



General Assistance Program

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Background

- Resolution adopting General Assistance was approved by the Board of Supervisors in February 1993
- County Policy was revised in May 2003
- No major updates have been made since that time



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Why are changes needed?

- Federal law has changed
- Changes are needed to reflect the needs of our community
- Providing better support to our most at risk community members will assist their efforts to become stable and self supporting



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Drug felon eligibility

- In December 2014 ACL 14-100 was issued
- Counties had the option to update their General Assistance regulations to align with this change
- San Luis Obispo County revised its policy on drug felon eligibility in the General Assistance program in June 2018 to align with CalWORKs and CalFresh drug felon guidelines



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October 1, 2018 Changes

- Courtesy applications received in all regional offices
- Verification of disability or verification of compliance with job search are no longer required prior to initial benefit issuance.
- Applicants are provided reasonable time limits to attend doctor's appointments to verify disability



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Additional October 1st Changes

- Housing costs are no longer considered as part of the grant calculation formula.
- Resource limit has been raised



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November 1st Changes

- Job Search requirements are now aligned with CalFresh Employment and Training (CFET) program requirements
- Benefit payment eligibility time frames have been adjusted
- Sanction penalties have been removed
- Student Eligibility has been updated



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Conclusion

- General Assistance program is now:
 - Updated to be in alignment with other Federal and State guidelines
 - In alignment with how other California Counties administer the program
 - More client focused and designed to support a highly vulnerable population



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Questions?



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