

## FACT SHEET



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**CalWORKs Homeless Assistance (HA) Program**

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The CalWORKs Homeless Assistance (HA) Program was established to help CalWORKs families meet the costs of securing permanent housing. HA includes temporary HA, which helps families pay the costs of temporary shelter, and permanent HA, which helps families pay a security deposit for permanent housing or prevent eviction. Homeless CalWORKs families may receive either temporary or permanent HA, or both once in a 12-month period, with certain exceptions.

**Program Overview**

- The CalWORKs HA program serves eligible CalWORKs applicants or recipients who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- Types of Homeless Assistance
  - Temporary Homeless Assistance provides a payment of \$85 per day for a family of four or fewer, and an additional \$15 for each additional family member, not to exceed \$145 per day. Temporary HA is provided for up to 16 consecutive calendar days once in a 12-month period.
  - Permanent Homeless Assistance helps families secure housing by providing security deposit costs, including last month's rent, or helps families maintain housing by providing up to two months of rent arrearages. A permanent HA payment may not exceed two times the total rent amount and the monthly rent cannot exceed 80 percent of the total monthly household income and must be paid to a landlord in the business of renting property.
- CalWORKs applicants and recipients must have less than \$100 in liquid resources (cash on hand) and must be homeless or at risk of homelessness in order to qualify for HA benefits.
- Exceptions
  - If the family meets the criteria for an exception, a family may receive a second HA payment within the 12-month period.
  - Exceptions include:
    - cases of domestic violence
    - medically verified physical or mental illness
    - a fire or other natural catastrophe beyond the family's control

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- Exceptions are limited to one payment of temporary, permanent, or both in the 12-month period.

#### Recent Homeless Assistance Legislative Changes

- AB 1603 (Chapter 25, Statutes of 2016) increased HA eligibility to once in a 12-month period, from once in a lifetime.
- AB 557 (Chapter 691, Statutes of 2017) expanded HA eligibility to CalWORKs applicants who are victims fleeing domestic abuse, without regard to the income or assets of the abuser.
- AB 236 (Chapter 545, Statutes of 2017) provides Temporary HA benefits to CalWORKs parents engaged in family reunification.
- SB 1811, (Chapter 35, Statutes of 2018) increased the daily rate for Temporary HA to \$85 per night for a family of four, up from \$65.

The table below breaks down Homeless Assistance expenditures associated with the financial assistance that is provided to the family, broken down by HA type and numbers of families served in FY17-18.

Type of HA	Number of Families Approved	FY 17-18 Shelter Expenditures
Temporary HA	57,614	\$ 45,047,537
Permanent HA	6,276	\$ 9,049,130
Total	63,890	\$ 54,096,667