

County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency (HHS)
CalWORKs Program Guide

CalWORKs Housing Support Program (HSP)

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Revision Date:

March 17, 2020

Background:

Per the All County Welfare Directors Letter dated July 18, 2014 the CalWORKs Housing Support Program (HSP) provides assistance to CalWORKs families experiencing barriers to self-sufficiency due to homelessness or housing instability. HSP is not an entitlement program and will remain as funding and slots are available.

Purpose:

The purpose of this material revision is to incorporate information of a requirement for all-state funded or administered programs that provide housing or housing-related services to people who are experiencing, or are at risk of homelessness, to adopt the core components of the Housing First Act.

Policy:

Eligibility Criteria

Eligible CalWORKs families must meet the following HSP requirements:

- Have an active CalWORKs case
- Be considered homeless based on one of the following criteria:
 - Lacking a fixed and regular nighttime residence
 - Having a primary nighttime residence that is a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations
 - Residing in a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation
 - In receipt of a judgment for eviction, as ordered by a court

HSP Service Examples:

- Intensive Case Management:
 - Assessment of housing barriers
 - Development of Housing Plan
 - Financial literacy/coaching
 - Help resolving legal issues
 - Referrals to resources as needed
- Housing Navigation:
 - Landlord recruitment and retention
 - Help finding and securing permanent housing for clients
- Financial Assistance:
 - Bridge housing
 - Move-in costs (such as deposits, moving expenses, utility)
 - Rental subsidy

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HSP is offered in addition to the following program and/or services available to CalWORKs applicants/recipients, if they are otherwise eligible:

- Temporary/Permanent Homeless Assistance
- Family Stabilization, Homelessness Prevention Services

Housing First Concept

Contractors will establish a Housing First concept for HSP. Housing First-oriented programs are low or no barrier and client-centered, emphasizing client-choice. Housing is viewed as necessary to help a family or individual stabilize and meaningfully access services, which are offered as needed on a voluntary basis.

In practice, this means that programs connect participants to permanent housing as quickly as possible with few to no preconditions, behavioral contingencies, or other barriers at enrollment or throughout the program. Instead of requiring people to stabilize before receiving housing, programs using a Housing First approach focus on helping people achieve housing stability before addressing other barriers that may exist.

Procedure:

- Family Resource Center staff will refer CalWORKs families meeting all eligibility requirements described above to the County's HSP providers
- Attachment A - CalWORKs Desk Aid - Homeless Programs Payment Grid

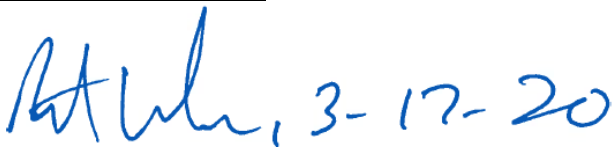
References:

Senate Bill (SB) 855, SB 1380
All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) (July 18, 2014)
All County Letter (ACL) No. 19-114

Sunset Date:

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by March 31, 2023.

Approval for Release:



Rick Wanne, Director
Eligibility Operations



CalWORKs and Welfare-to-Work Homeless Assistance Programs

CalWORKs HSP Program Financial Assistance Guidelines (Enrolled in CalWORKs)		
Total financial assistance cost not to exceed \$4,200* per family, per fiscal year. *Additional assistance per family approved on a case by case basis		
Financial Payment Type		Limitations
Bridge Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hotel/Motel Voucher 	Up to 28 days
Moving Expenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rental Deposits First/last month rent Utility deposits Moving costs 	One time only
Rental Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subsidy of monthly rental cost 	Based on need
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application fees Credit check fees Legal fees and fines Utility payments Making home habitable costs 	One time only for legal fees and fines

Welfare To Work Family Stabilization Financial Assistance Guidelines (Registered in Welfare to Work)		
Family Stabilization has a 12-month consecutive, cumulative payment limit that is based on the size of the CalWORKs Assistance Unit (AU) and the type of services requested.		
Financial Payment Type		12-Month Cumulative Limit
Permanent Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deposit Rent Overdue rent 	AU size 1-4 Up to \$3,500 AU size 5+ Up to \$4,500
	Daily rate	Up to \$150 per day, including taxes and fees, for up to 28 days
Utility Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deposit Overdue bills 	AU size 1-4 Up to \$1,000 AU size 5+ Up to \$1,500
Transportation Emergency Assistance	Essential vehicle repairs	Up to \$2,500
	Car rental	Up to \$60 per day, including taxes and fees, for up to 7 days
	Towing of a Non-Operational Vehicle	Up to \$100

CalWORKs Homeless Assistance (HA) - (Enrolled in CalWORKs)
As of January 1, 2017, HA is limited to every 12 months
Temporary Homeless Assistance (THA): \$65 per day up to 16 days for a family of 4. Additional family members can get an additional \$15 per day, maximum is \$125 per day
Permanent Homeless Assistance (PHA): Rent threshold is 80% of the family's Total Monthly Household Income