

CaWORKs PROGRAM

HOMELESS ASSISTANCE (HA) PROGRAM FACT SHEET

The CaWORKs HA Program provides Temporary HA and Permanent HA. Temporary HA provides temporary shelter payments to homeless families while they are looking for permanent housing. Permanent HA helps homeless families secure a permanent residence or provides up to two months back rent when the family has received a pay rent or quit notice. Temporary HA and Permanent HA benefits are available once every 12 months. HA (Temporary and/or Permanent HA) based on an *exception is available once at any point during the 12 months.

Families can apply for Temporary and/or Permanent HA at any CaWORKs office.

A family is considered homeless when:

- It lacks a fixed and regular nighttime residence; or
- It has a primary nighttime residence that is a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations; or
- It is residing in a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings; or
- It has a need for housing in a commercial establishment (e.g., hotel/motel), shelter, publicly funded transitional housing, or from a person in the business of renting properties who has a history of renting properties; or
- It receives a pay rent or quit notice.

Temporary HA

Temporary HA provides temporary shelter payments in increments for up to 16 consecutive calendar days. An eligible family may receive \$85 per day (for a family of up to four) and \$15 per day for each additional person up to a maximum of \$145 per day. The family must be actively searching for permanent housing, provide verification for the housing search, and provide verification of shelter expenditures.



To be eligible for Temporary HA, the family must:

- Be apparently eligible for CalWORKs or CalWORKs approved;
- Meet the “homeless definition”;
- Not have more than \$100.00 in liquid resources (i.e., cash on hand [not to include the current month’s grant], bank account, etc.); and
- Be looking for permanent housing.

Families who become homeless as a direct and primary result of a State or federal declared disaster area qualify for Good Cause for not looking for permanent housing while receiving Temporary HA and receive Temporary HA payments in increments of eight consecutive calendar days or more.

Expanded Temporary HA

CalWORKs applicants who provide a sworn statement of past or present domestic violence and who are fleeing their abuser, are considered homeless, can receive a lump sum payment equal to 16 days of Temporary HA on the day of their application, and be granted Good Cause for not looking for permanent housing. If the CalWORKs application has not been approved or denied, these applicants can receive one additional lump sum payment for 16 additional days, immediately following the initial 16-day period (equaling a total of 32 consecutive days of Temporary HA).

Permanent HA

Permanent HA provides a payment to cover security deposit costs including the last month's rent and any legal payment, fee, deposit or charge that is required by a landlord as a condition of assuming occupancy. An amount, in addition to the amount allowable for security deposits, is also available to cover utility deposits (turn-on fees) required for gas, electricity and/or water. The Permanent HA payment amount for security deposits cannot exceed two times the total rent (rent amount before subsidies). Permanent HA cannot pay for the first month’s rent or the costs of overdue utility bills.

To be eligible for the Permanent HA payment, the family must:

- Be CalWORKs approved;
- Meet the “homeless definition”;
- Not have more than \$100.00 in liquid resources (i.e., cash on hand [not to include the current month’s grant], bank account, etc.); and
- Secure permanent housing where the family’s share of the rent does not exceed 80 percent of the family’s Total Monthly Household Income (TMHI).

Permanent HA Arrearages provides a payment that can pay up to two months of back rent when the family receives a pay rent or quit notice resulting from a financial hardship due to circumstances beyond the family's control. Each month of the rent arrearage payment cannot exceed 80% of the family's TMHI.

To be eligible for the Permanent HA Arrearages payment, the family must:

- Be CalWORKs approved;
- Have a pay rent or quit notice;
- Provide proof that the eviction is a result of a financial hardship and not for other lease or rental violations;
- Not have more than \$100.00 in liquid resources (i.e., cash on hand [not to include the current month's grant], bank account, etc.); and
- Have permanent housing where the family's share of the rent does not exceed 80% of the family's TMHI.

An eligible family may receive Temporary HA shelter payments and/or the Permanent HA payment or the Permanent HA Arrearages payment. The family cannot receive both the Permanent HA payment and the Permanent HA Arrearages payment.

*HA (Temporary and/or Permanent HA) based on an exception is available once at any point during the 12-month period. Exceptions include when the family has a need for additional HA due to domestic violence, uninhabitability of the residence, a medically verified physical or mental illness, or a state or federally declared natural disaster.

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