

1 [Ordinance enhancing emergency general assistance for temporarily unemployed hospitality
2 and tourist industry workers.]

3 **Ordinance amending sections 20.56.10, 20.57, 20.58.2, & 20.59 of the San Francisco**
4 **Administrative Code to do the following: enhance emergency general assistance (GA)**
5 **benefits for hospitality and tourist industry workers temporarily unemployed from their**
6 **position of employment during October 1, 2004-June 1, 2005 and to create a baseline**
7 **aid amount of \$400 per month for this group, among other things; allow specified**
8 **group to retain \$2,000 in a savings account and to possess a vehicle with cash value of**
9 **\$10,000 or less without affecting GA eligibility requirements; allow dependent children**
10 **of covered group to be otherwise eligible for GA; allow the Executive Director of the**
11 **Department of Human Services to exempt employment and other requirements for this**
12 **group and to pass regulations implementing this ordinance, consistent with this**
13 **Article.**

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17 Note: Additions are single-underline italics Times New Roman;
18 deletions are ~~strikethrough italics Times New Roman~~.
19 Board amendment additions are double underlined.
20 Board amendment deletions are ~~strikethrough normal~~.

21 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

22 Section 1. Section 20.56.10 of the San Francisco Administrative Code is hereby amended to
23 read as follows:

24 **20.56.10. ALLOWABLE PERSONAL PROPERTY.**

1 No aid under this Article shall be granted or paid for any person who has not exhausted
2 all assets and resources available to such person, except for those personal properties listed
3 below:

4 (a) Cash assets, savings and/or checking accounts, the total of which does not
5 exceed the current monthly maximum grant available to a single individual under Section
6 20.57(a) of this Article. Any combination of these assets that exceeds the monthly maximum
7 grant available to a single individual under Section 20.57(a) of this Article shall be offset
8 against the recipient's grant on a dollar-for-dollar basis. If the applicant is transitioning from
9 PAES, SSIP or CALM and has been participating in the Earned Income and Asset Disregard
10 Program within the three months prior to application for General Assistance, such applicant
11 may retain a total of up to \$2,000 in savings. If the applicant is transitioning from SSI to
12 General Assistance, the applicant may retain a total of up to \$2,000 in savings. If the applicant
13 or recipient applies for or is eligible for aid under Section 20.59(b), the applicant or recipient may
14 retain a total of up to \$2,000 in savings.
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16 (b) Personal effects, exclusive of luxury jewelry;

17 (c) Household furnishings;

18 (d) Tools, trade equipment and fixtures used in the individual's regular trade or
19 work;

20 (e) Insurance policies or funds placed in trust for the provision of interment or for
21 funeral expenses to the extent of not more than \$600 per family;

22 (f) An interment plot for use by members of the applicant's or recipient's family;

1 (g) A vehicle with cash value of less than \$4,650. If the applicant or recipient applies
2 for or is eligible for aid under Section 20.59(b), the applicant or recipient may possess a vehicle with
3 cash value of \$10,000 or less.

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5 Section 2. Section 20.57 of the San Francisco Administrative Code is hereby amended to
6 read as follows:

7 **SEC. 20.57. COMPUTATION AND PAYMENT OF AID GRANTS; AMOUNTS PAYABLE.**

8 (a) For each eligible individual or for each eligible family of two or more persons
9 who qualify for aid under the General Assistance Program, the maximum monthly amount of
10 aid to which such recipients are entitled is listed below.
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12 **MAXIMUM GENERAL ASSISTANCE GRANT AMOUNT**

13 Single Individual \$ 320
14 Number of Eligible Persons in Same Family
15 2 Persons \$ 574
16 3 Persons 647
17 4 Persons 771
18 5 Persons 877
19 6 Persons 984
20 7 Persons 1,081
21 8 Persons 1,179
22 9 Persons 1,273
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1 10 Persons 1,367

