

**County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency (HHS)A)  
General Relief Program Guide (GRPG)**

**Public Assistance (PA) Benefits**

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**90-400.10**

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**Revision Date:**

September 11, 2017

**A. Background:**

This section provides the requirements regarding PA benefits in the GR Program. This section is revised to update CalWORKs eligibility for pregnant women.

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this section is to provide policies for PA benefits in the GR Program.

**B. Policy:**

All applicants who may be potentially eligible for PA benefits are required to apply for such benefits. PA benefits include income from Federal or State self-sufficiency program such as CalWORKs, Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA), Cuban/Haitian Entrant Program (CHEP), and Supplemental Security Income (SSI), whose eligibility requirements are based upon need, rather than based upon some type of prior contribution (for example, Unemployment Insurance Benefits (UIB), State Disability Insurance (SDI), etc.).

**C. GR from another County or State:**

Count GR or General Assistance (GA) benefits received in another County or State as income in the month of payment. Presume payments mailed by another County or State to have been received by the applicant, unless evidence is provided to the contrary.

**D. CalWORKs Benefits:**

All applicants, who may be potentially eligible for CalWORKs, must apply for such benefits prior to application for GR. Basic deprivation factors for linkage to CalWORKs include at least one parent (or stepparent) and a child (or unborn) in the home for which:

- Either parent of the child is deceased
- Either parent of the child is physically or mentally incapacitated
- Either parent of the child is continually absent from the home in which the child is living
- The primary wage earner parent of the child is unemployed.

Eligibility of children (not unborns) in CalWORKs is limited to age 17. Children age 18 may be eligible for inclusion only if the child is:

- A full-time high school or vocational/technical school student (as defined by the school)
- Expected (by the school) to graduate before reaching age 19 or has been considered disabled, and meets the disability criteria.

There is no CalWORKs eligibility for 19 and 20 year old children and there is no CalWORKs eligibility for the father of a CalWORKs unborn child, if there are no other common children in the case. However, CalWORKs is a resource for the father when the child is born.

CalWORKs families in which deprivation exists are ineligible for GR. CalWORKs families who have been discontinued or denied CalWORKs because of non-cooperation, receipt of a lump sum payment, receipt of excess income or property, receipt of Foster Care payments for related children, receipt of a sanction from the CalWORKs program or voluntary exclusion, are also ineligible for GR.

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Pregnant women, age 19 or older, with no other CalWORKs eligible children, are potentially eligible to CalWORKs starting in the second trimester. Potential eligibility to GR may exist for the first three months of pregnancy. Pregnant women under age 19 are potentially eligible to CalWORKs at any time. There is no GR eligibility for these women.

Do not refer an applicant to CalWORKs if the parent has had a court ordered or service placement of the only child outside the home. If the only child has been voluntarily placed outside the home by the parent (without court order or service evaluation), deny GR and presume CalWORKs to be a resource unless:

- The child has been placed outside of San Diego County
- The child is in need of protection or thought to be at risk of injury if reunited with the parent. Use available sources such as the Child Welfare Services (CWS) Social Worker, and/or documentation imaged in the case file to determine if the child is at risk. All steps taken in the determination process are to be documented in Case Comments.
- The applicant/recipient resides in a Licensed Residential Substance Use Treatment Facility.

If the only child of a parent receives SSI, CalWORKs may be an available resource to the parent. Refer the parent to CalWORKs, if other linkage factors are met.

There is no GR eligibility pending the approval or denial of CalWORKs benefits.

**E. RCA/CHOP Benefits:**

Refugees/Entrants who are eligible for CalWORKs, may be eligible for RCA/CHOP benefits only if they are within their first eight months in the U.S. and meet other eligibility requirements. Refugees/Entrants within their first eight months are ineligible for GR. Refer these individuals to the North Central FRC to apply for benefits to Refugees/Entrants.

**F. SSI Benefits:**

Refer to GRPG 90-400.9.

**Procedure:**

Follow the actions in the policies above to determine GR eligibility or the amount of income to count against a GR grant.

**Program Impacts:**

None

**References:**

W&I Code Sections 17000, 17016, 17020, and 17021  
San Diego County Administrative Code Sections 257, 257.1, 257.3,

**Sunset Date:**

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by September 30, 2020.

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Approval for Release:

*R. Wanne, 9-11-17*

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