



County of Sacramento
Department of Human Assistance



Program Fact Sheet

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

July 2010

Purpose

The purpose of the General Assistance (GA) Program in Sacramento County is to provide assistance to all eligible indigent residents of Sacramento County. It is intended to provide short-term financial assistance and limited services that will enable a recipient either to find employment or to obtain support from another source.

Funding

The GA Program is 100 percent county funded.

Minimum Age

To qualify for GA benefits, an applicant/recipient must be at least eighteen (18) years of age, unless he/she is an emancipated minor.

Residence Requirement

A General Assistance applicant shall be lawfully resident in the United States.

To qualify for GA benefits, an applicant/recipient must meet the following residence criteria:

- Physical presence in Sacramento County,
- A Sacramento County resident for at least fifteen (15) days, and
- Verification of intent to continue to reside in Sacramento County.

Deprivation Requirement

To qualify for GA benefits, an applicant/recipient must be unemployed, employed less than 100 hours per month, or incapacitated due to a verified physical, mental health or functional disability.

An employable person will be offered employment services through the General Assistance Training and Employment (GATE) Program and as determined appropriate:

- Register for work
- Apply for Unemployment Insurance Benefits (UIB) if potentially eligible

An unemployable person must:

- Cooperate in providing/obtaining verification of his/her incapacity,
- Participate in any appropriate rehabilitation plans, and
- Apply for SSI/SSP and/or other disability benefits as determined appropriate by the department and cooperate fully with that agency's requirements.



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Time Limited Eligibility

General Assistance applicants/recipients who are determined to be employable and who are offered employment services may receive General Assistance benefits for three (3) months or ninety (90) days in a twelve-month period whether or not the days/months are consecutive. This includes time on aid in another California county or State as an employable individual subject to time limits. Individuals determined to be temporarily unemployable or unemployable are excluded from the time limits.

The determination of employability is based on the following information that could affect an individual's ability to find and keep a job:

- Medical condition,
- Mental health condition, and/or
- Functional condition

Property Maximums

To qualify for GA, an applicant/recipient's property may not exceed the maximums indicated below:

Real Property

- Real property used as a home by the applicant/recipient is exempt
- Other real property disqualifies the individual for GA

Personal Property

- Cash, stocks, bonds and other forms of negotiable securities except insurance shall not exceed a cash or market value of \$10 per family.
- The cash surrender value of insurance policies cannot exceed \$200 per family unit.
- The market value of other non-exempt personal property shall not exceed a combined value of \$250 per family unit.
- The total gross value of all vehicles shall not exceed \$5500 and the combined net value of all vehicles shall not exceed \$2000.
- Personal property exemptions are:
 - Essential household equipment, furniture and personal effects.
 - Tools, supplies and equipment needed for rehabilitation, maintenance and self-support.



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Income

Cash or in-kind contributions received by an applicant or recipient are considered income in the month of receipt and deducted from the grant amount.

Income that is received or reported too late in the month to count when calculating the current month's grant shall be counted in calculating the grant for the following month.

Resources

All available resources must be utilized. GA applicants/recipients must apply for all financial resources available to them.

Benefit Issuance

GA benefits are provided in the form of electronic benefits (EBT), warrants, vouchers or aid-in-kind.

Basic Grant Levels

Exempt level: A general assistance applicant/recipient may be exempt from the lower grant level only when the applicant/recipient and his/her spouse, if residing in the home, are receiving disability payments.

Disability payments are defined as:

- SSI/SSP, or
- In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), or
- State Disability Insurance (SDI), or
- Temporary Worker's Compensation

Receipt of Social Security Disability or Veteran's Benefits does not meet the criteria for the exempt level.

Exempt Grant Levels Effective August 1, 2009				
Family Size	Number of other adults living in housing unit not legally responsible for the applicant/recipient's support			
	None	One	Two	Three or more
1	285.12	242.35	228.10	213.84
2	383.08			
3	480.00			



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Non-exempt level: Applicants and recipients who do not meet the criteria listed under the exempt level shall receive the non-exempt, or lower level.

Non-exempt Grant Levels Effective August 1, 2009				
Family Size	Number of other adults living in housing unit not legally responsible for the applicant/recipient's support			
	None	One	Two	Three or more
1	255.36	217.05	204.28	191.52
2	342.72			
3	429.12			

Out-of-Home Care Benefits

The grant for persons with a verified need for room, board and care shall not exceed the SSI/SSP minimum rate, plus an \$11 per month special need payment for personal and incidental needs. The facility must be licensed.

Repayment Requirement

All GA applicants are required to sign an agreement to reimburse Sacramento County for all GA benefits they receive. This agreement is recorded and a lien is placed on any real property owned or acquired while on aid.

All GA applicants and recipients are also required to sign a SSI/SSP interim assistance agreement. When SSI/SSP is approved, the interim GA is repaid from the retroactive SSI/SSP award.

Recipients who participate in the GATE Program receive credit for participation. The credits are used to reduce the amount of GA benefits to be repaid.

How To Apply

Persons who wish to apply for GA should contact the Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance (DHA) at the locations listed below, or the DHA location that is nearest their home:

1725 28th Street
Sacramento, CA 95816
874-2063

Individuals living with CalWORKS spouse or child



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Individuals who live with a spouse and/or child receiving CalWORKs must contact the CalWORKs worker and request to be included on the CalWORKs grant.

Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance
2433 Marconi Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95821-4807

Phone (916) 874-2063
Fax (916) 875-3591
<http://dhaweb.saccounty.net/>