



Legislation Text

File #: Int 2081-2020, **Version:** *

Int. No. 2081

By Council Members Moya, Kallos, Yeger, Chin and Cornegy

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to enhancing the application for and the transparency of the one-shot deal program

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 1 of title 21 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new section 21-144 to read as follows:

§ 21-144 One-shot deal program. a. Definitions. For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

ACCESS HRA. The term “ACCESS HRA” means the website and mobile app in which individuals obtain information on and apply for HRA benefits, and HRA clients obtain HRA benefits case information.

COVID-19. The term “COVID-19” means the 2019 novel coronavirus or 2019-nCoV.

HRA. The term “HRA” means the human resources administration.

Job center. The term “job center” has the meaning ascribed to such term in section 21-139.

One-shot deal. The term “one-shot deal” means a one-time grant of financial assistance that HRA provides to households to pay expenses resulting from an emergency in which HRA or the state of New York determines eligibility.

One-shot deal rental arrears grant. The term “one-shot deal rental arrears grant” means the one-shot deal that HRA provides to a household to pay rental arrears.

b. Publication of one-shot deal rental arrears grant information. No more than 30 days after the effective date of the local law that added this section, the commissioner shall post in the rental assistance section of the

HRA website, and update, as appropriate, information on the one-shot deal rental arrears grant. Such information shall include, but need not be limited to, eligibility requirements, the application process, required documentation and administration updates.

c. Updated one-shot deal application. No more than 150 days after the effective date of the local law that added this section, the commissioner shall update the one-shot deal application to help applicants provide the necessary information and communicate the need for a one-shot deal, as follows:

1. Amend the HRA W-137A form to instruct the applicant to apply for cash assistance, if the applicant is applying for a one-shot deal rental arrears grant;

2. Require the applicant to complete such amended HRA W-137A form, if the applicant is completing a paper one-shot deal application; and

3. Incorporate such amended HRA W-137A form into the ACCESS HRA application.

d. Administration of one-shot deals during COVID-19. No more than 30 days after the effective date of the local law that added this section, and until HRA reopens the job centers it temporarily closed due to COVID-19, the commissioner shall do the following to facilitate the administration of one-shot deals during COVID-19:

1. Create a phone number for individuals to call to obtain information on one-shot deals, which shall have an appropriate number of HRA staff and translation services and be posted, including, but not limited to, on the section of the HRA website required by subdivision b;

2. Require HRA staff to conduct two callbacks to an applicant who filed a one-shot deal application, in which staff leave a voicemail message that provides their contact information or the one-shot deal phone number required by this subdivision, if an applicant does not answer the callback;

3. Create designated weekly hours at each open job center for individuals that the United States centers for disease control and prevention identifies to be at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19; and

4. Enhance the opportunities for seniors, individuals with disabilities, individuals who lack technology

and individuals who lack familiarity with technology, to apply for one-shot deals outside of the ACCESS HRA application. Such enhancement shall include, but need not be limited to, creating community locations outside of the open job centers for such individuals to apply, having sufficient HRA staff to help such individuals apply on the telephone or mailing such individuals a paper application with a self-addressed stamped envelope.

e. Outreach on one-shot deals during COVID-19. Beginning no more than 30 days after the effective date of the local law that added this section, and until HRA reopens the job centers it temporarily closed due to COVID-19, the commissioner, in collaboration with relevant agencies, shall conduct culturally appropriate outreach in the designated citywide languages, as defined in section 23-1101, to alert potential and current one-shot deal applicants to changes in administration as a result of COVID-19. Such outreach shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:

1. Posting information on relevant government websites, including, but not limited to, the one-shot deal section on the HRA website required by subdivision b;

2. Posting information in public spaces; and

3. Conducting mailings to individuals receiving HRA benefits, including, but not limited to, electronic or paper mailings.

f. Reporting on one-shot deals. No later than 30 days after the effective date of the local law that added this section, and monthly thereafter, the commissioner shall submit a report to the mayor and the speaker of the council on the administration and utilization of one-shot deals, which the commissioner shall post on the HRA website. The report shall include the following:

1. The number and percentage of applications for one-shot deals, by the location where the application was filed and the type of one-shot deal, which shall include, but need not be limited to, rental arrears and utilities;

2. Data on the callbacks to applicants who apply for one-shot deals, which shall include, but need not be limited to, the number and percentage of applicants who were called back once, the number and percentage of

applicants who were called back twice and the number and percentage of applicants who called HRA in response to a callback;

3. The number and percentage of applications for one-shot deals that did and did not result in a one-shot deal, by the location where the application was filed and the type of one-shot deal, which shall include, but need not be limited to, rental arrears and utilities; and

4. The number and percentage of recipients of one-shot deals, by the location where the application was filed and the type of one-shot deal, which shall include, but need not be limited to, rental arrears and utilities.

§ 3. This local law takes effect immediately.

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LS #15915, 16108
9/8/20