



General Assistance Program Fact Sheet

General Assistance Overview & Program Administration	The General Assistance (GA) program is a Safety-Net program that is administered by our Human Services Agency that provides temporary financial support. The program is funded by the county and is intended to provide short-term cash assistance to low-income individuals who are residents of San Mateo County. Individuals who qualify for ongoing assistance receive benefits each month via an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card, direct deposit or direct payments for housing and utilities to help pay for housing, food, and other necessary expenses.
General Assistance Eligibility	Eligibility requirements include: • Age • County Residency • Identification, Social Security Number • Citizenship or permanent residency • Income • Property • Employable or Unemployable factors • Application for other potential income and resources
I am not a U.S. Citizen. Am I eligible for General Assistance?	You may be eligible if you are a <i>qualified</i> immigrant. This may include lawful permanent residents (those who hold a 'green card'), those with refugee, asylum applicants or asylum status, conditional entrants, people granted withholding of deportation or removal, Cuban/Haitian entrants. • Your immigration status is only used to check whether you are eligible for General Assistance. • Immigrants with sponsors may qualify for General Assistance, depending on sponsors income and resources. • If you are <i>not</i> eligible for General Assistance, you may be eligible for CAPI benefits if you are a Legal Permanent Resident (LPR) and are aged, blind, or disabled.
Work Requirement	All employable General Assistance (GA) clients, unless meeting an exception, must be available for full-time employment, attend our Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS) Work Center orientation and assigned work hours at the Employment Services Work Center, and cooperate with all VRS Work center requirements. Exceptions for recipients include but not limited to: • Employed full-time • Required in home to care for parent, spouse, child or sibling who is ill • Aged 65 or over • Attending school to obtain High school diploma • Child under age 16 • Presenting limited English proficiency • Disabled • Participating in a training or rehabilitation program approved by our Human Services Agency

Time Limits	A recipient in an employable status can only receive 6 months of cash aid from the General Assistance program within a 12-month period. - Unemployable/disabled General Assistance recipients will not be subject to time limits. These recipients will continue to be required to provide a medical certification form from the doctor declaring disability and if the disability is expected to last 6 months or longer, the recipient will be required to apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). - Other counties have different time limit rules. If you received General Assistance Aid in another county - or if you plan to move to another county - you must contact that county to find out about its time limit requirements.										
Income Limits for Applicants	Income is considered when determining General Assistance eligibility. Income includes things such as, earnings from a job, unemployment benefits, disability benefits, self-employment income, retirement benefits, interest income, child or spousal support, and other means of income or support. To see if you qualify based on income, look at the chart below. Income numbers are based on your countable income and compared to our General Assistance payment standard based on your living arrangement. <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Living arrangement</th><th>Maximum Aid Payment</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Independent Living</td><td>\$732</td></tr> <tr> <td>Living in a Drug & Alcohol Treatment Center</td><td>\$732</td></tr> <tr> <td>Living in a Non-Medical Out-of-Home-Care without accompanying BHRS/SMMC referral</td><td>\$732</td></tr> <tr> <td>Living in a Non-Medical Out-of-Home-Care with accompanying BHRS/SMMC referral</td><td>\$1,626.07</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Living arrangement	Maximum Aid Payment	Independent Living	\$732	Living in a Drug & Alcohol Treatment Center	\$732	Living in a Non-Medical Out-of-Home-Care without accompanying BHRS/SMMC referral	\$732	Living in a Non-Medical Out-of-Home-Care with accompanying BHRS/SMMC referral	\$1,626.07
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PROPERTY Limits	Property is a factor in determining eligibility for General Assistance. Property such as cash, bank accounts or a vehicle is used to evaluate the eligibility of the individual. - The property must be under \$1,464 - One vehicle regardless of value is exempt.										
I'm in another program, can I receive General Assistance?	If you are enrolled in one of the following programs, your family may also qualify for General Assistance: - CalFresh - Medi-Cal - SSI/SSP										
Verifications	The county may ask you for verification for any of the following: - Identity - Income - Immigration status - Residency - Social Security number - Property - Shelter/Utility Expenses										

Client Responsibility	Once approved, a General Assistance recipient must report changes in circumstances surrounding income, property, address/residency, changes to fleeing felon status, and/or violation of condition of probation or parole within 10 calendar days of the change. In addition, General Assistance recipients will be required to complete a Quarterly Eligibility Status report (QR7) every three months, and a renewal annually.
Your Rights	When you apply for General Assistance, whether you are eligible or not, you have the right to be treated with courtesy, consideration, and respect. The Human Services Agency will not discriminate against anyone because of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, religion, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, or condition of physical or mental disability.
HOW TO APPLY	Applications will be reviewed and approved or denied within 30 days from the application date. An interview with the applicant is required prior to granting aid. You can apply for General Assistance through any of the following methods: Online: benefitscal.com Telephone: Service Center toll-free # 1(800) 223-8383 Mail: Attn: General Assistance Application PO Box 25030 San Mateo, CA 94402 Fax: (650) 654-8885 In-Person: At any of the Human Services Agency Offices listed below. <u>Northern Region</u> 271 92nd Street Daly City, CA 94015 (650) 301-8440 <u>Central Region</u> 1500 Fashion Island Blvd. San Mateo, CA 94004 (650) 802-6470 <u>Southern Region</u> 2500 Middlefield Road Redwood City, CA 94063 (650) 599-3811 2415 University Avenue. 3rd Floor East Palo Alto, CA 94303 (650) 363-4175 <i>Offices are open Monday – Friday, 8:00AM – 5:00PM</i>

This Fact Sheet is not to be used as a substitute for federal/state General Assistance regulations.