

SECTION 80: BENEFITS AND SERVICES

.1 GENERAL

Pursuant to W&I Code Section 17000.5, the Board of Supervisors adopts the GR standard of aid, including the value of in-kind aid, that is 62% of a guideline that is equal to the 1991 federal official poverty line and which is adjusted in an amount equal to any adjustments provided in the CalWORKs Program. The standard of aid, including the value of in-kind aid, shall be equal to the statutory CalWORKs non-exempt, Region 1, payment level for specific corresponding household size subject to the reductions allowed by 17001.5(a)(2)(A). This standard of aid shall constitute a sufficient standard of aid.

.2 METHODS OF PAYMENT

The County, at its discretion, may elect to make GR payments either to a provider or to the GR-EU. Payments shall be issued by check, vendor order, or EBT.

.a **VENDOR ORDERS**

Vendor orders are authorizations to merchants to deliver goods or services in a specified amount covering a specified period of time. The GR-EU shall have the choice of vendor, however, the County, at its discretion, may refuse to authorize an order to any vendor known to be unsatisfactory. Reasons for considering a vendor unsatisfactory may include, but are not limited to, discounting orders, requiring purchaser to use entire order at one time, or sale of alcohol on food orders.

.b **ISSUANCE OF BENEFITS**

Benefits shall be issued by check, or EBT card. Issuance of benefits may be staggered to correspond with the CalFresh staggered issuance schedule. No benefits will be issued to a destination outside of the County except a mortuary may be paid at the Orange County rate when an eligible county resident dies out of county.

.c **FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY**

Financial eligibility to receive GR is determined by subtracting all current net income per Sections 70.2 and 70.3 from the GR MAP.

The MAP is based on the size of the GR-EU and the EU's housing arrangements.

.2 METHODS OF PAYMENT (cont'd)

The MAP shall not include:

- (1) Any child born into a family receiving cash aid continuously for ten (10) months prior to the child's birth.
- (2) Parents who are excluded from the GR-EU for cause pursuant to these regulations.
- (3) Any individual who is not eligible for aid as a result of the CalWORKs time limits specified in the W & I Code Section 11454 until all of the children of the individual on whose behalf aid was received, whether or not currently living in the home, are eighteen (18) years of age or older.

.d AID PAYMENTS

(1) GR Immediate Need (GR-IN)

A one time payment limited to seven (7) days assistance shall be offered to applicants who lack shelter, provided all other requirements for IN have been met. This payment will be a prorated share of the monthly GR benefit to which the GR-EU would be otherwise eligible. The duration of GR-IN may be extended to adjust for days when county offices are closed.

No aid shall be issued prior to completion of the fingerprinting process, and verification of income and non-citizen status.

Issuance of a GR-IN aid payment does not constitute approval of GR on a continuing basis and termination of such assistance does not require advance notification.

An exception to the GR-IN aid payment requirement may be made when it can be shown that the applicant has a history of non-cooperation with the Agency. GR-IN shall be limited to one issuance every thirty (30) days.

(2) GR Applicant Assistance

Applicant assistance will be authorized after the completion of the fingerprinting process and when the GR-EU has provided all mandatory verifications but is required to demonstrate cooperation with the MRT, SSI/SSP application process or the GRWP. Such assistance shall be limited to a period not to exceed thirty (30) days from the date of application, including the seven (7) days of GR-IN week, if applicable. Failure to demonstrate cooperation shall result in denial of GR.

.2 METHODS OF PAYMENT (cont'd)

(3) Continuing Payments

Issuance of a full month of aid without a break in aid constitutes continuing aid. Termination or reduction of continuing benefits requires ten (10) days advance notice except when aid terminates at the conclusion of a time limited eligibility period of thirty (30) days or less. See Section 110.1.

(4) Other

Other aid payments constituting a single issuance to a GR-EU may be authorized after the completion of the fingerprinting process. Examples include, aid to payday, transportation to other areas for non-residents, and other special need payments.

.3 BENEFIT DETERMINATIONS

The GR benefit is calculated as follows:

.a DETERMINE GR MAXIMUM AID PAYMENT (MAP) for the eligible members of the GR-EU.

