

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

Expanded Temporary Homeless Assistance

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44-200.I

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Revision Date:

November 1, 2020

Background:

Per Assembly Bill (AB) 557, Expanded Temporary Homeless Assistance (THA) benefits are available to CalWORKs applicants, who are domestic violence victims, and are fleeing their abusers.

Purpose:

The purpose of this revision is to implement changes to the Homeless Assistance (HA) program made by

Senate Bill (SB) 80 and Assembly Bill (AB) 960, which remove the consecutive day rule for THA benefits which apply to Expanded THA benefits and expand allowable providers of housing for purposes of receiving Homeless Assistance to include shared housing.

Policy:

Expanded THA Eligibility

- Is available to CalWORKs applicants only. Once the CalWORKs case is dispositioned, customers are no longer eligible to receive Expanded THA
 - The Assistance Unit (AU) must be eligible, or apparently eligible, to CalWORKs (CPG 40-100.K), and be within the non-recurring special needs resources limit (CPG 44-200.C)
 - The customer must be a past, or present, domestic violence victim and be fleeing their abuser* and considered to be homeless, even if they have not yet spent a night homeless
 - The abuser's income and property, if unavailable to the customer, are not to be evaluated when determining eligibility for Expanded THA benefits*
 - An eligible AU may receive Expanded THA benefits up to 32 days in their lifetime
 - The AU is exempt from providing verification of their search for permanent housing
 - Expanded THA benefits will not be considered overpayments as long as the AU was eligible for the benefits at the time they were received
 - Expanded THA benefits are allowed in addition to regular HA and do not count against the once-a-year HA exception, including exceptions based on domestic violence
- * The customer's signed sworn statement is acceptable verification

Payment Amount and Issuances

Expanded THA payment amounts are the same as regular THA payment amounts (CPG 44-200.G). The customer may receive a total of 32 days of Expanded THA, in two 16-day lump sum payments that can be issued as follows:

- First Payment: 16 consecutive day period, to be issued on the day of the application
- Second Payment:
 - Up to 16 additional consecutive days immediately following the first 16-day period, if still homeless and if the CalWORKs application has not yet been approved or denied; or
 - Remaining 16-day issuance can be used for a different instance of homelessness as long as the applicant meets Expanded THA criteria at the time of request, this can occur months or even years after the first payment

Payment Verification

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The AU must be informed of the requirement to provide verification of the cost incurred for temporary shelter. If the customer does not provide verification that the money was spent on temporary shelter, the second payment will be issued as vendor payment. However, all health and safety concerns of these customers must be taken into consideration. Evaluate for good cause or allow a sworn statement when verification is not available.

Regular CalWORKs Regulations

Once the CalWORKs case is approved, the customer becomes a recipient. Therefore, the regular CalWORKs regulations are to be applied:

- Abuser's Income and Property - The alleged abuser's income and property must be evaluated to determine whether they are unavailable to the customer (and be considered separate income and property). If the customer signs a sworn statement that they do not have access to their abuser's income and property, the income and property can be disregarded unless there is evidence to the contrary
- HA Benefits - If still homeless, the customer is potentially eligible for THA (non-consecutive days), Permanent Homeless Assistance (PHA) benefits, and subsequent THA/PHA (within the 12-month period after receiving THA/PHA) based on a domestic violence exception
- Vendor Payment – If the customer did not provide verification that the Expanded THA was spent on temporary shelter, and the AU is now eligible to regular HA for the same incident of homelessness, the regular HA benefits will be issued as vendor payment
- Housing Search Log Requirement - Once CalWORKs (or immediate need) is approved, if the customer receives HA, a search for permanent housing verification is required. As the customer is fleeing domestic violence, good cause must be evaluated if verification is not provided
- Additional Housing Support Services - The customer may be referred to additional housing support services, as well as domestic abuse counseling and services. The HSS should ensure the customer is connected to all other available resources in the community. Other services include Housing Support Program (HSP), and/or Family Stabilization (FS), and Homelessness Prevention Services (HPS)

Procedure:

CPG Processing Guide 44.200.1

How To #277 located in the Eligibility Essentials site.

Impacts:

Forms

To request Expanded THA benefits, a customer must complete a CalWORKs application (SAWS 1 or SAWS 2 PLUS), a Statement of Facts for Homeless Assistance (CW 42), and sign a sworn statement that they are fleeing domestic violence.

Revised CW 42 (09/19) Homeless Assistance Statement of Facts form includes information regarding Expanded THA available to CalWORKs applicants who are fleeing domestic violence.

- Eligibility staff must inform applicants of services available if they are fleeing domestic violence and explain the Expanded THA benefits.

Notice of Action

- M44-211B (12/19)– Expanded Temporary HA for Applicants Fleeing DV

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- To be issued when approving requests for Expanded THA
- Revised to remove reference to the 2 issuances of 16-day Expanded THA having to be consecutive and are available once-in-a-lifetime
- M44-211D (12/19) – Temporary Shelter and/or Permanent Housing
 - To be issued when denying request for Expanded THA
 - Revised to replace the once-in-a-lifetime with 32 nights of expanded THA.

References:

AB 557

EAS 44-211.5

ACL No. 18-34, 18-78, 19-77, 19-118

Sunset Date:

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by September 30, 2023

Approval for Release:



Rick Wanne, Director
Eligibility Operations