

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES

AUGUST 22, 2022

GENERAL RELIEF POLICY HANDBOOK LETTER #7379

CHAPTER A – General Policy/Provisions Board of Supervisors

Overview

The General Relief (GR) Policy Handbook (GRPHB) Chapter A has been updated, following approval by the Board of Supervisors on x/xx/2022. This handbook letter includes:

- Removal of Food Special Need, and
- Minor formatting changes.

**Action time
frame**

High Level – Share with staff immediately.

**Filing
instructions**

Remove and Replace:

Pages: A-8 and A-9

Distribution

GRPHB

RRS:RA:mgk

Special Need Items

Introduction

Special Need items are items essential to the Applicant/Recipient's (A/R) subsistence.

The special need allowance is provided only to those A/Rs for whom an added cost is expected to occur but cannot be met through other resources, community agencies, etc.

The sum of the following must not exceed the CalWORKs Maximum Aid Payment (MAP) for the same size Assistance Unit (AU):

- Total General Relief (GR) cash grant, plus
- Transportation Special Need.

Special Need item – Transportation

The following table describes the types of Transportation Special Need items authorized under GR.

Type	Description
Local transportation	<p>Authorized when needed to meet medical appointments, work registration, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the form of bus tickets or gas cards.• A monthly transportation allowance may be authorized if transportation is needed to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Obtain medical treatment or medical tests at least three times per week on a continuing basis throughout the month.– Participate in a Transitional Assistance Department (TAD) approved rehabilitation plan where a transportation allowance is not available.– Meet all of the linkage criteria for employables on a continuing basis. <p>Note: The authorized amount may not exceed the existing San Bernardino OmniTrans rate for a monthly bus pass.</p>
Out-of-county or out-of-state transportation	<p>Authorized by TAD staff when needed by A/R to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Return to a former place of residence.• Reach a non-San Bernardino County destination. <p>Note: The court dependent child and his/her parents transportation needs are not met with GR funds.</p>
Full-time employment offer	<p>Authorized only to enable A/R to accept verified full-time employment offer and to enable him/her to become independent of aid. The criteria to be met includes, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There must be an actual offer of employment and it must be verified.• The method least expensive to the County will be utilized.• GR eligibility criteria must be met.
Meals with out-of-county or out-of-state transportation	<p>TAD staff will evaluate this need. Payment will be authorized using the following guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two meals per day per person.• At a rate of \$3.50 to \$5.00 per person per meal.

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Special Need Items, Continued

Special Need items – Other

The following table describes Potential other Special Need items authorized under GR. The method least expensive to the County will be utilized to meet the need.

Type	Description
Household Items	Items such as blankets, dishes, linens, hot plate, etc. Note: As a general rule items such as refrigerators, stoves, furniture, etc. are not allowed. Unless extenuating circumstances exist such as loss due to disaster such as fire, flood, etc. The maximum for these items is \$100 each, total of \$200 per AU.
Clothing & Shoes	The maximum annual payment is \$50 per A/R.

Special Need items – Medical

The following table describes Medical Special Need items authorized under GR.

Type	Description
Unmet medical needs	Items such as glasses, dentures, hearing aids are allowed when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The item cannot be obtained through other resources, and • Purchase will result in the A/R becoming employable, and thereby, eventually independent of aid.
Medical Services	Medical and mental health services are covered through a variety of health care programs (including Medi-Cal), with in-county providers available through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrowhead Regional Medical Center (ARMC) • Department of Behavioral Health • Department of Public Health

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