

HOMELESS ASSISTANCE (HA) PROGRAM

Fact Sheet

The goal of HA is to keep families together. HA provides temporary and permanent housing payments, reducing the risk of families separating due to homelessness and children going into foster care.

Definition of Homeless

A family is considered homeless when it physically lacks a fixed and regular nighttime residence, shares a residence with other family or friends on a temporary basis, or resides in a temporary shelter, commercial establishment, or transitional housing or has been issued a notice to pay rent or quit.

Temporary Homeless Assistance

To be eligible for Temporary HA, a family must:

- Be apparently **eligible for CalWORKs**, meet the **definition of homelessness**, and have more than \$100.00 in cash (funds kept in a Restricted Account are exempt from this rule);
- Obtain temporary shelter from a commercial establishment (e.g., hotel or motel, paid shelter) or from a person who has a history of renting properties; and
- Be seeking permanent housing, and provide verification of the search. Once the eligibility requirements are met, a family:
 - Is eligible for up to 16 consecutive days of temporary shelter, and may receive \$65 per night (for a family of up to four) and up to \$125, depending on the family size, in increments not to exceed seven days; and
 - The Temporary HA application must be approved or denied on the same day as the request.

Permanent Homeless Assistance

To be eligible for Permanent HA:

- The family must be **approved for CalWORKs**, meet the **definition of homelessness**, and have less than \$100.00 (funds kept in a Restricted Account are exempt from this rule); and
- The family's or the CalWORKs Assistance Unit's share of the rent does not exceed 80% of the Total Monthly Household Income (TMHI). Once the eligibility requirements are met:
 - The family may receive payments for move-in costs such as last month's rent, key deposits, cleaning fees, etc. However, the payment cannot exceed two times the total rent (rent amount before subsidies). Additional funds can be issued for utility deposits as needed; and
 - A participant receiving Permanent HA must provide verification of the cost of permanent housing within 30 days (first month's rent).

Permanent Homeless Arrearage Payment

Permanent Homeless Assistance is available to pay up to two months of rent arrearages to prevent eviction. Each month of the rent arrearage payment shall not exceed 80% of the Total Monthly Household Income (TMHI).

Once-in-a-Lifetime Payments

The HA payments are **issued once-in-a-lifetime** unless the family qualifies for, and verifies, one of the following exceptions:

- Whenever a state or federally declared natural disaster is the direct and primary cause of homelessness; or
- When the following situations occur (third party verification required):
 - Domestic violence caused by a spouse, partner or boyfriend (NOTE: Victims of DV may self declare to meet this exception requirement);
 - The former residence becomes uninhabitable due to sudden and unusual circumstances beyond the families control, to include moves resulting from being a victim of a violent crime; or
 - A medically verified physical or mental illness, excluding drug addiction or psychological stress.

Exception HA payments are limited to one payment every 365 calendar days. This rule does not apply the first time a family claims an exception after the once-in-a-lifetime payment has been issued.