



Social Services: Housing Supports in CalWORKs

CalWORKs families have several options to receive support to find and remain in safe housing. A family not receiving CalWORKs must apply for and be eligible to CalWORKs in order to access these programs.

CalWORKs is the State's program for administering federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families assistance (TANF). CalWORKs provides temporary cash assistance to families with minor children in the home or pregnant persons as they work to become self-sufficient. Families may be eligible for CalWORKs if they meet income, property and other requirements. The cash aid portion of CalWORKs helps families meet basic needs. The Welfare to Work (WtW) portion of CalWORKs offers services to help families reach the goal of self-sufficiency through employment.

CalWORKs workers know the living situation of the families they serve, and link interested families in the program to services that will best meet their housing need. If a family has a changed living situation, they can call 877-410-8809 and talk to a CalWORKs Eligibility Specialist who will link them to these services.

The different programs have varying definitions of homelessness, different requirements, and other differences that may be confusing. The worker will explain the options, rights, and responsibilities associated with the services being requested. All programs look at affordability and the total ongoing rent the family will be responsible for. While there may be money available in some programs for short-term assistance with deposits, rent arrears, temporary rental assistance, etc., in all cases the goal is for a family to have a housing arrangement that is safe and that can be maintained with the family income.

CalWORKs Housing Support Program

Families receiving CalWORKs who are homeless, or are at risk of homelessness, may be eligible for help with housing using the CalWORKs Housing Support Program (HSP). Possible services include housing search activities, rent assistance, rent arrears, deposits, transportation, renters' education classes, application or credit check fees, landlord recruitment and liaison, assistance with rental applications, identification of tenant screening barriers, credit repair, moving expenses and assistance with Section 8 applications.

The HSP Program may be able to assist families without an adult participating in the Welfare to Work program, for example, a parent who is "timed out" (reached the lifetime maximum of benefits used). There is an HSP Brochure; ask for it if not already provided.

Linkages

Sometimes families receiving CalWORKs are involved with Child Welfare Services (CWS). Linkages' goal is to decrease child abuse and neglect and improve outcomes for children and families by providing necessary services and supports through increased collaboration between CWS, CalWORKs and WtW. The coordinated service approach between these programs means that a family can be brought into Linkages by their CalWORKs worker, their CWS case worker or their WtW worker.

Family Stabilization

Family Stabilization services are extra services to help CalWORKs WtW participants fully participate in WtW. Family Stabilization services provide intensive case management, services, and referral to services for families with a destabilizing crisis including homelessness or imminent risk of homelessness. Family Stabilization services can assist with a broad array of challenges, including violence in the family, drug or alcohol problems, and legal issues as well as housing issues.

A parent participating in, or required to participate in, WtW is a requirement to be eligible for Family Stabilization services. If the only parent(s) in the home are undocumented non-citizens, receiving Supplemental Security Income/State Supplemental Payment (SSI/SSP) payments, or otherwise not participating, Family Stabilization services are not available.

There is a Family Stabilization services brochure; ask for it if not already provided.

CalWORKs Homeless Assistance

The CalWORKs program includes the Homeless Assistance (HA) program: limited help with temporary homelessness and assistance securing permanent housing. HA is available to meet the reasonable costs of securing permanent housing, to prevent eviction, and to meet the costs of temporary shelter while the family is seeking permanent housing. Assistance is limited to once in a 12 month period. There are exceptions to the 12 month rule.

HA is also available to pay up to two months of rent arrearages to prevent eviction. There are limits on how high the rent can be in relation to the family's total income.

Other Services for Families Needing Intensive Case Management

The Betty Kwan Chinn Homeless Foundation (BKCHF) and DHHS partner to provide services to homeless families. BKCHF provides housing and intensive case management for up to ten families.

Shelter Options

Call 2-1-1 Humboldt Information and Resource Center twenty-four hours a day for information on emergency shelters, transitional housing, and clean and sober housing.

Shelter Program	Location	Phone
Eureka Rescue Mission for Men	110 2 nd Street Eureka	707-445-3787
Eureka Rescue Mission for Women and Children	107 3 rd Street Eureka	707-443-5016
Domestic Violence: WISH Women & Children	Garberville	707-923-4100 800-211-1188 24 Hours
Humboldt Domestic Violence Services, Emergency Shelter 24 Hours		707-443-6042 24 Hours 866-668-6543 24 Hours

Other Resources for Those Who are Experiencing Homelessness

Program	Location	Phone
Betty Kwan Chinn Day Center	133 7 th Street Eureka	707-407-3833
Raven Project for Homeless Youth	523 T Street Eureka (Drop in center)	707-443-7099
DHHS Street Outreach Services (SOS)	Call for location	707-441-4614