

Understanding General Relief



The General Relief Program can provide assistance with the most basic living needs, such as rent and/or utilities, to adults age 18-64, with no dependent children, who are legal residents of Ventura County, and who have no other means of support.

General Relief

The Human Services Agency's General Relief Program provides assistance to indigent adults with no dependent children. Eligible adults may receive assistance with basic living needs, when no other source of assistance is available. Eligible adults may receive direct payments to their landlords and/or utility companies, up to a maximum of \$310 per month, for a household of one. General Relief payments are a loan and must be repaid to the County.

The General Relief staff provides assistance to eligible adults who are deemed able to work, and those adults who are deemed unable to work because of a mental or physical disability. An assessment will be conducted to determine an applicant's ability to work. Certain activities will be required to continue receiving General Relief benefits, based on a person's situation. Individual's whose disability is expected to last more than twelve (12) months will be required to apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). If approved for SSI, the General Relief benefits paid by the County may be deducted from the initial SSI payment.

Support Services & Program Requirements

Activities Requiring Participation – In conjunction with their General Relief worker, applicants/recipients will be required to complete and sign a Personal Responsibility and Services Contract. This contract will serve as a way to assist participants with achieving self-sufficiency; and to determine the type of activities participants will be assigned to complete.

Support & Referrals – Eligible adults will be supported in their efforts toward achieving self-sufficiency through referrals to services including but not limited to: employment related workshops, job search assistance, and rehabilitation services. Participants will also have access to various services available through our local Job & Career Centers. Eligible participants will receive assistance with securing income through Veterans' benefits, Social Security, Workers' Compensation and/or Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

General Relief Frequently Asked Questions

What is General Relief? The General Relief program aids indigent adults who are legal residents of Ventura County and have no other means of support. It is a state-mandated program that is administered locally and funded by the County of Ventura.

Who is eligible for General Relief? Factors used to determine eligibility and benefits for the General Relief program include: income, identification, property, citizenship/immigration status, age and residency. An assessment will be conducted to determine if you are able to work. There will be certain activities that will be required based on an individual's situation. Property and income from any source will be considered to determine eligibility and benefits for the General Relief program. Income must be within the allowable income limits, property value cannot exceed \$1,000, and liquid

resources (cash on hand, checking/saving accounts, stocks, etc.) cannot be over \$100.

How do I apply for General Relief? To apply, contact the Human Services Agency office nearest to you. For office locations and telephone numbers, [click here](#). Once you apply, you will be interviewed to discuss your situation and need for General Relief.

How does a person keep her/his General Relief? To continue to receive General Relief, you must comply with required activities and maintain appointments. Additionally, you must notify your General Relief worker within five (5) days when there are changes to your situation, such as changes to your housing, living arrangements, employment, income or property.