

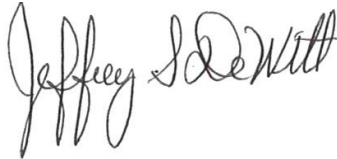
Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Jeffrey S. DeWitt
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Jeffrey S. DeWitt
Chief Financial Officer 

DATE: June 24, 2019

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Close Relative Caregiver Subsidy Pilot Program Establishment Amendment Act of 2019 (including the temporary and emergency versions of the bill)

REFERENCE: Bill 23-203, Draft Committee Print sent to the Office of Revenue Analysis on June 17, 2019 (and accompanying temporary and emergency versions)

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2019 budget and fiscal year 2020 through fiscal year 2023 budget and financial plan to implement the legislation.

Background

The bill establishes a subsidy for caregivers of children under 18 who are close relatives of the children, defined as an adult brother, sister, aunt, uncle, nephew, niece, or cousin. The subsidy will be administered by the Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA), which already administers a similar subsidy for grandparent caregivers.

The subsidy amount will be equal to that of the subsidy given to grandparent caregivers, which averaged approximately \$6,400 per child in 2018¹. The exact subsidy CFSA gives each caregiver depends on a number of factors, such as the child's age and the amount of benefits the caregiver receives for the child through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Supplemental Security Income.

To be eligible for the subsidy a caregiver must meet multiple criteria, including having cared for the child for at least the last 6 months and having a household income less than 200 percent of the

¹According to CFSA's Grandparent Caregivers Program Annual Status Report, Calendar Year 2018. Available at: <https://cfsa.dc.gov/publication/grandparent-caregivers-program-annual-report-cy-2018>

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: Bill 23-203, "Close Relative Caregiver Subsidy Pilot Program Establishment Amendment Act of 2019," Draft Committee Print sent to the Office of Revenue Analysis on June 17, 2019 (including emergency and temporary versions of the bill)

federal poverty line. However, caregivers who meet the criteria are not entitled to a subsidy, and the subsidies are limited to funds appropriated in an approved budget and financial plan.

The subsidy program will be run as a pilot, starting no later than December 31, 2019 and ending September 30, 2023. Each year of the program CFSA must submit to Council a report with program data.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2019 budget and fiscal year 2020 through fiscal year 2023 budget and financial plan to implement the legislation.

The fiscal year 2020 budget includes \$500,000 in recurring money to fund this legislation. Of this amount, about \$106,000 will go towards the salary and benefits of a CFSA staff member who will administer the program, and about \$394,000 will be available for the subsidies.

Funding for the Close Relative Caregivers Pilot Program included in the FY 2020 - FY 2023 Budget and Financial Plan						
	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	Five-Year Total
CFSA Staff Member (1 FTE) ^a	\$0	\$105,592	\$107,440	\$109,320	\$111,233	\$433,585
Subsidies	\$0	\$394,408	\$401,310	\$408,333	\$415,479	\$1,619,530
Total	\$0	\$500,000	\$508,750	\$517,653	\$526,712	\$2,053,115

Notes

^aIncludes salary and fringe for a Grade 12 FTE.