

A RESOLUTION

23-598

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

November 17, 2020

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Support Act of 2020, the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Support Congressional Review Emergency Amendment Act of 2020, the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Support Clarification Emergency Amendment Act of 2020, and the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Support Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2020 to clarify returning citizens' eligibility to apply for financial assistance for District residents impacted by the public health emergency.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Support Additional Clarification Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2020".

Sec. 2. (a) In the District's Fiscal Year 2021 budget, the Council identified \$9 million that the Washington Convention and Sports Authority ("Events DC") was to use to provide financial assistance for District residents who are not eligible for traditional unemployment benefits or for other financial benefits that the District and federal government had identified during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

(b) Among the populations eligible for financial assistance from Events DC are District residents who have recently been released from incarceration; because the Council intended for the funds identified for financial assistance to provide relief for those who had been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, returning citizens were required to apply for benefits within 6 months of release from incarceration.

(c) On November 10, 2020, the Council approved the Greater Washington Community Foundation Excluded Worker Relief Emergency Approval Resolution of 2020, effective November 10, 2020 (Res. 23-593; 69 DCR \_\_), which approved a contract between Events DC and the Greater Washington Community Foundation to disperse the \$9 million that the Council identified for Events DC to provide financial assistance.

(d) Because the contract between Events DC and the Greater Washington Community Foundation was only recently approved, currently no applications have been made for assistance from Events DC, and it is possible that applications may not be available until December.

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(e) District residents released from incarceration in the early stages of the pandemic were not able to apply for assistance within 6 months of release, because, through no fault of their own, the application was not available—clearly contrary to the Council’s intent.

(f) Approving emergency and temporary legislation clarifying that any District resident who was released from incarceration on or after March 11, 2020, the date the Mayor Bowser declared a public health emergency, will ensure that when the Community Foundation of Greater Washington opens applications, all District residents who were released from incarceration during the current public health emergency will be eligible to apply for financial assistance.

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 Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Support Additional Clarification Emergency Amendment Act of 2020 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.