

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

### HOMELESS PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES

**Temporary Homeless Assistance (HA)** – A homeless CalWORKs family can receive from \$65 up to \$125 per night (depending on the Assistance Unit's size) for temporary shelter in a hotel/motel or commercial establishment for up to 16 consecutive days (receipts are required to verify the hotel/motel expense). Payments are issued in increments of no more than seven days at a time.

**Permanent Homeless Assistance (HA)** – A homeless CalWORKs family can receive help with move-in costs, such as last month's rent, deposits, utility deposits, and cleaning fees, provided the family's rent costs do not exceed 80% of the total monthly household income.

**HA Permanent Arrearage Payment** – CalWORKs families who have received an eviction notice or notice to pay or quit due to non-payment of rent because of a financial hardship, not a lease/contract violation, may qualify to pay for up to two months in rent arrearages to prevent eviction. The family's monthly rent costs cannot exceed 80% of the total monthly household income. Proof of financial hardship is required.

**Moving Assistance (MA) for CalWORKs Families** – CalWORKs families who are experiencing a financial crisis, including homelessness or at-risk of homelessness (already received eviction notice or 3-day notice to pay or quit) may receive funds to secure permanent housing. If the family is homeless, they must have exhausted all other means of assistance including HA. If the family is not homeless, they must demonstrate that they are experiencing a financial hardship that could result in homelessness. Proof of financial hardship is required. MA provides funds for the last month's rent, security deposits, utility turn-on fees, and moving expenses (e.g., truck rental). The program also provides up to \$405 for a stove and/or refrigerator. A family may receive up to \$2,000 in MA and MA can be used in conjunction with permanent HA to purchase a stove/refrigerator or for truck rental only.

**NOTE:** Effective October 1, 2010, this program is available only to families meeting their Welfare-to-Work requirements (participating in the GAIN Program).

**Emergency Assistance to Prevent Eviction (EAPE)** - Helps CalWORKs families who are at risk of losing their housing because of non-payment of rent due to a financial hardship (not for any other lease/contract violations) to prevent eviction and remain in permanent housing. EAPE provides up to \$2,000 to help pay rent and/or utilities for up to two months in arrears to assist the family in maintaining permanent housing. This program can be used "as needed" until the \$2,000 limit has been exhausted.

**NOTE:** Effective October 1, 2010, this program is available only to families meeting their Welfare-to-Work requirements (participating in the GAIN Program).

**Housing Relocation Program** - Provides a one-time-only relocation subsidy of up to \$1,500 to eligible CalWORKs participants working 20 hours or more per week or with a documented offer of employment for 20 hours or more per week. In addition, the family may receive up to \$405 to purchase a stove/refrigerator if needed for the new place.

**4-Month Rental Assistance (RA) Program for CalWORKs Families**– Assists homeless CalWORKs Welfare-to-Work families to remain in non-subsidized permanent housing by providing a short-term rental subsidy. Families receiving HA Permanent Housing and/or MA may qualify for a rental subsidy of up to \$300 per family (based on the family size) for up to four consecutive months.

**NOTE:** All of the above homeless programs are once-in-a-lifetime. Some programs may be accessed again when certain exceptions are met (domestic violence, mental or physical illness, prior residence becoming uninhabitable, or natural disaster).

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**Homeless CalWORKs Families Project** - This joint effort between DPSS, the Department of Mental Health (DMH), and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) connects homeless families in which a parent has mental health problems with public benefits, including employment/supportive services, and assists them in finding permanent housing. It also provides emergency housing vouchers, transportation, and crisis intervention.

**Emergency Shelter & Services** – DPSS contracts with LAHSA to provide emergency housing and shelter services for homeless CalWORKs Welfare-to-Work families. Eligible families may receive up to 120 days of emergency shelter. The program also includes limited case management, transportation, and assistance in finding permanent housing or moving the family into transitional housing.

**Homeless Case Management** – Homeless Case Managers (HCMs) work with CalWORKs homeless families to facilitate their access to services, initiate referrals, and move the family into permanent housing. The services include crisis intervention, short-term stabilization, needs assessment, employment services, advocacy, and an individualized housing plan.

**Skid Row Access Team (SRAT)** – A team comprised of staff from Departments of Public Social Services (DPSS), Mental Health (DMH), Public Health (DPH) and Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) identifies homeless families in the Skid Row area and connects them with available benefits and services.

**District Access Team** – CalWORKs district offices have designated Eligibility workers (EWs) from their Housing Resources Unit as part of their access teams to connect families with CalWORKs and eligible homeless programs and services. The EWs are placed on an "on-call" basis to accept potential applications from access centers and shelters. If the family cannot travel to the district office and the shelter/access center cannot provide transportation, the Access Team will travel to the shelter/access center to assist the family as needed.



Sheryl L. Spiller  
Acting Director

## GENERAL RELIEF FACT SHEET

### DESCRIPTION

General Relief (GR) assists needy adults who are ineligible for State or federal assistance. An average GR case consists of one person, living alone, with no income or resources. The maximum monthly GR grant is \$221.

