

1 [Participation in the Supportive Transitional Emancipation Program for foster youth.]

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3 **Ordinance adding Article III to Chapter 20 of the San Francisco Administrative Code to**  
4 **establish participation in the Supportive Transitional Emancipation Program (STEP), in**  
5 **which eligible foster youth may receive financial support while participating in an**  
6 **educational or training program, or any activity consistent with their transitional**  
7 **independent living plan up to 21 years of age pursuant to section 11403.1 of the**  
8 **Welfare and Institutions Code.**

9 Note: This Article is entirely new.  
10 Board amendment additions are double underlined.  
11 Board amendment deletions are ~~strike through normal~~.

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

13 Section 1. The San Francisco Administrative Code is hereby amended by adding a  
14 new Article III to Chapter 20, to read as follows:

15 Article III – Participation in the Supportive Transitional Emancipation Program (STEP)

16 Sec. 20.46. FINDINGS. The Board of Supervisors finds and declares the following:

17 (a) Foster youth are a vulnerable population at risk of homelessness, indigence, welfare  
18 dependency, incarceration and other adverse outcomes if they exit foster care without the proper skills  
19 to become self-sufficient; and

20 (b) Many foster youth who exit from the foster care system cannot depend on their family for  
21 ongoing financial support while they pursue postsecondary education or career development; and

22 (c) When many foster youth exit the foster care system, their primary source of financial  
23 support, AFDC-Foster Care payments, terminates at 18 years of age, diminishing their resources for  
24 self-support; and

1           (d) Some foster youth cannot successfully complete education or training programs due to  
2 trauma suffered while in the care of their parents, and possibly from multiple placements while in the  
3 foster care system.

4           Sec. 20.47. DEFINITIONS. For the purposes of this Article only, the following definitions shall  
5 apply to the terms used herein.

6           (a) "Supportive Transitional Emancipation Program" (STEP) means the program codified  
7 in section 11403.1 of the Welfare and Institutions Code in which eligible foster youth receive ongoing  
8 financial support up to 21 years of age while participating in an educational or training program, or  
9 any activity consistent with their transitional independent living plan.

10          (b) "Eligible foster youth" means a person who meets all of the following eligibility criteria:

11           1. the person was in foster care and emancipated upon reaching the age limitations  
12 under Welfare and Institutions Code section 11401, or received aid from the Kin-GAP program under  
13 Welfare and Institutions Code section 11360, and emancipated upon reaching the age limitations under  
14 Welfare and Institutions Code section 11363;

15           2. the person is participating in an educational or training program, or any activity  
16 consistent with his or her transitional independent living plan;

17           (3) the person is under 21 years of age, and

18           (4) the person has emancipated from a county that is participating in the STEP program.

19          Sec. 20.48. PARTICIPATION IN THE "STEP" PROGRAM. The City and County of San  
20 Francisco hereby elects to participate in the STEP program, pursuant to section 11403.1 of the Welfare  
21 and Institutions Code, and shall meet the funding ratios specified in that section.

22          Section 20.48A. TRANSITIONAL INDEPENDENT LIVING PLAN REQUIREMENT. Aid  
23 under this section shall be provided pursuant to a transitional independent living plan agreed upon by  
24 both the eligible foster youth and either the Department of Human Services, the Juvenile Probation  
25 Department, or an independent living program coordinator or supervisor. The transitional

1 independent living plan shall be reviewed annually, and shall meet the requirements under Welfare and  
2 Institutions Code section 11403.1(c).

3 Sec. 20.49. NOTIFICATION AND FUNDING REQUIREMENTS. The San Francisco  
4 Department of Human Services shall notify all foster youth in its jurisdiction, including those foster  
5 youth receiving Kin-GAP, ages 16-19 years old, inclusive, of the existence of the STEP program. In  
6 addition, the Department of Human Services shall seek any federal funds available for implementing  
7 the STEP program, and shall seek any waiver from the Secretary of the United States Department of  
8 Health and Human Services that is necessary to implement the STEP program.

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APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
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