



# GENERAL ASSISTANCE (GA)

**What is GA?** The General Assistance program is a County-funded program, providing cash assistance to individual adults and married couples.

**What are the Benefits?** The maximum benefit amount is currently \$336 for an individual or \$548 for a couple. Specialized programs exist for homeless individuals, as well as those dealing with drug and alcohol abuse issues. Services are available to assist individuals with applications for SSI.

**What Do I Need to Know?** GA is paid as a loan to the individual or couple receiving assistance. Applicants must sign a reimbursement agreement to be eligible for assistance. Recipients may be required to repay any funds they receive, when financially eligible. This may occur when they become employed, or if they receive a Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payment that includes funds for the period that they received GA.

**Who is Eligible?** Eligibility and the benefit amount the individual or couple may receive are dependent on a number of factors, which include but are not limited to:

- Applicants must have resided in the county for 15 days.
- The amount of income available to, or received by, members of the household, will affect the potential benefit amount.
- The value of the household members' property, other than exempt property, must be below the property limit.
- All adults must be fingerprinted and identified.
- Non-citizens must establish that they are legally in the country and have no limitation on their stay. Sponsored non-citizens must have their sponsor provide information about the sponsor's resources and income.
- There are no restrictions for formerly incarcerated individuals.

**Are there Time Limits?** Employable applicants and recipients are subject to Time-limited GA. The Time Limits allow for assistance for a maximum of three (3) months in any twelve-month period. Unemployable applicants and recipients are not subject to Time Limits.

**How Will I Get My Benefits?** Payments are issued monthly to an Electronic Benefits Transaction account for the household, less rent amounts paid directly to the housing provider for the household. GA regulations require the Agency to pay the housing provider directly, to assure stable housing.

**Are there Other Services I Can Access?**

- **Employment Supports:** Employable applicants and recipients may participate in the CalFresh Employment & Training Program (CalFresh E&T), which provides job seeking skills, resume writing, etc.
- **Food and Medical Assistance:** GA applicants and recipients may be eligible for CalFresh benefits (food stamps), and may also be eligible for Medi-Cal. However, both the CalFresh and Medi-Cal programs are separate programs, with program specific eligibility requirements; they require separate applications for each program.

**Where Do I Apply?** Individuals or couples may apply for assistance at the Self-Sufficiency Centers in North Oakland, East Oakland, and Hayward. You may also apply at the Livermore and Fremont sub-office locations.

**Hayward Office**  
24100 Amador St.  
Hayward, CA 94544  
(510) 670-6000

**Eastmont Office**  
6955 Foothill Bl. Suite 100  
Oakland, CA 94605  
(510) 383-5300

**North Oakland Office**  
2000 San Pablo Ave  
Oakland, CA 94612  
(510) 891-0700

**Enterprise Office**  
8477 Enterprise  
Oakland, CA 94621  
(510) 777-2300