2 In the case of more than 10 persons in a family budget unit, an additional \$14 each
3 month shall be paid for each additional person in the family budget unit. For the purpose of
4 this Section, a family is defined as an eligible applicant/recipient and his or her spouse or
5 “domestic partner,” as defined under Section 62.2 of the San Francisco Administrative Code,
6 and/or any of the applicant/recipient's children who are under age 18, living with, and applying
7 for General Assistance with, such applicant/recipient, provided that such child(ren) was (were)
8 never eligible for TANF/CalWORKS.or such children are the dependents of applicants to or
9 recipients of aid under section 20.59(b). For family budget units in which members receive cash
10 payments from more than one federal, State or County assistance program, except for
11 SSI/SSP, the total aid payment shall consist of the sum of each individual's proportionate
12 share of the aid payment for a family budget unit of the same size within each program for
13 which each member is eligible.
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15 Any individual or family receiving aid pursuant to this subsection shall continue to
16 receive the maximum monthly grant for which they were eligible prior to any reduction in the
17 maximum monthly grant structure enacted by the Board of Supervisors, until that eligible
18 individual or family has applied for and been denied, or has refused to apply for, assistance
19 under the PAES, CALM, or SSIP Programs.
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21 (b) With respect to all applicants, initial aid payments shall be conditional upon
22 completion of the Department orientation program. In addition, with respect to each
23 employable recipient, continuing aid shall be conditioned, at the option of the Department,
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1 upon either completion of 20 verifiable job applications per month and/or participation in a
2 Department-approved job counseling, vocational rehabilitation, drug or alcohol treatment or
3 work assignment program. Verifiable job applications or job searches within the meaning of
4 this Section, Section 20.58(c), and Section 20.58.2(b)(5) of this Article, shall include, but not
5 be limited to: (1) sending applications, resumes and cover letters to apply for available
6 positions for which the recipient meets the minimum qualifications, with copies of these
7 documents and the telephone number of the prospective employer provided to the
8 Department of Human Services so they can be verified; and (2) participation by a union
9 member in union hiring hall programs that make use of telephone job searches for currently
10 available positions.
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12 In addition, with respect to each unemployable recipient, continuing aid shall be
13 conditioned upon application for, and pursuit of, SSI/SSP benefits, if eligible, and participation
14 in a Department-approved rehabilitation program. Aid may be withheld, reduced, or
15 discontinued for failure to meet these requirements.
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17 (c) The Maximum General Assistance Grant may include Municipal Railway tokens,
18 in which event the cost of the Municipal Railway tokens to the Department of Human Services
19 shall not be deducted from the Maximum General Assistance Grant Amounts listed above to
20 arrive at the Maximum Cash General Assistance Grant Amount which may be issued by
21 means of in-kind assistance, vouchers, checks, two-party checks or electronic benefit
22 transfers. The Municipal Railway tokens shall be for the sole use of the recipient.
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24 (d) The Maximum General Assistance Grant Amounts listed in Section 20.57 (a) of
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1 this ordinance shall be increased by any annual percentage cost of living increase to the
2 Maximum Aid Payment, and according to the same schedule, if such an increase is
3 implemented by the State of California in the TANF/CalWORKs program.

4 (e) The maximum monthly amount of aid for which an applicant is eligible shall be
5 the Maximum General Assistance Grant Amount prorated as of the eligibility determination
6 date, minus any nonexempt assets and/or nonexempt personal property available to the
7 applicant during that calendar month, and minus the value of any prorated in-kind housing,
8 utilities and/or meals available or provided to the applicant. Rent, retroactive to the first of the
9 month in which eligibility was determined, may be authorized to prevent eviction from existing
10 housing. Applicants who anticipate receiving first-time income from other sources during the
11 month of their application for General Assistance, shall receive the prorated maximum
12 monthly grant amount for which they are eligible until the verified date of anticipated receipt of
13 such other income.

