHA must provide contact information to a service provider to assist with securing identity documentation. DCHA may request documentation in a subsequent re-certification, if notice is provided that documentation will be needed.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2025 through fiscal year 2028 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

The Local Rent Supplement Program funding is not an entitlement, and support is subject to the availability of funding.² So, while changing the eligibility requirements may allow for individuals to be eligible who may not be otherwise, participant support cannot exceed the budget.

² D.C. Official Code 6-226(a).