

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

**Homeless Shelter Deduction**

**Number**

**63-234**

**Page**

**1 of 3**

**Revision Date:**

03/03/2020

**Background:**

Households in which all individuals are homeless and are not receiving free shelter throughout the month may get a homeless shelter deduction. This revision updates the section to the new format and to add the Sunset review date. There are no changes due to state legislation.

**Purpose:**

This section details the regulations regarding households that are eligible for the homeless shelter deduction instead of the excess shelter deduction.

**Policy:**

**63-234.1 Homeless Shelter Deduction:**

**A.** Standard homeless shelter deduction is allowed to households in which:

1. All members are homeless; and
2. The household incurs a shelter cost or costs can be reasonably anticipated during the month (not receiving free shelter throughout the month). Refer to 63-1102 for current standard homeless shelter deduction.

**B.** For households incurring shelter costs, determine if the household would receive more benefits when allowing the homeless shelter deduction instead of the SUA deduction.

Homeless households can receive the Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) deduction if eligible to the State Utility Assistance Subsidy (SUAS) instead of the Homeless Shelter Deduction. Households cannot receive the Homeless Shelter Deduction and the SUA deduction at the same time.

Continue using the Homeless Shelter Deduction if there is no change in the household allotment. Refer to 63-236.6

**63-234.2 Homeless Shelter Deduction Regulations:**

The following regulations apply to the homeless shelter deduction:

- A. Homeless households may choose to claim actual, verified shelter costs instead of the homeless shelter deduction when actual costs are higher and when the household receives more benefits.
- B. Homeless households must incur or reasonably expect to incur a shelter cost during a month to be eligible to the homeless shelter deduction. Allow either the homeless shelter deduction or the SUA whichever allows them to receive more benefits. Refer to 63-236.4.
- C. The SUA cannot be allowed when the household receives the homeless shelter deduction because the homeless shelter deduction already includes a utility cost component.
- D. Subtract the homeless shelter deduction from net income when determining eligibility and allotments for the household. Therefore, if the homeless shelter deduction is allowed, do not determine the excess shelter cost deduction. Refer to 63-254.2 and 63-254.3.
- E. Do not prorate the homeless shelter deduction even if the homeless household shares the shelter expense with an ineligible or excluded household member.

**63-234.3 Verification of Homeless Shelter Deduction:**

**A.** Homeless households incurring, or reasonably expecting to incur, shelter costs during a month are eligible to the homeless shelter deduction without providing verification of the shelter costs. Document the reasonable expectation that the household will incur the expense.

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

**Homeless Shelter Deduction**

**Number**

**63-234**

**Page**

**2 of 3**

**B.** If the shelter cost is higher than the homeless shelter deduction, use the higher shelter costs when the homeless household provides verification.

**C.** Homeless households not incurring shelter costs during the month are not eligible to the homeless shelter deduction.

**63-234.4 Homeless Shelter Cost Deduction Q&A:**

**QUESTION 1:**

A homeless customer is a resident of a drug and alcohol treatment shelter facility. Is there a shelter deduction if the facility does not charge?

**ANSWER 1:**

No. A shelter deduction would not be allowed. If there is no charge for services and no customer obligation. Refer to 63-234.3

**QUESTION 2:**

A Non-assistance CalFresh household meets the definition of “homeless” (homeless prior to, and after the drug and alcohol treatment facility stay), should the homeless shelter deduction be used rather than the shelter deduction (i.e., no utility cost)?

**ANSWER 2:**

A temporary residence at a drug and alcohol treatment facility does not in and of itself qualify the resident as homeless. If the worker determines the customer meets the definition of homeless as provided in section 63-152.5, and the customer reasonably expects to incur homeless shelter costs, then the homeless shelter deduction would be applicable rather than the shelter cost deduction. However, if the actual verified homeless shelter costs are higher than the homeless shelter deduction, the actual cost may be used to calculate the housing deduction instead of a homeless shelter deduction.

**QUESTION 3:**

If a customer is charged a monthly “fee” to participate in the rehabilitation program, yet has no income to pay the “fee”, should the customer be allowed a deduction for shelter cost?

**ANSWER 3:**

Yes, it is an obligation. The customer is billed for shelter costs; therefore, the expense is an allowable shelter cost deduction.

**QUESTION 4:**

Can “program fees” charged by a drug/alcohol facility be considered a shelter cost deduction? Some facilities are hesitant to identify the charge as “rent/utilities.”

**ANSWER 4:**

Whatever portion is identified as shelter cost is a deductible expense.

**References:**

ACL 19-38

ACIN I-18-07

ACIN I-73-04

ACIN I-43-03

**Sunset Date:**

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by 02/28/2023

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

Homeless Shelter Deduction

Number

63-234

Page

3 of 3

Approval for Release:

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