

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development Limited Grant-Making Authority Act of 2012 to clarify that direct cash assistance payments shall be excluded from determining eligibility for public assistance.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Direct Cash Assistance Pilot Program Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2022”.

Sec. 2. (a) As part of the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Support Act of 2021 (D.C. Act 24-0176; 68 DCR 12567), the Council of the District of Columbia amended the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development Limited Grant-Making Authority Act of 2012 (D.C. Law 19-168; D.C. Official Code § 1-328.04) to provide the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (“DMPED”), in Fiscal Year 2022, with the grant-making authority for the purpose of providing funds to support District-based direct cash assistance programs or pilot programs that provide unrestricted cash assistance directly to individuals or households and that are administered by a nonprofit organization or organizations.

(b) On January 13, 2022, DMPED announced the new \$1.5 million direct cash transfer pilot program, “Strong Families, Strong Future DC,” to support maternal health and advance economic mobility.

(c) DMPED has partnered with the nonprofit organization Martha’s Table to implement the program, which will provide \$10,800 of direct cash assistance over one year to 132 new and expectant mothers in Wards 5, 7, and 8.

(e) DMPED anticipates that many of the new and expectant mothers who are expected to participate in the program currently receive other District public assistance benefits, including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (“TANF”)

(f) To ensure that program participants remain eligible for other District public assistance benefits they may be receiving, including TANF, it is necessary to clarify that any direct cash assistance payments received shall be excluded from the calculation of income or assets for the purposes of determining eligibility or calculating benefits under the District of Columbia Public Assistance Act of 1982.

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Direct Cash Assistance Pilot Program Emergency Amendment Act of 2022 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.