



GENERAL RELIEF PROGRAM FACT SHEET

General Relief (GR) assists Los Angeles County residents who are not eligible for other State or federal cash assistance programs. GR includes a monthly cash grant of \$221 for a single person and access to supportive services. An average GR case for a needy adult consists of one person, living alone, with no income or resources.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for GR, an individual must be a resident of Los Angeles County. Non-needy caretakers who are timed-off of CalWORKs are also eligible. The GR eligibility requirements are:

- Monthly net income is lower than the maximum GR grant of \$221 for one person.
- Personal property has a combined value of \$2,000 or less.
- The property limit for a motor vehicle owned by an individual who is homeless and uses the vehicle as a residence is \$11,500. All other motor vehicles not used as a residence must be valued at \$4,500 or less to be eligible for aid. Only one motor vehicle may be retained.
- Cash on hand or in a bank account is valued at \$100 or less for single applicants, \$200 or less for couple/family applicants, or \$1,500 or less after GR is approved.
- Real Property (residence) has an assessed value of \$34,000 or less and applicant agrees to sign a lien, allowing the County to recover GR payments received under certain circumstances.

An individual is ineligible for GR if he or she:

- Is in violation of probation or parole.
- Is fleeing to avoid prosecution or custody/confinement after a felony conviction.

GR APPLICATION

Residents of Los Angeles County may apply for GR in person in a Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) GR district office, by mail, fax, or online through the Your Benefits Now (YBN) self-service portal available on the DPSS website.

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER REQUIREMENT

GR applicants may be pre-screened for a Substance Use Disorder (SUD) if there is a reasonable suspicion of a disorder. If there is an indication of a disorder from the pre-screening, the GR applicant is referred to the Department of Public Health for a formal screening. If at the screening appointment the applicant is determined to have a SUD,

the applicant may still be approved for GR if all other eligibility criteria are met, and must participate in a treatment program as a condition for continued eligibility for GR.

SERVICES AVAILABLE:

Emergency Aid

If eligible for GR, the following aid may be available while GR is pending:

- Aid to prevent eviction.
- Aid to prevent utility shut-off or to restore utilities.
- Aid to first paycheck.
- Meal and housing vouchers.
- Transportation to seek jobs/keep medical appointments, etc.
- Expedited CalFresh and Medi-Cal. Approximately 95% of GR participants also receive CalFresh benefits and 92% receive Medi-Cal.

Special Needs

- A transportation allowance to look for work.
- A special/therapeutic diet allowance as verified by a doctor.
- An allowance for uniforms and tools needed to begin a new job.

Health Care

Most GR applicants/participants are eligible for Medi-Cal benefits.

Countywide Benefits Entitlement Service Team (CBEST)

Department of Health Services (DHS) have partnered with DPSS to provide benefits, advocacy service. DHS contracted staff are co-located at all 14 GR district offices to assist physically/mentally disabled individuals apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Insurance, Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants, and Veterans benefits. If approved for SSI, the maximum monthly grant is \$931.72. SSI recipients also receive full-scope Medi-Cal.

GR CASELOAD TYPES

The employability status of GR applicants and participants is initially determined through self-declaration. If a GR applicant/participant declares that a physical or mental health condition prevents participation in employment-related activities, verification is requested from a primary care provider or treating professional. The GR caseload includes the following employability status classifications:

Employable (E)

GR participants who are able to participate in employable-related activities are considered Employable. Employable participants are required to participate in the General Relief Opportunities for Work (GROW) program to help them find employment.

An employable participant may receive GR benefits for a maximum of 277 days out of any 365-day period. GR participants who have some limitations/restrictions in the type of work they can perform are considered employable. GR participants determined to be employable with restrictions are required to participate in the GROW program. Participation in the GROW program is limited by the functional limitations/restrictions determined by the primary care provider. For example, these GR participants may be restricted to sedentary, light, or moderate work due to their physical disability.

Unemployable (U)

GR eligibility for unemployable GR participants is not time limited nor are they required to participate in the GROW program. Permanently disabled GR participants must apply for SSI and are referred to a CBEST Advocate for assistance. CBEST staff offer SSI application assistance and evaluate the need for supportive services.

Administratively Unemployable (AU)

GR participants who are not able to work due to circumstances other than physical or mental disabilities may be designated AU. For example, an AU designation may be assigned because an adult individual provides full-time care to an incapacitated family member, is pregnant but not yet eligible for CalWORKs, or is 65 years of age or older. GR eligibility is not time limited for AUs, and they are not required to participate in the GROW program.

Needs Special Assistance (NSA)

GR applicants/participants with confirmed mental disabilities are designated as NSA. Individuals designated NSAs are given priority treatment in the district office and are exempt from most GR requirements. GR eligibility for NSA individuals is not time limited and they are not required to participate in the GROW program. GR applicants/participants have the option to schedule an evaluation of mental disability with Department of Mental Health staff who are co-located in the district office, or with their own treatment provider. Potentially SSI eligible NSAs individuals are referred to a CBEST Advocate for assistance with an SSI application.

Unemployable Volunteer

GR participants designated unemployable may volunteer to participate in the GROW program. Participation in the GROW program is limited by the disabilities or restrictions determined by the primary care provider. GR eligibility for GR participants determined Unemployable Volunteer is not time limited, and there are no penalties for those who discontinue GROW participation or do not comply with the GROW program requirements.

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