

**Health Commission
City and County of San Francisco
Resolution 21-7**

San Francisco City Option Program Simplification

WHEREAS, The Health Care Security Ordinance (HCSO), created in 2007 "to ensure that all San Francisco residents, and all non-San Francisco residents who work in San Francisco, have access to affordable health care," requires employers to make minimum health care expenditures on behalf of their employees; and

WHEREAS, Covered employers may comply with the HCSO in several ways by choosing to provide health insurance to their covered employees, provide health reimbursement accounts, make payments to the SF City Option (SFCO), or a combination thereof; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to the HCSO, the San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) contracts with the San Francisco Health Plan (SFHP) to administer the SF City Option, which comprises of a health access program HSF (which provides access to coordinated healthcare services for the uninsured, including SF residents not receiving employer contributions through SFCO) and medical reimbursement accounts (which reimburse for a variety of out-of-pocket health care expenses); and

WHEREAS, In 2014, the HCSO was amended to reflect changes due to the passage and implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and resulted in the creation of the SF Covered MRA subsidy program in 2015 where SFCO employer contributions would be directed or pooled to help improve the affordability of Covered CA health plans for San Francisco residents enrolled in SFCO; and

WHEREAS, The enrollment screening process designed to determine eligibility and subsidy amount in the SF Covered MRA program added significant complexity for all SFCO employees to enroll in any SFCO program, including HSF, SFMRA and SF Covered MRA and adversely impacts many SFCO employees' utilization of employer contributions; and

WHEREAS, Maximizing access to health insurance options is important to the public health of San Francisco's residents and those who work in the City and County, DPH and SFHP are committed to improving the SFCO Program by increasing flexibility and utilization of employer contributions for SFCO employees;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Health Commission approves the proposed San Francisco City Option Program Simplification that consolidates the three SFCO benefits into a single benefit known as SFMRA, transitions impacted employees into SFMRA benefits, and plans for the relaunch of an affordability subsidy program for SFCO employees to purchase health insurance in time for Plan Year 2023.

I hereby certify that the San Francisco Health Commission at its June 15, 2021 meeting adopt the foregoing resolution.



Mark Morewitz, MSW
Health Commission Executive Secretary