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15 (f) The maximum monthly amount of aid for which a recipient is eligible shall be the
16 Maximum General Assistance Grant Amount, or the amount determined pursuant to
17 Subsection (b) minus any cash received from sources other than General Assistance which is
18 or will be available to the recipient during the month for which aid is paid unless otherwise
19 exempt, minus the fair market value of any nonexempt personal property which is or will be
20 available to the recipient during the month for which aid is paid, and minus the value of any in-
21 kind housing, utilities and/or meals available or provided to the recipient.
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23 (g) No grant shall be issued for less than \$5.
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1 (h) To promote the transition of General Assistance recipients to gainful
2 employment, the Executive Director of the Department of Human Services may establish an
3 Earned Income and Asset Disregard Program for the recipients who are employed. The
4 Earned Income and Asset Disregard Program shall provide for disregarding a certain amount
5 of gross income which a recipient earns as wages and savings derived therefrom when
6 determining a recipient's General Assistance Program eligibility and grant amount. The total
7 amount of gross income disregarded shall not exceed the sum of the following amounts: (1)
8 all of the first \$200 of recipient gross wage earnings; (2) two-thirds of the next \$150 of
9 recipient gross wage earnings; (3) one-half of the next \$150 of recipient gross wage earnings;
10 (4) one-third of the next \$150 of recipient gross wage earnings; and (5) one-fifth of the next
11 \$150 of recipient gross wage earnings. All recipient gross wage earnings above \$800 shall be
12 offset on a dollar-for-dollar basis against the grant amount to which a recipient would
13 otherwise be entitled. In addition, for recipients participating in this program up to \$2,000 of
14 recipient savings derived from the recipient's gross wage earnings shall be disregarded during
15 the recipient's participation in this program and for up to three months thereafter. Also, if as a
16 result of retrospective budgeting a recipient's total currently available financial resources in a
17 month including his or her adjusted General Assistance grant, wages, and savings are less
18 than the maximum General Assistance grant amount, the recipient shall be eligible for a grant
19 supplement in the form of a rental expense voucher for unpaid rent in that month and up to
20 \$50 in cash so that the recipient's currently available financial resources may total up to the
21 maximum General Assistance grant amount. This grant supplement is available a maximum
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1 of three times per year for program participants and is not available to recipients who quit a
2 job without good cause.

3 Recipient gross wage earnings are defined for purposes of this Section as any income
4 received by the recipient as payment for a recipient's labor. This Section supersedes the
5 provisions of Subsection 20.55.2(r), Section 20.56.6, Subsections 20.56.10 (a) and (b),
6 Subsections 20.57 (e) and (f), and Subsections 20.59.10 (d), (e) and (f) when determining
7 recipient eligibility and when calculating the maximum monthly amount of aid for program
8 participants. All other recipient income and assets shall continue to be offset on a dollar-for-
9 dollar basis when calculating the grant amount to which a recipient is otherwise eligible. For
10 recipients participating in this program, General Assistance eligibility shall be determined on a
11 monthly basis and a recipient's grant amount shall be adjusted for gross wage earnings on the
12 basis of retrospective budgeting in the month following the recipient's receipt of wage income.
13 Verified expenses which exceed the total sum of a participant's grant, wages, and savings in
14 any given month create a rebuttable presumption of ineligibility for aid.
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17 (i) The automatic adjustment provisions of Subsection (d) are hereby suspended
18 for fiscal year 1997-98. Adjustments for subsequent fiscal years made pursuant to this Section
19 shall not include any adjustments for any fiscal year in which the cost of living was
20 suspended.

21 Section 3. Section 20.58.2 of the San Francisco Administrative Code is hereby
22 amended to read as follows:

23 **SEC. 20.58.2. CLASSIFICATION AS EMPLOYABLE OR UNEMPLOYABLE.**
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1 (a) Recipients shall be classified as either employable or unemployable. Recipients
2 are presumed to be employable unless they are physically or mentally disabled. In addition,
3 there shall be a rebuttable presumption that recipients are employable if denied SSI/SSP as a
4 result of an SSI/SSP administrative hearing decision. This presumption may be rebutted by
5 satisfactory evidence being presented to the Executive Director pursuant to Department
6 regulations that the recipient is disabled for a period less than 12 months or, in the
7 Department's determination, the recipient is unable to seek or obtain employment. Denial of
8 SSI/SSP in and of itself shall not be grounds for denial of General Assistance. However, if the
9 applicant/recipient has failed to pursue his or her SSI/SSP application without good cause,
10 such recipient shall be denied/discontinued from General Assistance.
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12 (b) Employable applicants and/or recipients shall:

13 (1) Have registered for employment with the California State Employment
14 Development Department;

15 (2) Be available for employment;

16 (3) Accept available employment unless refusal is based on good cause;

17 (4) Attend the General Assistance Orientation and Evaluation sessions;

18 (5) Submit 20 verifiable job searches for each month they are on aid to be
19 submitted as required by Department regulation;
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21 (6) Cooperate with and carry out any specific job counseling, job training vocational
22 rehabilitation or drug or alcohol treatment plans developed by San Francisco Department of
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1 Human Services, California State Department of Rehabilitation or others, and approved by
2 San Francisco Department of Human Services;

3 (7) Perform such volunteer or other work assignments as are made available by the
4 Department of Human Services; and

5 (8) Participate in work experience assignments as required by the Department of
6 Human Services.

