

**HEALTH COMMISSION**  
**RESOLUTION NO. 14-12**

**APPROVING ELIGIBILITY CHANGES TO HEALTHY SAN FRANCISCO AND THE CITY OPTION MRA TO ALIGN WITH AND SUPPORT THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AND THE FINDINGS AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THE 2013 UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE COUNCIL FINAL REPORT**

WHEREAS, San Francisco is committed to full implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which provides new health care coverage opportunities for San Franciscans through Covered California and the Medi-Cal expansion; and

WHEREAS, Maximizing enrollment into health insurance is important for individuals, for the City and for the overall success of the Affordable Care Act; and

WHEREAS, Health insurance provides access to affordable medical care when needed, covers routine care that prevents illness and improve health, and protects families from high costs in the event of major injury or illness;

WHEREAS, Enrollment of eligible individuals into health insurance is good for San Francisco's health care safety net, as it maximizes state and federal funds that support enrollment of San Franciscans into health insurance, leaving local general fund dollars available for care of the neediest San Franciscans who have no other options; and

WHEREAS, There are many reasons why San Franciscans who are eligible for health insurance options may not enroll in health insurance, including a lack of understanding of their options and obligations under the Affordable Care Act, lack of affordability of health insurance options, and complexities and challenges related to the Covered California enrollment process; and

WHEREAS, The Final Report of the 2013 Universal Healthcare Council's found that some populations, including seniors, low- to moderate-income earners, and part-time employees, continue to face challenges in finding affordable health care coverage; and

WHEREAS, The Healthy San Francisco program was designed to increase access to health care for uninsured San Franciscan and as a program of last resort; the program is not health insurance, is not valid outside of San Francisco, and does not satisfy the Affordable Care Act's individual mandate; and

WHEREAS, Insurance premiums and copayments are eligible reimbursable expenses for persons who have a City Option Medical Reimbursement Account (MRA); and

WHEREAS, SFDPH is making every effort to maximize enrollment of uninsured San Franciscans, including Healthy San Francisco participants, into health insurance, through outreach, education, and direct enrollment assistance; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Health Commission passed Resolution 14-3 in February 2014, in support of the guiding principles and key findings of the 2013 Universal Healthcare Council; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 14-3 requested that the SFDPH implement a transition period to allow for Healthy San Francisco participation through December 2014 to allow time for SFDPH to assess the impact of the implementation of the Affordable Care Act on the Healthy San Francisco program and the transition of eligible participants to health insurance; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors passed amendments to the Health Care Security Ordinance (HCSO) in June 2014, creating a requirement for SFDPH to study and address the affordability of health insurance for San Franciscans receiving employer contributions to the City Option under the HCSO; and

WHEREAS, That the San Francisco Health Commission requested that SFDPH conduct analyses and assessments requested in Resolution 14-3 and submit to the Health Commission any recommendations for Healthy San Francisco or other relevant City policy changes in a timely manner, such that any recommendations may be implemented before the 2016 open enrollment period; and

WHEREAS, The SFDPH is monitoring the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, and conducting analyses related to the affordability of health insurance for San Franciscans receiving employer contributions to the City Option; and

WHEREAS, The recommended policy changes in this resolution support the guiding principles and key findings of the 2013 Universal Healthcare Council Final Report, and are intended to maintain the Healthy San Francisco as a program of last resort; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Health Commission requests that SFDPH extend the transition period to allow for Healthy San Francisco participation through December 31, 2015. The extension of the HSF Transition Period through 2015 will provide residents who continue to face barriers transitioning to ACA programs a health access program; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Health Commission endorses the extension of Healthy San Francisco eligibility to those who are age 65 and older and ineligible for public coverage. The removal of the age limitation will allow seniors access to a program that offers comprehensive coordinated health care services; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Health Commission endorses a change in the income eligibility limit for Healthy San Francisco from 500% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to 400% FPL, to align program eligibility with that of Covered California subsidies; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Health Commission endorses a change to the City Option to automatically place employer contributions into a City Option MRA rather than defaulting to HSF, even if the employee is eligible for HSF, thereby providing increased flexibility for MRA accountholders to utilize funds to pay for and enroll in health insurance; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Health Commission endorses the elimination of the requirement that employees receiving contributions to the City Option show proof of HSF program ineligibility in order to transfer funds from HSF to a City Option MRA, to promote the use of City Option MRA funds toward insurance.

I hereby certify that the San Francisco Health Commission at its meeting of October 7, 2014 adopted the foregoing resolution.

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Mark Morewitz  
Executive Secretary to the Health Commission