

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL

February 8, 2022

Suspension of General Relief Requirements for Guaranteed Income Participants

In response to the financial and social inequities that came into intense focus during the COVID-19 epidemic, Guaranteed Income (GI) programs have become increasingly prolific. Since last year, Los Angeles County (County) has been actively engaged in launching several GI initiatives for low-income residents and youth, whereby they are given a dedicated amount of unrestricted funding each month for a year or more, providing those participating with a level of financial stability they never had before. Initial results from many of the pilot programs underway across the nation show that these payments markedly improve lives. Participants are using the funds to pay down debt, make essential purchases, pursue education and employment, and they are experiencing increased emotional and physical well-being.

In addition to the County, the cities of Los Angeles, Long Beach, Santa Monica and Compton have either launched or plan to launch GI programs for their most vulnerable residents. Among the potential candidates selected to participate in these programs could be those who are recipients of the County-administered General Relief (GR) program, which has strict income limitations. Integral to the design of any GI program is to ensure that those who are selected to participate do not have to make the unenviable choice between maintaining their eligibility public benefits and the temporary

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monthly, life-transformational grant offered by the GI program. It is for this reason that the Board of Supervisors saw it prudent to waive these limitations for those participating in the TAYportunity GI program, implemented by the Department of Public Social Services last summer. To ensure the success of GI programs moving forward in other jurisdictions across the County, we should apply similar waivers to anyone receiving GR and offer the opportunity to participate in these programs.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Instruct County Counsel to review Chapter 2.102 of the County Code and prepare draft ordinance language for the Board of Supervisors (Board) consideration that would temporarily suspend certain General Relief eligibility requirements for individuals, who legally reside in the County of Los Angeles (County), while participating in a County guaranteed income pilot program(s), or a city guaranteed income pilot program(s) within the County, except as prohibited by State or Federal law, and upon written verification of participation in such program to the satisfaction of the department. The draft ordinance shall be placed on the Board's agenda for consideration within 30 days.

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