



# County of San Mateo

## Inter-Departmental Correspondence

---

**Department:** HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

**File #:** 23-65

Board Meeting Date: 1/31/2023

---

**Special Notice / Hearing:** None  
**Vote Required:** Majority

**To:** Honorable Board of Supervisors  
**From:** Ken Cole, Director, Human Services Agency  
**Subject:** Modification to the General Assistance Program Rules and Regulations

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt a resolution authorizing a modification to the Rules and Regulations of the General Assistance (GA) Program by increasing the maximum grant of the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Non-Medical Out of Home Care (NMOHC) rate for those GA recipients who reside in NMOHC facilities, pending SSI approval, from \$1,365.77 per month to \$1,492.82 per month, effective January 1, 2023.

**BACKGROUND:**

California law requires counties to provide support for indigent county residents who do not qualify for other financial assistance. Counties meet this requirement by providing financial assistance through the General Assistance (GA) program. Pursuant to Section 2.30.050 of the San Mateo County Ordinance Code, the Human Services Agency 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.

The GA program provides financial assistance in the form of cash and vendor payments, to pay for essential services such as food, utilities, and rent. In addition, vendor payments for NMOHC facilities are made on behalf of qualifying GA clients.

**DISCUSSION:**

Occasionally, a GA recipient, whose application for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is pending, will require a more supportive and structured setting in a NMOHC facility. For those recipients who meet these criteria, the maximum grant level of the current SSI NMOHC rate has been allowed. If SSI is subsequently approved, the County is reimbursed for all interim assistance provided.

The California State Department of Social Services has advised counties that effective January 1, 2023, the SSI NMOHC rate will increase from \$1,365.77 per month to \$1,492.82 per month. HSA therefore recommends modifying the rules and regulations for the GA program to increase the maximum monthly SSI NMOHC grant amount from \$1,365.77 to \$1,492.82, effective January 1,

2023.

The County Attorney has reviewed and approved the resolution as to form.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The FY 2022-23 fiscal impact of implementation of the January 1, 2023 GA Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) is estimated at \$4,574 in additional Net County Cost. Funding for the GA COLA increase is included in the FY 2022-23 Adopted Budget.