

GENERAL RELIEF PROGRAM REDESIGN

Jackie Contreras, Ph.D., Director



February 18, 2025

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

General Assistance, known as General Relief (GR) in Los Angeles County, is a County-funded program that provides financial assistance to single persons or married couples without dependents, with no income or resources, who are ineligible for federal or State cash aid programs.

- Per November 2024 reports, 123,846 individuals are receiving GR benefits in Los Angeles County, this is the largest number of General Assistance recipients in California.
- The maximum GR grant is \$221 per month for individuals and \$375 for couples.
- GR is funded by Net County Cost – approximately \$564 million annually.
- START (Skills and Training to Achieve Readiness for Tomorrow) is an employment and training program for GR and CalFresh participants.



ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

CalFresh and Medi-Cal are available through their respective application process.

Mandatory Substance Use Disorder Recovery Program (MSUDRP) - The Department of Public Health provides services to GR individuals with Substance Use Disorders (SUD), to remove barriers that may interfere with their ability to obtain and/or maintain employment.

Countywide Benefits Entitlement Services Team (CBEST) - The Department of Health Services provides SSI advocacy, case management services, linkage to needed health, mental health and substance abuse services, and additional services, such as housing and transportation.

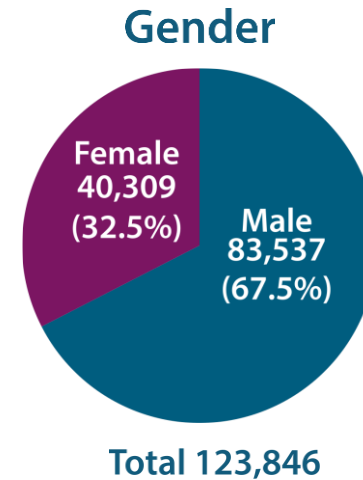
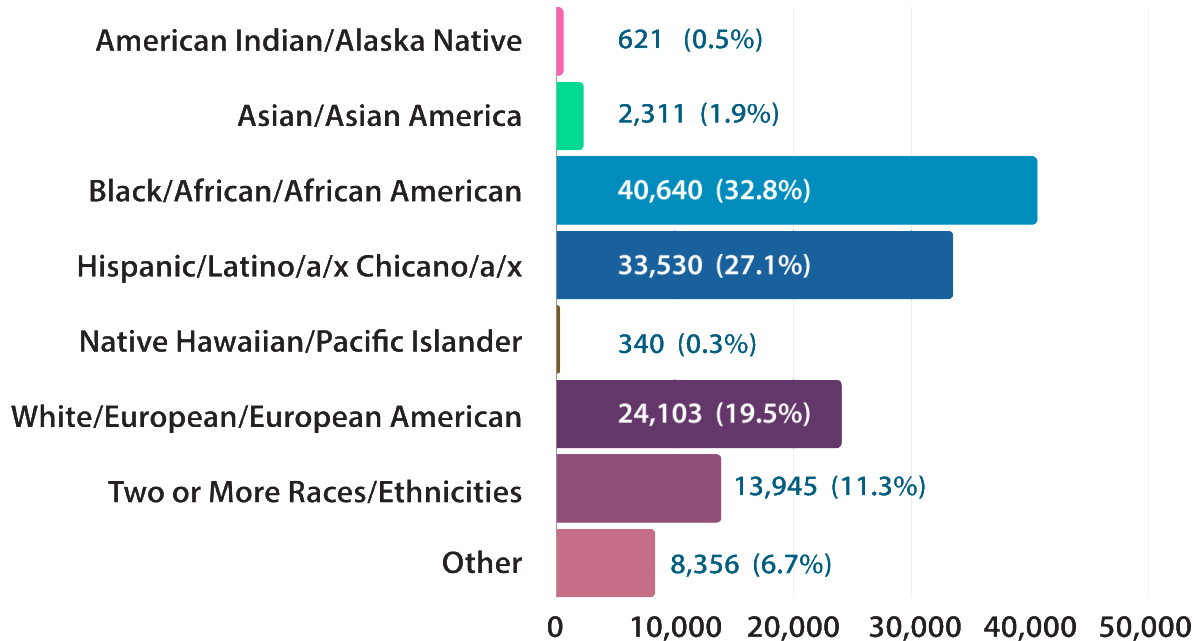
GR Housing Subsidy and Case Management Program (GRHSCMP) provides rental assistance to adults and couples without children who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness who are receiving GR benefits.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Key Information

- 68% (84,215) of those receiving GR are unhoused
- 67% (82,978) are able to work
- 33% (40,869) have been determined to be unable to work

Race or Ethnicity Total 123,846



PROGRAM REDESIGN

Evaluating current policies and procedures in the following program areas:



INTERDEPENDENT POLICIES

Some examples of current interdependent GR policies being reviewed:

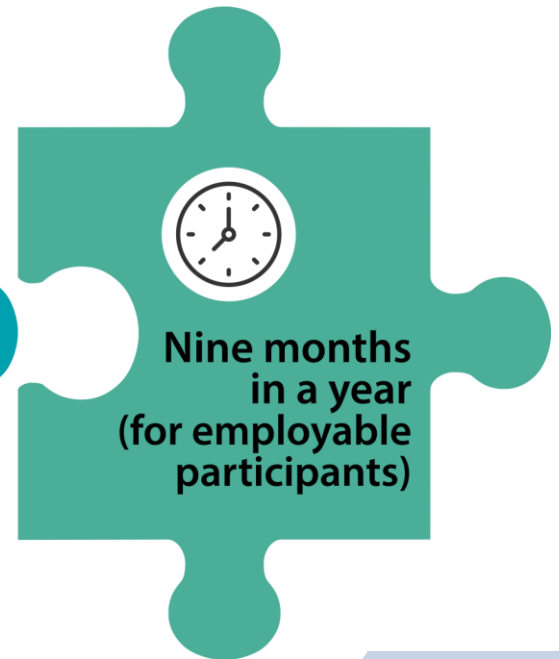
Grant Levels



START Participation



GR Time Limits



NEXT STEPS

- Finalize internal preparations to initiate the stakeholder workgroup, including initiating discussions with County Counsel, CEO, and Board Deputies to obtain approval on draft recommendation proposals that will be shared with and discussed with workgroup stakeholders.
- Conduct workgroup sessions with all internal and external stakeholders, including GR recipients, to develop and review proposals and fully outline the recommendations for implementation.
- Present the completed GR Program Redesign proposal to the Board for review and approval.



QUESTIONS

