



**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Social Services		(2) MEETING DATE 11/6/2018		(3) CONTACT/PHONE Trish Avery Caldwell (805) 788-2601	
(4) SUBJECT Submittal of a resolution outlining the County General Assistance program, an assistance program for those persons who are ineligible for aid under any other federal or state program, which will revoke and replace resolution No. 93-74. All Districts.					
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board approve, and direct the Chairperson to sign, a resolution outlining the County General Assistance program which will revoke and replace resolution No. 93-74.					
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) County 100%		(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$1,292,764		(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$1,495,764	
(9) BUDGETED? Yes					
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. _____) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. <u>30 min.</u>)					
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input type="checkbox"/> N/A					
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) n/a				(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: n/a <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5 Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A		(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No		(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A Date _____	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW Lisa M. Howe					
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts					



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Social Services/Devin Drake
(805) 788-2601

DATE: 11/6/2018

SUBJECT: Submittal of a resolution outlining the County General Assistance program, an assistance program for those persons who are ineligible for aid under any other federal or state program, which will revoke and replace resolution No. 93-74. All Districts.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board approve, and direct the Chairperson to sign, a resolution outlining the County General Assistance program which will revoke and replace resolution No. 93-74.

DISCUSSION

Background

County General Assistance (GA) programs are designed to provide financial relief and support services to indigent adults who are unable to support themselves by their own means or through other public funds or assistance programs. Each county's GA program is established and funded one hundred percent (100%) by its own Board of Supervisors (BOS). The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) requires each county to establish policies and procedures based on their unique demographics. Therefore benefits, payment levels, and eligibility requirements vary among each of California's 58 counties and are updated periodically to reflect CDSS changes to California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) and CalFresh laws which serve as a guide for policy decisions.

The County of San Luis Obispo GA program was initially approved by the BOS in February of 1993, Agenda Item No. B-22. Its objective is to provide reasonable support and assistance to County residents who are not otherwise eligible to receive benefits through federal or state aid programs such as CalWORKs. Conditions of eligibility include U.S. citizenship or lawful admission to the U.S as well as meeting income and resource requirements. In addition to financial support the GA program is intended to enable and encourage persons aided to find employment or if they are employable, to obtain job training.

To provide better support to our most at risk community members, and to align the County GA program with state and federal laws that govern public assistance programs, the program policies below are being proposed for the County GA program. In addition, the County shall expand services to GA applicants by accepting courtesy GA applications at all County of San Luis Obispo Department of Social Service regional offices. All processing, approval and case management services shall continue to be provided in the main office currently located in San Luis Obispo.

County General Assistance Proposed Changes		
Eligibility Requirement	Previous	Proposed
Student Eligibility	Full-Time student's ineligible to program.	Students who meet eligibility requirements may receive benefits.
Sanctions	No eligibility if timed-out of CalWORKs. Eligible once CalWORKs sanction cured and/or all children are 18 years of age or older regardless of being in the home.	Individuals are eligible if timed-out or sanctioned from CalWORKs and all other eligibility requirements are met and child(ren) no longer live in the home.
Property	Nonexempt property not to exceed \$250. Liquid resources not to exceed \$50. No exempt vehicles.	Nonexempt property not to exceed to \$500 for applicants and \$1,000 for recipients including liquid resource amount. One vehicle is exempt and one additional vehicle such as a recreational vehicle (RV), van, or camper may be exempt if used as a primary residence.
Evidentiary Hearing Notice of Action (NOA)	Evidentiary Hearing to be filed by client within 14-calendar days of the action taken.	Update County Evidentiary Hearing NOAs accordingly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add information informing client s/he shall receive a notice of hearing within 5 working days after Evidentiary Hearing request is filed. • Add information informing client the County shall conduct the Evidentiary Hearing within 10-working days after notice of hearing is served. • Provide a two-part NOA for filing an Evidentiary Hearing that separates hearing instructions from the request. • Provide option for how client would prefer to receive NOA (e.g., mailed or pick-up). • Allow clients 30 days to request an Evidentiary Hearing if not requesting aid-paid pending the hearing.
Housing Costs	Eligible to \$1 for every \$1 verified as spent on shelter up to a maximum grant based on the household size.	Housing costs shall no longer be considered as part of the grant calculation therefore clients shall no longer be

County General Assistance Proposed Changes		
Eligibility Requirement	Previous	Proposed
		required to verify housing costs to receive full GA grant amount for their household size.
Verification of Adult Children Living with Parents	Adult living with a parent(s) must provide third party verification(s) to verify in kind support provided or why no in-kind support is available.	No longer required.
Employable Client Job Search	At application, verification of job search for full week prior to GA approval. As a recipient, required to job search 9-noon, Monday through Friday and submit an Employer Contact Sheet weekly showing a minimum of 5 contacts.	A one-week initial benefit shall be issued once all applicant eligibility requirements are met. Verification of weekly participation is required for issuance of ongoing benefits. Align with CalFresh Employment and Training (CFET) program requirements.
Disability Verification	Disability verification required prior to approval.	Verification of disability shall no longer be required as part of the applicant eligibility determination process instead giving applicants reasonable time to verify disability status.
Aid-Paid-Pending	Not provided.	Allow for aid-paid-pending if Evidentiary Hearing request is received prior to effective date of negative action.
Employable Clients	If otherwise eligible, receive up to 4-weeks of benefits, followed by a discontinuance for a period of 30-days if not employed. Second occurrence discontinue for a period of 90-days; third occurrence discontinue for a period of 180-days.	If otherwise eligible, receive up to 12-weeks of benefits in a 12-month period which can be consecutive.
Drug Felon Exclusion	Ineligible.	No longer excluded as long as all other eligibility requirements are met.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

This resolution has been reviewed and approved as to legal form and effect by County Counsel.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The current FY 2018-19 adopted budget for General Assistance (GA) is \$1,140,764. The new recommended policy changes were not included in the adopted budget, however will potentially add an additional \$152,000 in GA expenses for a total of \$1,292,764. The \$152,000 is a preliminary estimate, which may change depending on how many applicants will be eligible to GA due to the policy changes. The department will monitor costs for the next two quarters and submit a budget adjustment, if needed, with the third quarter report as the actual impact on expenditures will be more evident.

The FY 2019-20 increase for the recommended policy changes is estimated at \$203,000 with an estimated total budget of \$1,495,764 and will be included with the FY 2019-20 requested budget when submitted in late January 2019. The funding source for GA is one hundred percent (100%) General Fund support, although recoupment revenue from Supplemental Security Income (SSI) to our county for applicable assistance payments will help to offset some of these costs.

Agency	Projected FY 18-19	Projected FY 19-20	Notes	Sharing Ratios		
				Federal	State	County
County	\$1,292,764	\$1,495,764	County General Assistance	0%	0%	100%

RESULTS

Approval of this resolution will align the County of San Luis Obispo GA program with federal and state guidelines and establish a client-focused program designed to increase support to this highly vulnerable population. The approval of this resolution supports the Department and County goal of ensuring all people in our community enjoy healthy, successful and productive lives, and have access to the basic necessities.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment I – Resolution for County GA Program
- Attachment II – County GA Program Resolution Attachment A
- Attachment III – County GA Program PowerPoint