

## **GENERAL ASSISTANCE (GA) PROGRAM INFORMATION SHEET**

California law requires that each county have a program to assist its needy adult population who have not been aided by other State and/or Federal programs. The County of Santa Clara established the General Assistance (GA) Program to meet that requirement. The GA program is 100% funded by the County.

GA provides cash assistance, employment services and advocacy services to Santa Clara County adults with no dependent children and no other means of support. GA regulations are complex and eligibility for the program can only be fully evaluated by an Eligibility Worker. Santa Clara County individuals who need financial help can apply in the following ways:

ONLINE: [www.BenefitsCal.com](http://www.BenefitsCal.com)

PHONE: 408-758-3800

\*FAX: 408-295-9248

\*MAIL: PO Box 11018, San Jose, CA 95103

\*OFFICE & DROP BOX LOCATIONS:

Assistance Application Center 1867 Senter Rd, San Jose, CA 95112

General Assistance Services 1919 Senter Rd, San Jose, CA 95112

North County 1330 W. Middlefield Rd, Mountain View, CA 94043

South County 379 Tomkins Ct, Gilroy, CA 95020

\*Call 408-758-3800 to get an application mailed or pick it up in one of our lobbies

All applicants for, or recipients of GA, must apply for any other type(s) of income which they may be eligible to receive. Individuals who are entitled to a federal public assistance program (such as CalWORKs or SSI) are not eligible for GA.

### **EMPLOYABLE RECIPIENTS:**

Employable GA recipients are required to do all of the following:

1. Register for work with State Employment Development Department (EDD).
2. Be available for, and actively seek, full-time employment.
3. Participate in a Supervised Job Search.
4. Participate in a Public Works Program for the monthly mandated hours.

### **UNEMPLOYABLE RECIPIENTS:**

Unemployable GA recipients are required to provide medical verification which shows they are unable to participate in any type of employment. Recipients are required to cooperate in planning for rehabilitation if appropriate. If their illness/disability has lasted or is expected to last 12 months or more, they are also required to cooperate in the application and appeals processes for Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

### **REIMBURSEMENT OF INTERIM ASSISTANCE**

Interim Assistance is the amount of aid the county provides to an individual for meeting basic

needs, while the individual's Supplemental Security Income (SSI) application is pending or SSI benefits are suspended or terminated and subsequently reinstated. Individuals must sign an authorization for Interim Assistance Reimbursement prior to being approved for GA.

**SPONSORED NON-CITIZEN**

Sponsors of non-citizen GA applicants/recipients may be required to repay any GA paid. A lien may be placed on the sponsor's property.

**PROPERTY LIMITS:**

To qualify for GA, an individual cannot own nonexempt personal property in excess of \$500. A motor vehicle minus encumbrances worth less than \$4,650, may be exempted.

There is no limit on the value of real property used as a home. Six percent of the value of real property not used as a home is counted as income. Certain other items may also be exempt.

**INCOME LIMITS:**

All income received from any source must be reported, and all, except for certain inconsequential amounts, are subtracted from the GA grant. If the income is greater than the grant amount, there is no eligibility for GA.

**MAXIMUM MONTHLY BENEFIT LEVEL (Effective 04/01/16 to Present):**

One person living alone . . . . .	\$343.00
One person living with others . . . . . <i>(Rate based on number of persons sharing.)</i>	\$257.00 - \$292.00
Husband and wife living alone . . . . .	\$460.00
Husband and wife living with others . . . . . <i>(Rate based on number of persons sharing.)</i>	\$345.00 - \$392.00
One person residing in a State-Licensed Board and Care.	Payment to home = \$901.00 Payment to client = <u>\$ 28.00</u>
Total Board and Care payment	= \$929.00

**VENDOR PAYMENT FOR RENT:**

The GA benefit levels listed above include housing assistance. The portion of the GA amount allocated for rent is paid directly to the landlord. This vendor payment is reported to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the State Franchise Tax Board (FTB) as income to the landlord. Verification of all shelter costs must be provided before payment can be authorized.

**SHELTER REFERRALS FOR UNHOUSED INDIVIDUALS:**

If a person is experiencing homelessness, placement in a shelter will be offered as the housing portion of the benefit. Monetary housing assistance may still be available if an unhoused individual declines shelter for reasons beyond personal preference or if there is no shelter availability.