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for GR, an individual must be a resident of Los Angeles County. Non-needy caretakers who are timed-off of CalWORKs are also eligible, if the following GR eligibility requirements are met:

- Monthly net income is lower than the maximum GR grant of \$221 for one person.
- Personal property has a combined value of \$500 or less per adult.
- Motor vehicle is valued at \$4,500 or less. Only one motor vehicle may be retained.
- Cash on hand or in a bank account is valued at \$50 or less at application, or \$1,500 or less after approval.
- Real Property (home) has an assessed value of \$34,000 or less and signs a lien, allowing the County to recover GR payments received under certain circumstances.

### SUBSTANCE ABUSE PRE-SCREENING REQUIREMENT

Individuals are pre-screened at application for potential substance abuse. If determined to have a substance abuse problem, individuals must attend a County-approved treatment program as a condition of eligibility for GR.

### SERVICES AVAILABLE:

#### Emergency Aid

If eligible to GR, the following aid may be available while GR is pending:

- Aid to Prevent Eviction
- Aid to Prevent Utility Shut-off or to Restore Utilities
- Aid to First Paycheck
- Meal and Housing Vouchers
- Transportation to seek jobs/keep medical appointments, etc.
- Expedited Food Stamps. Approximately 90% of GR participants also receive Food Stamp benefits.

#### Ineligibles

An individual is ineligible to GR if he or she:

- Was convicted of a drug felony after 12/31/97 and is an unaided member of a CalWORKs Assistance Unit.

**SERVICES AVAILABLE:** (Continued)

- Is in violation of probation or parole.
- Is fleeing to avoid prosecution or custody/confinement after a felony conviction.

**Special Needs**

Individuals may receive:

- A transportation allowance to look for work.
- A special/therapeutic diet allowance as verified by a doctor.
- An allowance for tools needed to begin a new job.

**Health Care**

County-approved GR Health Care providers offer a wide range of services, including primary care, specialty physician visits, prescriptions, and emergency services. Applicants pending approval of GR are referred to a County-administered clinic or hospital for health care services.

**Supplemental Security Income Assistance Program (SSIAP)**

Social Workers provide advocacy to help physically/mentally disabled individuals apply for SSI, obtain early SSI approval, and become self-sufficient. If approved for SSI, the maximum monthly grant is \$845 versus the monthly GR grant of \$221. In addition, SSI recipients receive full-scope Medi-Cal.

**GR CASELOAD TYPES**

The GR caseload includes the following employability status classifications:

**Employable (E)**

Individuals are designated employable through self-declaration or through an employability screening by contracted medical providers. Individuals determined to be employable are required to participate in the General Relief Opportunities for Work (GROW) program, designed to help them find employment. Employables may receive GR for nine months in any 12 month period, provided they continue to comply with GROW requirements.

**Unemployable (U)**

Individuals are designated unemployable through an employability screening by contracted medical providers. Time Limits: GR eligibility for unemployable individuals is not time limited, nor are they required to participate in GROW. Severely disabled individuals must apply for SSI and are referred to an SSI Advocate for assistance.

**Needs Special Assistance (NSA)**

Individuals with mental disabilities are designated as NSA. NSAs are given priority treatment in the District Office and are exempt from most GR requirements. GR for NSAs is not time limited, nor are they required to participate in GROW. Evaluation of mental disability is conducted by Department of Mental Health (DMH) or Adult Protective Services (APS) staff, who are co-located in GR Districts. Potentially SSI eligibles are referred to an SSI Advocate for assistance with their SSI application.

**Administratively Unemployable (AU)**

Individuals with circumstances that prevent them from seeking employment, other than physical or mental disabilities, may be designated AU. For example, an AU designation may be assigned because an individual provides full time care to an incapacitated family member, is pregnant, or is 65 years of age or older. GR eligibility is not time limited for AUs, nor are they required to participate in GROW.

**GR CASELOAD TYPES (continued)**

**Employable with Accommodations (E)**

Individuals are designated Employable with Accommodations through a medical disability assessment by the new contracted medical providers. This category is assigned to individuals who are employable, but need certain accommodations in order to work or have certain limitations/restrictions in the type of work they can perform. For example, these individuals may be restricted to sedentary, light, or moderate work due to their physical disability, such as a person with a back problem who may not be able to do work that requires heavy lifting or excessive bending. The accommodations/restrictions for these individuals must be determined by the new contracted medical providers. Individuals determined to be Employable with Accommodations are required to participate in the GROW Program. Participation in GROW is limited by the accommodations/restrictions determined by the new medical contractors. Individuals who are designated as Employable with Accommodations/Restrictions may receive GR for nine months in any 12 month period, provided they continue to comply with GROW requirements.

**Unemployable with Accommodations (U)**

Individuals are designated unemployable through a medical disability assessment by the new contracted medical providers, but volunteer to participate in GROW. The accommodations/restrictions for these individuals must be determined by the new contracted medical providers. Participation in GROW is limited by the accommodations/restrictions determined by the new medical contractor. GR eligibility for individuals determined Unemployable with Accommodations is not time limited, nor are they required to participate in GROW. However, these individuals may volunteer to participate in GROW. No penalties will be applied to GR participants who are designated Unemployable with Accommodations/restrictions for not complying with GROW requirements.

