

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

(Revised 3/18/2024)

[Administrative Code - Homeward Bound Program for Individuals Experiencing or Formerly Experienced Homelessness]

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to establish a permanent Homeward Bound Program administered by the Human Services Agency and the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing for individuals experiencing homelessness, at risk of experiencing homelessness, or who have formerly experienced homelessness, such as individuals residing in permanent supportive housing, to receive paid travel and relocation support to a destination where the individual has someone to receive them.

Existing Law

The City's Homeward Bound program is not currently codified in the Municipal Code.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed ordinance would codify the Homeward Bound Program and task the Human Service Agency ("HSA") as the primary agency responsible for overseeing coordination of, and reporting for, the program. The Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing ("HSH") would also have authority to administer the program within its jurisdiction. The proposed ordinance would establish eligibility requirements (such as individuals experiencing homelessness, individuals at risk of homelessness, individuals who recently experienced homelessness, and recipients of County Adult Assistance Programs) as well as ineligibility requirements (such as individuals on parole or probation, individuals who are unable to travel alone because they pose a direct risk to themselves or others, individuals who are not sober or are unable to remain sober, individuals who have used the program within the previous two years, or a minor traveling with an adult unless the adult is the parent or guardian of the minor). The proposed ordinance would require HSA or HSH to make direct contact with the person who is receiving the program recipient. Finally, the proposed ordinance would require HSA and HSH to report to their respective commissions regarding program utilization.

Background Information

Since 2005, the City has maintained a program that pays for travel expenses for individuals experiencing homelessness in San Francisco to be reunited with friends and family. Approximately 11,000 individuals have traveled to other destinations where they have friends and family to care and support them. HSH has also offered paid travel and relocation support for individuals interacting with the department's community-based programs.

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