

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

Excluded Income

Number	Page
90-400.13	1 of 3

Revision Date:

May 1, 2018

A. Background:

This section identifies the types of income that are excluded in the GR Program. This section is updated to provide revised instructions for bus passes and subsidized housing.

Purpose:

To provide information on excluded income in GR.

Policy:

B. Gifts:

Cash gifts received for birthdays and Christmas up to \$25 are exempt. Count any amount in excess of \$25 as income in the month received.

Count cash gifts on a regularly planned basis as income.

Exempt gifts of personal items and property (other than cash), but consider as property owned and subject to property limits.

C. Casual Income:

Casual income is:

- Income which is unpredictable as to amount and time of receipt
- Non-recurring
- Income which is of negligible importance in meeting continuing needs of the applicant.

Casual income when it does not exceed \$10 in any given month is exempt.

D. Partial In-Kind:

Partial food contributions are exempt. Examples are:

- Applicant/recipient eats occasional meals with friends or relatives
- Friend or relative occasionally brings food items to the applicant/recipient
- Applicant/recipient receives occasional meals in lieu of earnings from employment.

Exempt partial rent and/or utility contributions as income. An example is partial payment of an applicant's rent and/or utilities by a friend or relative. As long as cash does not pass through the applicant's/recipient's hands, the contribution is exempt.

If an applicant performs work for the landlord to reduce his/her rent, the rental reduction is considered a partial in-kind contribution and will be exempt income.

Bus or transportation passes provided by an organization, including the County, or any other individual or entity, are a partial need item and is exempt income.

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

Excluded Income

Number

Page

90-400.13

2 of 3

E. In-Kind Contributions of Non-Essential Needs Items:

Any item of need not identified in the Income-In-Kind Chart, contributed by friends, relatives, or others is exempt, provided that cash does not pass through the applicant's/recipient's hands. If cash is given directly to the recipient, consider such cash as income.

F. Board and Care Payments for Foster Care Children:

Board and care payments for Foster Care children are exempt. To determine the cost of housing when housing is shared with a Foster Care child, allow the applicant the prorated share (based on the Maximum Basic Need Chart).

G. Sheltered Workshop Earnings:

Income earned by Incapacitated Program recipients participating in a sheltered workshop while residing in an approved licensed Board and Care facility is exempt.

H. Income from Department of Rehabilitation:

Income received by recipients from the Department of Rehabilitation is exempt. Such income is usually intended to defray expenses involved with retraining programs.

I. Housing Subsidies:

Recipients in subsidized housing such as Section 8 Housing or Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP) may receive a subsidy for housing and/or utilities. These housing subsidies are exempt.

Section 8 Housing requires that the recipient obligate 25% of his/her own income toward housing and utilities. However, if the actual cost of utilities exceeds the 25% obligation, a federal subsidy is authorized for the difference. Because the 25% obligation is paid for housing and utilities (even if a subsidy is authorized), do not deduct from the GR Budget for in-kind housing.

HDAP is a new program that assists disabled individuals who are experiencing homelessness with applying for disability benefits, while also providing housing assistance. HDAP requires that the recipient obligate 30% of his/her own income toward housing and utilities. Because the 30% obligation is paid for housing and utilities, do not deduct from the GR budget for in-kind housing.

J. Transportation Incentives:

All income, allowances, or stipends identified or issued solely for transportation or mileage expense are exempt.

K. Training Incentives:

All training income, allowance incentives, or stipends identified or issued for various training expenses, associated with school or training are exempt. Examples include, but are not limited to, Mexican-American Advisory Committee (MAAC), Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA), and Workforce Investment Act (WIA).

Procedure:

Follow the policies in this section to excluded income.

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

Excluded Income	Number	Page
	90-400.13	3 of 3

Program Impacts:

None

References:

HDAP Flyer

Sunset Date:

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by May 31, 2021.

Approval for Release:



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Eligibility Operations