



Legislation Text

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Int. No. 561

By The Speaker (Council Member Adams), Council Member Rivera, the Public Advocate (Mr. Williams), and Council Members Williams, Hudson, Cabán, Hanif, Brooks-Powers, Brewer, Joseph, Avilés, Nurse, Sanchez and Richardson Jordan

A Local Law in relation to establishing a guaranteed income pilot program

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. a. Definitions. For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

Area median income. The term “area median income” means the income limits as defined annually by the United States department of housing and urban development (HUD) for the New York, NY HUD Metro FMR Area (HMFA).

City. The term “city” means the city of New York.

Commissioner. The term “commissioner” means the commissioner of social services.

Department. The term “department” means the department of social services.

Designated organizations. The term “designated organizations” means at least five community-based organizations designated by the commissioner that provide support services.

Eligible household. The term “eligible household” means a household that has an annual gross income of no more than 80 percent of the area median income, adjusted for the size of the household, with a head of household between the ages of 18 and 65 who resides in the city.

Participants. The term “participants” means a group of eligible households who receive a cash payment of \$500 per month and support services through the guaranteed income pilot program established pursuant to

subdivision d of this section.

Relevant agencies. The term “relevant agencies” means the department of consumer and worker protection, the department of youth and community development, the center for innovation through data intelligence, the mayor’s office of data analytics, the mayor’s office of economic opportunity, any successor of an agency specified in this definition and any other agency that the commissioner deems relevant.

Support service. The term “support service” means a social service, including, but not limited to, benefits counseling, financial counseling, job placement assistance and legal services.

b. Feasibility study and report. Subject to appropriation, not later than 90 days after the effective date of this local law, the commissioner, in consultation with the relevant agencies and the designated organizations, shall conduct a feasibility study to determine the design of a guaranteed income pilot program as described in subdivision d of this section. Not later than 270 days after the effective date of this local law, the commissioner shall submit a report on such study to the mayor and speaker of the council and post such report on the department’s website. Such report shall include, but need not be limited to:

1. The design of the guaranteed income pilot program, including, but not limited to, the design of the baseline survey as described in subdivision c of this section, the design of the program described in subdivision d of this section, the metrics to evaluate such program and the rationale for each such design component;

2. The staffing needs for the pilot program, including, but not limited to, an external entity to administer and evaluate such program;

3. The process for selecting the participants in the program, including, but not limited to, whether the participants consist of a specific population, such as households residing in community districts with the highest rates of poverty in the city, households aging out of foster care or homeless youth households;

4. The plan to protect the privacy of any information that the participants provide during the pilot program;

5. The provision of support services to the participants; and

6. The plan to administer the pilot program in a culturally appropriate manner.

c. Baseline survey and report. 1. The commissioner, in consultation with the relevant agencies and the designated organizations, shall administer a baseline survey to participants before, during and after the guaranteed income pilot program established pursuant to subdivision d of this section to assess the impact of such program on the participants quality of life. The quality of life metrics that such survey shall assess include, but are not limited to, education status, employment status, food insecurity status, health status, housing status, income group and public benefits status.

2. The first baseline survey shall be administered not later than 180 days after submission of the feasibility report required by subdivision b of this section. The second baseline survey shall be administered not later than 18 months after the commencement of the guaranteed income pilot program. The third baseline survey shall be administered not later than 180 days after the conclusion of the guaranteed income pilot program. The commissioner shall submit a report on the findings of each such survey to the mayor and speaker of the council and post such reports on the department's website.

d. Guaranteed income pilot program. Subject to appropriation, beginning not later than 180 days after the submission of the feasibility report required by subdivision b of this section, the commissioner, in consultation with the relevant agencies and the designated organizations, shall establish a 3-year pilot program that provides a cash payment of \$500 per month and support services to 1,000 eligible households, based on the findings of the feasibility study required by subdivision b of this section. The commissioner, in consultation with the relevant agencies and the designated organizations, shall administer such program, including, but not limited to, the application for such program, the distribution of the cash payments and support services to the participants.

e. Progress report. Not later than 2 years after the commencement of the guaranteed income pilot program established pursuant to subdivision d of this section, the commissioner, in consultation with the relevant agencies and the designated organizations, shall issue a progress report on such pilot program, which

the commissioner shall submit to the mayor and speaker of the council and post on the department's website.

The information in such report shall be anonymized and include, but need not be limited to, the following:

1. The number of participant and the following information for the head of each such household:

(a) Age group, within ranges as determined by the department;

(b) Community district;

(c) Disability status;

(d) Ethnicity;

(e) Gender;

(f) Household size;

(g) Primary language;

(h) Race;

(i) Sexual orientation; and

(j) Veteran status;

3. A description of the impact, if any, that the cash payments had on the participants, as indicated by the results of the baseline survey and any interviews with such households; and

4. A description of the challenges implementing the pilot program and the efforts to address such challenges, if any.

f. Final report. Not later than 1 year after the conclusion of the guaranteed income pilot program established pursuant to subdivision d of this section, the commissioner, in consultation with the relevant agencies and the designated organizations, shall submit a final report on such program to the mayor and speaker of the council and post such report on the department's website. The information in such report shall be anonymized and include, but need not be limited to, the following:

1. The information in the progress report required by subdivision e of this section, updated for the final report;

2. The budget of the pilot program;

3. Any recommendations for improving the pilot program; and

4. Any recommendations about next steps for such program, including potentially expanding such program.

g. Data sharing. For the duration of the pilot program, the relevant agencies shall share relevant data with the department.

h. Other public benefits or assistance programs. Any cash payments provided to eligible households pursuant to this local law shall not be taken into account as income for purposes of determining eligibility for any other public benefits or assistance programs.

§ 2. This local law takes effect immediately.

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