

distributing those funds. In distributing those funds that I mentioned, there is several criteria which the department looks out, among those the number of nights, resident nights that are provided, how many people are actually using the facility, the number of meals provided, other services that are provided, and geographic distribution. With the intent being that, for example, if we take northeast Nebraska, if there are no shelters that are operating, or that are being adequately funded, the department is going to look at trying to get some of those funds up to northeast Nebraska, or if the Panhandle does not have adequate shelters or adequate funding for shelters, it would look to the Panhandle and try to get funding that direction. They can't center the funds all in one area. So, yes, if there is an area that is being underserved right now, we would anticipate that additional shelters would...they'd qualify.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Yeah, I think your northeast Nebraska, would be Region IV, it looks like there are two shelters used a lot. One is 329 nights and 207. There may be a possibility of other centers opening, or shelters opening up in that area?

SENATOR LINDSAY: Yeah, especially from what we have seen with the increase in rural homelessness, it is an inevitability. The question is whether they will be adequately funded.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Would they go to smaller places, as has been Wayne and that region, like Stanton or so forth, or certainly...?

SENATOR LINDSAY: That would be up to the DED to decide that. Up to DED and people of the community. If Stanton, for example, decided that they needed a shelter, they would form the corporation. They would establish a shelter and would apply to DED for the grant.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Senator Baack. I figured I had better touch on...Senator Hall touched on it a little bit, and I should make it clear that the funding source for this is already here. It has been written into the bill. Rather than trying to go on a budget which is extremely tight this year, it has been done through the use of the documentary stamp tax. That