

RESOLUTION NO. .

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A MODIFICATION TO THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSISTANCE (GA) PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION BY: A) PROVIDING GA BENEFITS IN THE FORM OF CASH TO THE CLIENTS' ELECTRONIC BENEFIT TRANSFER (EBT) CARD THEREBY ELIMINATING THE PROVISION OF VENDOR/VOUCHER PAYMENTS FOR SUCH ITEMS AS HOUSING AND FOOD, EXCEPT FOR PAYMENTS MADE TO BOARD AND CARE OR OTHER ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG (AOD) TREATMENT FACILITIES, AND ELIMINATING THE PRACTICE OF RETAINING A PORTION OF THE CLIENT'S GA GRANT IN AN ESCROW ACCOUNT BY NO LATER THAN JULY 1, 2020; AND B) INITIATING THE PROCESS TO ELIMINATE EXISTING GA ESCROW ACCOUNTS BY ISSUING PAYMENT WITH THE GA ESCROW BALANCE TO ALL LIVING INDIVIDUALS WHOSE WHEREABOUTS ARE KNOWN AND FOLLOWING THE STATE ESCHEATMENT PROCESS FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE DECEASED OR WHOSE WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2020, WITH ANTICIPATED DEPLETION OF ALL GA ESCROW ACCOUNTS BY MAY 31, 2023; AND C) ALLOWING ANY ESCROW PAYMENTS TO CURRENT OR FORMER GA CLIENTS BE DISREGARDED AS INCOME OR PROPERTY FOR THE GA PROGRAM

RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, that

WHEREAS, state law requires counties to provide support for indigent county residents who do not qualify for other financial assistance, and counties meet this requirement by providing financial assistance through the General Assistance (GA) program; and

WHEREAS, the County's GA program provides financial assistance to individuals who have no minor children and whose income and property do not exceed certain limits by providing such individuals with vouchers for essential services and a minimal cash grant; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 2.30.050 of the San Mateo County Ordinance Code, the Human Services Agency (HSA) is responsible for proposing changes to the rules and regulations concerning policies and procedures for GA program administration to the Board of Supervisors for approval; and

WHEREAS, HSA recommends that the Board of Supervisors approve the modifications to the County's rules and regulations for General Assistance program administration by: A) issuing the GA grant on an EBT card that clients can use at an Automated Teller Machine (ATM) or Point of Sales (POS) device when purchasing items of need; B) reconciling the current GA escrow accounts with any overpayments owed to the County for the same client and initiate the process of eliminating existing GA escrow accounts; and C) allowing any escrow payments made to current or former San Mateo County GA clients be disregarded as income and property.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DETERMINED AND ORDERED that the President of this Board of Supervisors be and is hereby authorized and directed to approve the following modifications to the rules and regulations concerning the General Assistance Program administration:

A. Providing GA benefits in the form of cash to the clients' electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card thereby eliminating the provision of vendor/voucher payments for such items as housing and food, except for payments made to board and care or other alcohol and other drug (AOD) treatment facilities, and eliminating the practice of retaining a portion of the client's GA grant in an escrow account by no later than July 1, 2020; and

B. Initiating the process to eliminate existing GA escrow accounts by issuing

payment with the GA escrow balance to all living individuals whose whereabouts are known and following the state escheatment process (Gov. Code Secs. 50050 to 50053) for individuals who are deceased or whose whereabouts are unknown effective March 1, 2020, with anticipated depletion of all GA escrow accounts by May 31, 2023; and

C. Allowing any escrow payments to current or former GA clients be disregarded as income or property.

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