

About General Relief

The county-funded General Relief program offers short-term assistance to adults without children in the home, who need help to meet their most basic shelter and personal needs. Adults applying for General Relief fall under two categories: employable and unemployable.

Employable participants are required to participate in Employment and Training (E&T). Employment services include referrals to our Supervised Job Search to assist participants in building skills to seek and secure a job.

Unemployable participants must provide proof of disability. Many people in this group are awaiting federal government approval of their disability claims. Participants must sign an agreement to repay county funds issued through deductions from future disability benefits. Our SSI Advocates provide assistance with the Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) application process.

General Relief applicants may also be eligible for food assistance through the CalFresh program (formerly Food Stamps). As of 1/1/14, most General Relief applicants will be eligible for medical services under the Medi-Cal program.



Department of Social Services County of Santa Barbara

Daniel Nielson, Director

Office Locations and Phone Numbers

Santa Barbara: 234 Camino del Remedio
(805) 681-4401

Santa Maria: 2125 S. Centerpointe Pkwy
(805) 346-7135

Lompoc: 1100 W. Laurel Ave
(805) 737-7080

Department of Social Services County of Santa Barbara

"Helping our community be safe, supported and self-sufficient."

General Relief



BASIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Applicant must be a resident of Santa Barbara County for a minimum of 15 days prior to applying for General Relief.
- If applicant is in Santa Barbara County solely to enroll in a Drug/Alcohol recovery or treatment program, they are not eligible to General Relief.
- Must be a U.S. citizen or a Legal Permanent Resident.
- Must be 18 years old or over or any age if married or legally emancipated.
- Applicants are not eligible within 30 days from the date of a job quit or termination.
- Full or part time students are not eligible unless their education or training program is approved by the Department.
- Individuals fleeing to avoid prosecution for a felony, or custody, or confinement after conviction of a felony are not eligible to General Relief.
- Applicants are required to apply for all available income such as unemployment or disability benefits.
- Liquid assets cannot exceed \$50—cash on hand or bank accounts.
- A vehicle valued at \$1500 or less will not impact eligibility (encumbrances allowed); a second vehicle must not exceed \$500 in value; a vehicle is totally exempt as property if the client lives in the vehicle.

TIME LIMITS

Employable:

- Eligible for 3 months (90 days) in a 12-month period.
- Must participate in an E&T activity.
- Willful non-cooperation will result in 180 day sanction.
- Imposed sanctions or Periods of Ineligibility from other counties apply in Santa Barbara County.

Unemployable:

- No time limit if applicant's disability is verified by a licensed physician, psychiatrist or any other health professional who has knowledge, could verify and is treating the disability.
- The disability must last longer than 12 months and applicant is following through with the treatment plan.
- Applicant must apply for SSI, sign a lien, and cooperate with the SSI Advocate.
- General Relief program must be renewed every six (6) months.

OTHER HELPFUL INFORMATION

- Release of limited information to Law Enforcement is disclosed under specific situations only.
- The beginning date of aid for General Relief is the date all verifications are received.
- The first General Relief payment may be prorated based on the date all verifications are received.
- A “responsible relative” is considered to be the legal spouse or a parent of an unmarried minor.
- The ability of a responsible relative to contribute to the support of the applicant shall be considered during the eligibility process.
- In the case of a couple applying for General Relief, each individual must meet the rules regarding age, residency, citizenship, and employment requirements.
- If otherwise eligible, a pregnant woman with no other children in the home can receive General Relief payments until the second (2nd) trimester of pregnancy.

MAXIMUM LEVEL OF AID

- \$91 maximum for Personal Need for homeless individual without a housing expense.
- Up to \$300 for an individual living alone.

