

CHAPTER 251

EMERGENCY RELIEF ADMINISTRATION

Referred to in [§235.7](#)Child and family services, see [chapter 234](#)

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251.1 Definitions.As used in [this chapter](#):

1. “*Department*” means the department of health and human services.
2. “*Director*” means the director of health and human services.

[C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §251.1]

[83 Acts, ch 96, §157, 159; 2018 Acts, ch 1041, §65; 2023 Acts, ch 19, §828](#)**251.2 Administration of emergency relief.**

The department, in addition to all other powers and duties given the department by law, is charged with the supervision and administration of all funds received by the state for emergency relief.

[C39, §[3828.067](#); C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, §251.1; C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §251.2][2023 Acts, ch 19, §829](#)**251.3 Powers and duties.**

The director shall have the power to do all of the following:

1. Appoint personnel as necessary for the efficient discharge of the duties imposed on the director and make rules and regulations necessary or advisable relating to the director’s activities and those of the advisory boards created under [section 217.43](#), concerning emergency relief.

2. Join and cooperate with the government of the United States, or any of its appropriate agencies or instrumentalities, in any emergency relief activity.

3. Make reports of budget estimates to the governor and the general assembly as required by law or as necessary to obtain appropriations of funds for emergency relief and for all the purposes of [this chapter](#).

4. Determine the need for funds in the various counties of the state basing such determination upon the amount of money needed in the various counties to provide adequate emergency relief, and upon the counties’ financial inability to provide such relief from county funds. The director may administer state funds within the various counties of the state to supplement local funds as needed.

5. Make reports, obtain and furnish information as required by the governor, the general assembly, or any other appropriate state or federal office or agency, and make an annual report of the department’s emergency relief activities.

[C39, §[3828.068](#); C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, §251.2; C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §251.3][93 Acts, ch 54, §6; 2001 Acts, 2nd Ex, ch 4, §4, 9; 2023 Acts, ch 19, §830](#)**251.4 Grants from state funds to counties.**

The department may require as a condition of making state assistance available to counties for emergency relief purposes, that the county boards of supervisors establish budgets in respect to the relief situation in the counties.

[C39, §[3828.069](#); C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, §251.3; C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, S81, §251.4; [81 Acts, ch 117, §1035](#)][83 Acts, ch 123, §101, 209; 2023 Acts, ch 19, §831](#)

251.5 Duties of the advisory board.

The advisory board created in [section 217.43](#) shall perform the following activities in the counties represented on the board concerning emergency relief:

1. Cooperate with a county's board of supervisors in all matters pertaining to administration of relief.
2. At the request of a county's board of supervisors, prepare requests for grants of state funds.
3. At the request of a county's board of supervisors, administer county relief funds.
4. In a county receiving grants of state funds upon approval of the director of the department of administrative services and the county's board of supervisors, administer both state and county relief funds.
5. Perform other duties as may be prescribed by the department and a county's board of supervisors.

[C39, §[3828.070](#); C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, §251.4; C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, S81, §251.5; [81 Acts, ch 117, §1036](#)]

[93 Acts, ch 54, §7](#); [2001 Acts, 2nd Ex, ch 4, §5, 9](#); [2003 Acts, ch 145, §286](#); [2023 Acts, ch 19, §832](#)

Referred to in [§331.381](#)

251.6 County supervisors to determine emergency relief and work projects.

The county board of supervisors shall supervise administration of emergency relief, and shall determine the minimum amount of relief required for each person or family, which persons are employable, and whether and under what conditions persons receiving emergency relief may be employed by the county.

[C39, §[3828.071](#); C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, §251.5; C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, S81, §251.6; [81 Acts, ch 117, §1037](#)]

[2023 Acts, ch 19, §833](#)

Referred to in [§331.381](#)

251.7 County appointees to act as executive officers.

The county board of supervisors may appoint a person to serve as the executive officer of the advisory board in all matters pertaining to relief for that county.

[C39, §[3828.072](#); C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, §251.6; C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, S81, §251.7; [81 Acts, ch 117, §1038](#)]

[93 Acts, ch 54, §8](#); [2001 Acts, 2nd Ex, ch 4, §6, 9](#); [2023 Acts, ch 19, §834](#)