7 (c) Unemployable applicants and/or recipients shall:

8 (1) Attend the General Assistance Orientation;

9 (2) Enter into and cooperate in appropriate treatment and therapy programs
10 designed to reduce, eliminate, or compensate for the disabling condition;

11 (3) Apply for SSI/SSP if a disabling condition is likely to exist or has existed for a
12 year or longer, authorize Department of Human Services reimbursement of General
13 Assistance from retroactive SSI/SSP benefits, and pursue and comply with the procedures
14 under the State SSI/SSP program for successful qualification for benefits under that program;
15 and
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17 (4) Apply for and pursue a claim for any other appropriate benefit program available
18 to the applicant or recipient and pursue and comply with the procedures for successful
19 qualification under such benefit program.
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21 (d) Individuals under 18 years of age, unless emancipated, are exempt from the
22 employment requirements of this Article.
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1 (e) The Executive Director of Human Services may exempt applicants to or recipients of aid
2 under section 20.59(b) from the employment and other requirements of this Article.

3 Section 1. The San Francisco Administrative Code is hereby amended by amending
4 Section 20.59, to read as follows:

5 **SEC. 20.59. AID PAYMENTS**

6 (a) **Emergency Assistance.** Emergency assistance of up to two weeks shall be
7 provided in the form of in-kind aid and/or vouchers and/or warrants. During this period of
8 emergency assistance, the department of Human Services shall investigate the facts material
9 to the determination of eligibility for the General Assistance Program. If good cause exists
10 that said investigation cannot be completed within two weeks, emergency assistance may be
11 extended for another two weeks.
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13 The Executive Director of the Department of Human Services is authorized to
14 contract with social service agencies for the provision of emergency assistance outside of
15 normal working hours.

16 **(b) Emergency Assistance for Temporarily Unemployed Workers. Individuals who are**
17 employed in the hospitality or tourist industries within the physical boundaries of San Francisco as of
18 September 1, 2004 but who are temporarily unemployed during the time period of October 1, 2004-
19 June 1, 2005, may qualify for emergency assistance consistent with this Article where they otherwise
20 meet the eligibility requirements for the General Assistance Program. In no event shall aid payments
21 issued under this section be less than \$400.00 per month.

22 **(c) Eligibility Requirements for Enhanced Emergency Benefits. In order to be eligible for**
23 emergency benefits under Section 20.59(b), applicants must satisfy the applicable eligibility
24 requirements.

1 requirements for General Assistance contained in Article VII, General Assistance Program, but are
2 exempt from the requirements set forth in Sections 20.56.7, 20.56.8, and 20.56.9(b). The Director of
3 the Department of Human Services shall pass regulations as soon as possible after the effective date of
4 this ordinance identifying those classes of workers in the hospitality and tourist industries that will be
5 eligible for the enhanced emergency benefit and further defining "temporarily unemployed" as it
6 applies to those identified workers, including the period or duration of unemployment necessary for
7 eligibility.

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9 ~~(b)~~(d) Normal Payment Periods. The normal payment periods shall be either every two
10 weeks or semimonthly. There is no limit to the number of normal payment periods during
11 which a recipient may receive aid.

12 ~~(e)~~(e) Supplemental Rent Payments. Applicants or recipients whose verified monthly
13 rent exceeds the maximum monthly grant for which they are eligible may elect to have rental
14 payments made in the form of a two-party check payable to the applicant/recipient and the
15 housing provider for the entire amount of the rent not to exceed the applicable monthly
16 amount listed below.

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18 **MAXIMUM SUPPLEMENTAL MONTHLY RENT PAYMENT AMOUNT**

19 Single Individual Applicant/Recipient \$345

20 Number of Eligible Persons in Same Family

21 2 Persons \$567

22 3 Persons \$703

23 4 Persons \$834

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