



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

