

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Administrative Code - “Cash Not Drugs” Sobriety and Recovery Pilot Program]

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to authorize the Human Services Agency, in coordination with the Department of Public Health, to establish a voluntary three-year sobriety and recovery incentive treatment program, known as “Cash Not Drugs,” to provide a weekly payment of up to \$100 to eligible beneficiaries of the County Adult Assistance Programs (“CAAP”) who have been screened for a substance use disorder and referred to substance use disorder treatment as a condition of further receipt of CAAP benefits, and who test negative for illicit drugs once per week; exempting the Cash Not Drugs payments from the CAAP eligibility calculation; providing for a six-month implementation plan before the program becomes operational; and revising the Homelessness and Supportive Housing Fund to include the Cash Not Drugs program as a permitted use of funds.

Existing Law

The proposed ordinance has not previously been codified.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed ordinance would create a three-year pilot program run by the Human Services Agency (“HSA”), in collaboration with the Department of Public Health (“DPH”), where HSA and DPH would operate a contingency management program for County Adult Assistance Programs (“CAAP”) beneficiaries who are required to receive substance abuse treatment as a condition of receiving further CAAP benefits. Participants in the pilot program must produce a negative drug test every week, in addition to any other requirements established by HSA to run the contingency management program. HSA, in its discretion, would then provide to program participants payments of up to \$100 per week as part of the contingency management treatment program.

The proposed ordinance would also exempt the weekly payments from the CAAP eligibility calculation. During the first six months of the pilot program, HSA would collaborate with the City Attorney, Controller, DPH, and any other relevant City agencies to develop an implementation plan. Finally, the ordinance would amend the Homelessness and Supportive Housing Fund to include the pilot program as an authorized use of the fund.

Background Information

HSA administers CAAP, which together provide financial assistance and social services to eligible indigent adults who have no other source of income or benefits. According to HSA,

from 2018 to 2020, approximately 20% of CAAP recipients self-disclosed in an initial interview with HSA staff that they have substance abuse issues.

Among substance use treatment programs, medical literature supports contingency management as an effective treatment. In contingency management strategies, patients receive tangible incentives to reinforce positive behaviors such as abstinence from addictive substances or behaviors, or adherence to medication-assisted treatment where patients are prescribed medications, such as buprenorphine, methadone, and naltrexone, to treat opioid use disorders. DPH currently offers contingency management programs, including programs authorized by the California Department of Health Care Services. DPH's 2022 Overdose Prevention Plan proposed to increase the number of programs offering contingency management from three to five, and increase the number of people participating in contingency management programs by 25%.

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