

# CalWORKs PROGRAM

## HOMELESS PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR FAMILIES FACT SHEET

### Programs:

**Temporary Homeless Assistance (HA)** - A homeless CalWORKs family can receive from \$85 up to \$145 per day (depending on the Assistance Unit's [AU's] size) for temporary shelter in a commercial establishment (e.g., hotel, motel), a paid shelter, or with a person or establishment with whom the AU has entered into a short-term lease, sub-lease, or shared housing agreement for up to 16 cumulative days in a 12-month period (receipts are required to verify the expense). Payments are issued in increments of no more than seven days at a time.

**Permanent 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 percent of the total monthly household income. The Permanent HA payment may be used to rent from any person or establishment with whom the family has executed a valid lease, sub-lease, or shared housing agreement.

**HA Permanent Arrearage Payment** - CalWORKs families who receive an eviction notice or notice to pay rent or quit due to non-payment of rent because of a financial hardship, not a lease/contract violation, may qualify for up to two months in rent arrearages to prevent eviction. The family's monthly rent costs cannot exceed 80 percent of the total monthly household income. Proof of financial hardship is required. The Permanent HA Arrearage payment may be used to rent from any person or establishment with whom the family has executed a valid lease, sub-lease, or shared housing agreement.

**Moving Assistance (MA) for CalWORKs Welfare-to-Work (WtW) Families** - CalWORKs WtW families who are experiencing a financial crisis, including homelessness or at-risk of homelessness (already received eviction notice or notice to pay rent 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 \$2,500 in MA and MA can be used in conjunction with Permanent HA to purchase a stove/refrigerator or for truck rental only.

**Emergency Assistance to Prevent Eviction (EAPE)** - Helps CalWORKs WtW 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. From May 9, 2019 - September 30, 2020, EAPE provides up to \$3,000 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 \$3,000 limit has been exhausted. Effective October 1, 2020, the EAPE Program limit was increased from \$3,000 to \$5,000 for CalWORKs WtW families who are **first-time** EAPE Program applicants. EAPE can cover utility reconnection fees as well as multiple months of back due rent and/or multiple months of back due utilities for all CalWORKs WtW applicants.

**4-Month Rental Assistance (RA) Program for CalWORKs WtW Families** - Helps a formerly homeless CalWORKs WtW family to remain in non-subsidized permanent housing by providing the family with a short-term rental subsidy after the family secures permanent housing after receiving or being eligible to receive Permanent HA and/or MA. The program can also help a CalWORKs WtW family who lives in non-subsidized permanent housing, when the family demonstrates they are experiencing a valid financial hardship and receive eviction prevention funds (i.e., the HA Permanent Arrearage payment and/or the EAPE payment). Eligible families can qualify for a once-in-a-lifetime rental subsidy of up to \$500 per family (based on family size) for a maximum of four consecutive months to help the family while their housing situation stabilizes. If the CalWORKs WtW family is participating in the GAIN Family Stabilization Program, the family may receive up to eight consecutive months of rental subsidy payments.

**Temporary Homeless Assistance Program (THAP)+14** - A homeless CalWORKs WtW family can receive up to 14 days of temporary shelter payments to access a hotel/motel or commercial establishment. THAP+14 supplements the State's Temporary HA Program, providing an additional 14 days of temporary homeless assistance for CalWORKs WtW families enrolled in GAIN or employed. This 14-day supplementation is available to homeless CalWORKs WtW families who have exhausted the Temporary HA Program.

**Note:** Temporary HA and Permanent HA (including Permanent HA Arrearages) 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. All other homeless programs are once-in-a-lifetime (some may be accessed again with exceptions). The exceptions include when the cause of homelessness is due to: domestic violence, mental or physical illness, prior residence becoming uninhabitable, or a State or federally declared natural disaster.

## **Services:**

**Homeless Case Management** - Homeless Case Managers 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 the Departments of Public Social Services, Mental Health, Public Health, and Children and Family Services 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.