

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

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**Revision Date:**  
September 11, 2017

**A. Background:**

This section provides information regarding the determination of the type of budget unit in which the GR recipient is placed for the needs determination. This section is revised to provide updated instructions for residents of in Room and Board, Renting a Room, Board and Care, Substance Use Disorder Residential Treatment Facilities, and Homeless Shelters.

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this section is to identify the budget unit used when determining GR eligibility and grant amount.

**Policy:**

**B. Single Person Living Alone:**

An individual recipient, living alone in an independent living arrangement such as a hotel, apartment, or house, will have his/her needs figured at the Maximum Basic Need Rate for Singles (Bell v. Board of Supervisors). This category includes homeless persons and persons who pay for room and board, rent a room, or are in a Board and Care facility.

**C. Single in Shared Housing:**

Single GR recipients, who are sharing housing with others, including CalWORKs and SSI/SSP recipients, will have their needs figured as the Basic Need Rate for "Singles in Shared Housing." The rate for any recipient is based upon the total household composition, including the GR recipient. Although married spouses are financially responsible for each other, recipients of CalWORKs, SSI/SSP, or other Public Assistance program will not be considered financially responsible for the GR eligible spouse (Bell v. Board of Supervisors).

Examples of Single in Shared Housing:

- 18 year old discontinued from the CalWORKs case, but still living in the household
- Grandmother and grandchild on CalWORKs, grandfather on GR
- Single adult sharing an apartment with other people

**D. Married Couples:**

Legally married couples, living together in any shared housing situation, will have their needs figured at the Basic Need Rate for married couples. This includes same-sex couples with marriages lawfully performed in the State of California between June 17, 2008, and November 4, 2008, and as of June 28, 2013. Same-sex marriages from another state will be recognized.

Married couples in which one spouse receives PA (for example, CalWORKs, SSI, etc.) will have needs figured as a Single in Shared Housing for the spouse not receiving Public Assistance.

Couples (married or unmarried) ineligible to CalWORKs, with an unborn common child will have their needs figured as a married couple.

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Registered Domestic Partners (RDPs) that are registered with the California Secretary of State will also be treated as married couples. RDPs from other jurisdictions must be equivalent to a California RDP.

**E. Common-Law Marriage:**

California does not recognize common-law marriages made within this state. However, such marriages will be recognized as valid marriages if:

- It was made in a state which recognizes such marriages
- All conditions were met for that state to recognize the marriage.

Common-law couples will not have their needs figured at the Basic Need Rate for married couples until verification is provided.

**F. Unmarried Couples Living Together:**

An unmarried couple without children living in the same home will have their needs figured as Singles in Shared Housing with each individual having a separate case. An unmarried couple with an unborn common child will have their needs figured as a married couple.

**G. Room and Board:**

Room and Board refers to lodging, utilities, and food provided for a fee or in exchange for specified duties or services.

To determine eligibility for recipients paying for room and board, the resident or vendor must provide a written statement that it is a Room and Board situation and that the sleeping quarters are separate and apart from that of the family.

Figure needs as a single person living alone. GR recipients living with relatives will not have needs figured as Single Person Living Alone, but must be figured as a Single in Shared Housing.

If someone else is paying the full amount for housing, utilities, and/or food, count in-kind income for that item of need.

**H. Sober Living Homes:**

A Sober Living Home is a residence in which individuals agree to be substance free while residing in the home.

To determine eligibility for recipients residing in a Sober Living Home, the resident or vendor must provide a written statement that it is a Sober Living Home and that the sleeping quarters are separate and apart from that of the family.

Figure needs as a single person living alone. GR recipients living with relatives will not have needs figured as Single Person Living Alone, but must be figured as a Single in Shared Housing.

If someone else is paying the full amount for housing, utilities, and/or food, count in-kind income for that item of need.

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**J. Board and Care:**

Board and Care facilities are licensed facilities (see Desk Aid 90-500.2B) designed to provide those who require assisted living services, living quarters, and supportive care. These facilities can be located either in a small residential home or a large facility.

Residents of a Board and Care facility will have needs figured as a Single Person Living Alone. If any full item of need is supplied by the facility or paid for by another entity, in-kind income for that item of need will be counted against the GR grant.

**I. Renting a Room:**

Renting a room refers to lodging and utilities provided for a fee or in exchange for specified duties or services. Food is not included.

If an applicant/recipient is renting a room, figure needs as for a Single Person Living Alone.

**J. Substance Use Disorder Residential Treatment Facilities:**

The facility must be designated as a State-licensed Residential Substance Use Treatment Center (see Desk Aid 90-500.2B).

Take the actions in the table below for residents of these facilities.

<b>Step</b>	<b>Action</b>
1	Figure needs as for a Single in Shared Housing.
2	Presume the individual to be Able-Bodied. They must provide a medical statement if they claim to be Unemployable.

**K. Homeless Shelter and/or Transitional Living:**

These are shelters, providing lodging and may provide food for certain periods of time. These applicants/recipients will be aided as persons without residential addresses.

Income in-kind from the shelter will be considered if the item of need is provided for a full month.

**L. Pregnant Women Ineligible to CalWORKs – First three Months of Pregnancy:**

Pregnant women, age 19 or older, become CalWORKs eligible starting in the second trimester. Pregnant women under age 19 are CalWORKs eligible in any trimester. Pregnant women who are eligible to CalWORKs are ineligible to GR benefits. For pregnant women who apply and would be granted GR benefits during the first trimester, follow the actions in Processing Guide 90-500.2A.

**Procedure:**

Follow the actions in the policies above to determine the GR grant.

**Program Impacts:**

None

**References:**

W&I Code Sections 17000.5, 17001, and 17001.5(a)(2)

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Program Guide Letters 67, 72 and 73

**Sunset Date:**

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

**Approval for Release:**



Rick Wanne, Director  
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