

ORDINANCE

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO:

SECTION 1. The Municipal Code of Chicago is hereby amended by adding new Chapter 1-26, as follows:

1-26-010 Purpose and intent.

This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Chicago COVID-19 Program for Relief Ordinance" ("Chicago CPR Ordinance"). It is the purpose of this chapter to establish a pilot program to: (i) stimulate the local economy through increased consumer spending, while creating improved outcomes for children and their families; and (ii) ensure that Guaranteed Income Payments go to low-income Chicago residents who have been impacted by COVID-19.

1-26-020 Definitions.

As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

"COVID-19 Guaranteed Income Program" or "Program" means the recurring payment program implemented by this chapter.

"COVID-19 Impact" means any one of the following:

- (1) adverse financial consequences experienced by the applicant as a result of being quarantined, being furloughed or laid off, or having work hours reduced due to COVID-19;
- (2) adverse financial consequences experienced by the applicant as a result of being unable to work due to the applicant's COVID-19 diagnosis, or a spouse's or dependent's COVID-19 diagnosis;
- (3) adverse financial consequences experienced by the applicant as a result of lack of childcare due to COVID-19;
- (4) adverse financial consequences experienced as a result of closing or reducing hours of a business that the applicant owns or operates due to COVID-19; or
- (5) other demonstrable adverse financial consequences experienced by the applicant due to COVID-19.

"Department" means the Department of Finance.

"Guaranteed Income Payments" means unconditional payments paid directly to eligible recipients under the Program.

"Recipient" means an eligible Chicago resident who has been selected to receive Guaranteed Income Payments for the pilot.

1-26-030 Program Term.

This chapter shall expire and be repealed on its own accord, without further action of the City Council, on the later of June 30, 2022 or 12 months after the first disbursement of Guaranteed Income Payments. All Guaranteed Income Payments due to Recipients must be paid prior to Program termination.

1-26-040 Program Application Required.

To be considered for the Program, Chicago residents must submit an application to the Department in a form prescribed by the Department. Timely submission of the application does not guarantee selection for receipt of Guaranteed Income Payments. Applications that contain incomplete or inaccurate information will be rejected.

1-26-050 Program Eligibility.

(a) *Eligibility purpose.* The purpose of the Guaranteed Income eligibility criteria are to ensure that Guaranteed Income Payments go to low-income City residents who have been impacted by COVID-19.

(b) *Eligibility guidelines.* In order to be determined eligible for the Program, applicants must demonstrate that:

- (1) they are a Chicago resident who is enrolled in City Colleges or has a dependent: (A) who is enrolled in Chicago Public Schools or City Colleges, or (B) who is not yet the minimum age to attend Chicago Public Schools;
- (2) they have experienced a COVID-19 Impact at the time of application, as defined by this chapter;
- (3) they have an income at or below 300% of the federal poverty guidelines; and
- (4) they are not employees of or elected officials of the City of Chicago or the State of Illinois.

(c) Except as otherwise required by law, the Department shall not consider or require disclosure of an applicant's (i) criminal record or criminal history or (ii) citizenship or immigration status when determining eligibility for the Program.

1-26-060 Verification of Eligibility and Selection of Recipients. The Department shall review all applications for completeness and accuracy, and shall determine whether applicants are eligible for Guaranteed Income Payments. From the pool of eligible applicants, the Department shall randomly select Recipients of Guaranteed Income Payments.

1-26-070 Guaranteed Income Payments.

(a) *Guaranteed Income Payment purpose.* The purpose of the Guaranteed Income Payments is to provide disaster relief in connection with a qualified disaster declaration in order to promote the general welfare of Chicago residents and stimulate economic activity in Chicago in response to COVID-19.

(b) *Frequency, amount, and manner of Guaranteed Income Payments.* Recipients will receive up to 12 Guaranteed Income Payments in an amount not to exceed \$500. The Department shall deliver Guaranteed Income Payments to Recipients on a prepaid debit card and in a manner that prioritizes payment security and minimizes the need for additional actions by the Recipients.

1-26-080 Return of Guaranteed Income Payments made to recipients later deemed ineligible.

The Department may use any legal means to recapture Guaranteed Income Payments from Recipients who knowingly misrepresent any material information in their application to the Program, or who violate any laws or rules governing the Program.

1-26-090 Transaction Monitoring; Study.

Recipients may be asked to voluntarily share transaction information connected to the Program. Using that information, the Department shall prepare a statistical and financial report that analyzes the impacts of Guaranteed Income Payments on Recipients and the City as a whole, including whether Guaranteed Income Payments impact income volatility, economic agency, financial wellbeing, and general welfare. The Department may enter into an agreement with a third-party to complete this study.

SECTION 2. To the extent permitted by law, no payments under Chapter 1-26 shall affect any recipient's eligibility, and no such payment shall be taken into account when determining any recipient's income level or assets, for any current or future City, State, or Federal program or benefit administered by the City which is based upon income level or assets, including eligibility for any affordable housing benefits to rent any income-limited dwelling unit under the applicable Affordable Requirements Ordinance, or any future reparations to descendants of enslaved Africans.

SECTION 3. The amount of \$30,000,000 not previously appropriated from funds awarded to the City under the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 is hereby appropriated to finance the COVID-19 Guaranteed Income Program also known as Chicago COVID-19 Program for Relief pilot.

SECTION 4. This ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication.

Gilbert Villegas
Alderman, 36th Ward