- (1)** If some members receive CalWORKs or Refugee Cash Assistance, the GR MAP is the difference between the GR MAP for all members of the GR-EU less the GR MAP for those receiving CalWORKs or RCA.
- (2)** If some members are excluded due to receipt of SSI/SSP, non-citizen status, or other reason described in Section 20.4, the benefit will be based on the GR MAP for the number of eligible persons in the GR-EU.
- (3)** If an applicant/recipient shares housing with one or more unrelated persons or with one or more persons who are not legally responsible for the applicant/recipient, the MAP is reduced by 15% if shared with one (1) other person, 20% if shared with two (2) other persons, or 25% if shared with three (3) or more other persons.

.b DEDUCT EXCESS HOUSING/UTILITY COMPONENT VALUE

The excess housing/utility component value is the difference between the actual verified cost to the GR-EU and the maximum allowable GR housing/utility component for the aided GR-EU size.

.3 BENEFIT DETERMINATIONS (cont'd)

If the GR-EU is homeless, no ECV for housing and utilities will be deducted. However, if there is verification that the homeless GR-EU actually receives shelter or that shelter is realistically available, including an offer by the County of a shelter bed, the ECV for housing and utilities shall be deducted.

- (1) Verification of housing costs includes rent receipts, rental agreement, motel, hotel, campground receipts, trailer park, RV or mobile home space rental fee, mortgage payment or a statement of the amount owed for the current month.
- (2) Utilities are defined as electricity, gas, heating/cooking fuel, water, sanitation and/or the base cost of a telephone which is verified to be required for the health and/or safety of a member of the GR-EU.
- (3) Verification of utility costs includes paid receipts or canceled check for utilities as listed, current utility bill in the applicant's/recipient's name, statement from the manager/landlord/owner or person(s) in whose name the utility is billed specifying the applicant's/recipient's responsibility for payment.

.c DEDUCT NET EARNED INCOME per Section 70.2.o.

.d DEDUCT NET UNEARNED INCOME per Section 70.2.p.

.e DEDUCT DEEMED INCOME per Section 70.3.

.f Deleted effective 01-01-2014.

.g Current month underpayments will be adjusted promptly in accordance with Section 110.6.

.h When the GR benefit period is less than one month or when it overlaps two (2) calendar months, the benefit will be prorated.

.4 SPECIAL NEEDS

Special needs are defined as a payment for an item that has been requested by or on behalf of the GR-EU, including aid to payday, cremation/burial and transportation for non-residents. Special needs may be paid to a GR applicant/recipient in addition to the GR benefit and may be paid to GR-EUs who request a special need only payment.

A GR-EU does not have the same right to a special need payment as it has for basic GR assistance. The granting of a special need payment is fully at the discretion of the Agency Director or persons designated by the Director. There is no appeal right to the denial of a request for a special need payment.

Prior to authorization of a special need payment, the GR-EU must explore the possibility of having such need met by relatives or by community charitable organizations.

- .a AID TO PAYDAY** - A GR recipient who becomes employed may receive a special need payment pending receipt of his or her first paycheck. Aid shall not exceed the maximum monthly GR payment for the GR-EU size.
- .b TRANSPORTATION COSTS FOR NON-RESIDENTS** - Applicants who state that they do not plan to make Orange County their residence may be eligible to assistance in returning to their prior residence or to their destination providing they are otherwise eligible to GR. The applicant must also determine whether any community agency can provide travel assistance.

A person or family shall not be eligible to receive assistance with transportation to another area more than once in any twelve (12) month period.

Foreign visitors who are stranded in Orange County should be referred to the closest consular representative of their country.

.4 SPECIAL NEEDS (cont'd)

- .c BURIALS/CREMATIONS** - GR funds may be used for disposal of the remains of deceased indigents who were U.S. citizens or legal non-citizens when other resources are not available.

Cremation is the usual means of disposition of indigent dead, except that when the decedent owned a burial plot or when burial costs, including burial sites, do not exceed the rate currently set for cremation, funds for burial may be allowed. The rate paid for cremation shall be set by the County Board of Supervisors.

CREMATION/BURIAL RATES

AGE	RATE
13 YEARS AND OLDER	\$ 425.00
4 MONTHS TO 12 YEARS	\$ 212.50
Ø TO 3 MONTHS	\$ 106.25

Applications for county burial or cremation must be made by a relative of the deceased, the Public Administrator/Public Guardian's office or the County Foster Care program. Any available death benefits are to be paid to the County to offset expenses paid by the County.

.5 CALFRESH

GR cases are considered non-assistance households and may be certified for CalFresh if eligible.

.6 Deleted effective 01-01-2014.

.7 Deleted effective 01-01-2014.