

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

(Revised 11/18/2024)

[Administrative Code - Rapid Rehousing Policy]

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to declare that it is City policy to provide up to five years of rapid rehousing assistance to an eligible household where the City has assessed the household’s circumstances and concluded that a shorter-term subsidy will create a risk of returning to homelessness; and requiring the Homelessness Oversight Commission to hold an annual hearing and issue an annual report analyzing the City’s implementation of this rapid rehousing policy.

Existing Law

The City and County of San Francisco (“City”) operates a number of rapid rehousing programs that offer families time-limited rental subsidies that last for between three months and three years. These programs include the CalWORKs Housing Support Program (“HSP”), operated by Human Services Agency (HSA) using state funding, and various Rapid Rehousing programs, operated by the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (“HSH”) using money appropriated from the General Fund and/or from the Our City, Our Home Fund. Currently, there is no legal requirement that the City assess whether families may need continued support at the end of their time-limited subsidy.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed ordinance would declare that it is the policy of the City to: 1) assess families at the end of their receipt of a time-limited subsidy to determine whether termination of the time-limited rent subsidy would put the family at risk of returning to homelessness; 2) provide families at risk of returning to homelessness with one or more extensions, for a maximum subsidy term of five years, by exhausting all available federal and state funds that may be used before expending General Funds; 3) assess families at the end of their maximum subsidy term to determine whether the family is at risk of returning to homelessness; and 4) and where the assessment concludes that the family is likely to return to homelessness, refer the family to other City housing programs.

The ordinance would require the Homeless Oversight Commission to issue a report every year on the number of families served and program outcomes, and to make recommendations on changes to rapid rehousing program.

Background Information

This proposed ordinance includes the amendments made during the Rules Committee on November 18, 2024. The amendments made in the Rules Committee include that HSH and HSA must ensure that families are assessed at the end of their subsidy term, and that families at risk of returning to homelessness are provided with one or more extensions for up to the maximum subsidy term of five years through the existing funding source (if possible), and then by using general funds, subject to the budgetary and fiscal provisions of the Charter. The goal of this ordinance is to provide uniformity between the City's rapid rehousing programs so that all families receiving time-limited rental subsidies are assessed and may be eligible for the maximum subsidy term regardless of which program they are enrolled.

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