

## LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Administrative Code - County Adult Assistance Programs]

**Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to expand eligibility for assistance under the Personal Assistance Employment Services (PAES) Program, the Cash Assistance Linked to Medi-Cal (CALM) Program, and the Supplemental Security Income Pending (SSIP) Program, to adults who are ineligible for assistance under the CalWORKs Program due to the lifetime limit on the receipt of assistance, and whose children are no longer minors, or are no longer under the care and control of the adult.**

### Existing Law

Chapter 1 of Part 5 of Division 9 of the California Welfare and Institutions Code imposes a duty on every county and every city and county to provide support to low-income persons who have no other source of income. San Francisco complies with this duty through the establishment and administration of the General Assistance Program. (Article VII of Chapter 20 of the S.F. Admin. Code.) San Francisco also operates additional programs designed to provide assistance to people in need: the Personal Assisted Employment Services (PAES) Program, the Cash Assistance Linked to Medi-Cal (CALM) Program, and the Supplemental Security Income Pending (SSIP) Program. These programs are not established pursuant to Chapter 1 of Part 5 of Division 9 of the California Welfare and Institutions Code, and may be amended or terminated by the Board of Supervisors at any time.

The CalWORKs program is a federally-funded program that provides income support to low-income families with children. State law imposes a time limit on participation in the CalWORKs Program. Specifically, a parent or caretaker relative is not eligible to participate in CalWORKs if he or she has received aid under that program for a cumulative total of 48 months. (Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 11454.) State law further provides that a person who is ineligible to participate in CalWORKs because of the 48-month time limit, is also ineligible to participate in a county's General Assistance Program. (Cal. Welf. and Inst. Code § 17021.)

Currently, Section 20.7-20 of the San Francisco Administrative Code provides that an individual who is ineligible to participate in the CalWORKs program as a result of the 48-month limit in participation is also ineligible for aid under all of the County's aid programs, including the General Assistance Program, the PAES Program, the CALM Program, the CALM Program, and the SSIP Program.

### Amendments to Current Law

The proposed ordinance would amend the Administrative Code to provide that an individual who is ineligible for CalWORKs as a result of the 48-month time limit is ineligible for aid under

the county's General Assistance Program until all of the individual's children on whose behalf aid was received are 18 years or older, but may receive aid under the PAES Program, the CALM Program, or the SSIP Program provided that all of the children of the individual on whose behalf aid was received are 18 years of age or older, or the minor children of the individual on whose behalf aid was received are not currently under the care and control of the individual.

### Background Information

The County Adult Assistance Programs (CAAP) consist of the following programs:

- The General Assistance Program, which provides short-term financial or in-kind assistance and other services to indigent residents of the City and County who are not residents of state or private institutions, and who are unable to support themselves and have exhausted their own means of support.
- The Personal Assisted Employment Services (PAES) Program, which provides an employment assessment and supportive services and activities necessary to help qualifying participants obtain paid employment.
- The Cash Assistance Linked to Medi-Cal (CALM) Program, which provides cash payments to those individuals who have been determined to be eligible for Medi-Cal on the basis of being aged, blind, or disabled, and who meet specific financial criteria, but who are not eligible for federal or State support.
- The Supplemental Security Income Pending (SSIP) Program, which provides cash payments to those individuals with medical verification of a permanent disabling condition, pending their application for federal disability benefits.

In 2016, the Board of Supervisors enacted legislation amending the Administrative Code to consolidate administration of the CAAP programs. At that time, the City applied the ban on participation by persons who had reached their 48-month time limit to all of the CAAP programs, even though state law requires that it be applied only to General Assistance.

As a result, adults who have reached their time limit for CalWORKs and no longer have minors in their care find themselves ineligible for any type of assistance. Under the proposed ordinance, persons who reach their 48-month CalWORKs time limit and whose children are no longer under their care would be eligible to continue to receive aid through the PAES, CALM, and SSIP Programs, provided that they otherwise meet the eligibility requirements for one of those programs.