



County of Sacramento  
Department of Human Assistance



# Program Fact Sheet

## *GENERAL ASSISTANCE* *May 2016*

### ***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 a re-payment program and 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***

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.

### ***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 may be evaluated for credit when completing an employment activity as specified. Credit does not apply to IA reimbursement from the Social Security Administration.

### ***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 must:

- Register for work with CalJOBS through Employment Development Department



County of Sacramento  
Department of Human Assistance



# Program Fact Sheet

## *GENERAL ASSISTANCE* *May 2016*

- 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.

### ***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.

### ***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 \$5,500 and the combined net value of all vehicles shall not exceed \$2,000.
- Personal property exemptions are:
  - Essential household equipment, furniture and personal effects.
  - Tools, supplies and equipment needed for rehabilitation, maintenance and self-support.

### ***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.



**County of Sacramento  
Department of Human Assistance**



# Program Fact Sheet

## *GENERAL ASSISTANCE May 2016*

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 transfer (EBT), warrants, vouchers or in-kind.

**Basic Grant Levels**

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.

<b>Non-exempt Grant Levels Effective July 1, 2011</b>				
Family Size	<b>Number of other adults living in housing unit not legally responsible for the applicant/recipient's support</b>			
	None	One	Two	Three or more
1	234.93	199.68	187.93	176.19
2	315.30			

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 any of the above disability payments will be considered when determining eligibility. Social Security Disability or Veterans Benefits are not classified as a disability payment and therefore the non-exempt grant level would be applied if the applicant/recipient is determined eligible to GA.

<b>Exempt Grant Levels Effective July 1, 2011</b>				
Family Size	<b>Number of other adults living in housing unit not legally responsible for the applicant/recipient's support</b>			
	None	One	Two	Three or more
1	262.31	222.96	209.84	196.73



County of Sacramento  
Department of Human Assistance



Program Fact Sheet

*GENERAL ASSISTANCE*  
*May 2016*

2	351.51			
---	--------	--	--	--

***Immediate Need Benefits***

Immediate Need benefits in the form of vendor payments may be authorized on the date of application, provided the applicant meets Immediate Need criteria and is determined to be presumptively eligible for GA.

***How To Apply***

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

1725 28<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
874-2063

***Individuals Living With A CalWORKs Spouse Or Child***

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.

***Fraud line: 875-8908***

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/>