

General Assistance Fact Sheet

WHO CAN GET GENERAL ASSISTANCE	Santa Cruz County residents 18 years or older may qualify, depending on income, resources, and other eligibility factors.
LOAN PROGRAM	General Assistance (GA) is a LOAN program. You will be required to apply for other types of available income as a condition of eligibility.
ELIGIBILITY BASICS	<p>Eligibility is determined by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US Citizenship of lawful non-citizenship • Must have a California Identification (ID) • Must be a resident of Santa Cruz County and intend to reside this county • Household/living arrangement • Income & Resources/Property • Student status
WHAT IS A HOUSEHOLD?	For General Assistance eligibility, a “household” is a family unit living together and sharing resources and expenses. All members of your household must apply for and be eligible to receive General Assistance.
INCOME	<p>All income received is deducted dollar for dollar from your General Assistance benefit. The income limit depends on your living arrangement.</p> <p>Income includes all earnings, self-employment income, alimony, child support, social security, SSI/SSP, unemployment benefits, state disability, worker’s compensation, cash gifts, pre-paid credit cards (including but not limited to Visa, MasterCard, American Express), loans, student financial aid and retirement income.</p>
RESOURCES	<p>To qualify for General Assistance, you must not exceed the following resource limits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash or other liquid assets – no more than \$200 per single person or \$300 per household • Vehicle – Vehicle value cannot exceed \$4,650 after deducting any amount owed; cannot own more than one vehicle • Property – may own a home in which you are living; the value cannot exceed \$25,000 after deducting any amount owed. The value of any other property will be considered a resource • The value of other property (not including personal household property, heirlooms and tools required to work) cannot exceed \$100 per single person or \$200 per household
COLLEGE STUDENTS	College students who can work (not disabled) are not eligible for General Assistance.
WORK REQUIREMENTS	If you are not disabled and are able to work, you will be required to attend a Job Search Workshop and look for employment. Before or after attending said workshop, you will be required to do 20 job searches. You must provide proof of your job search to your Benefit Representative on the 1 st and 15 th of each month. You must also accept any reasonable offer of employment.

General Assistance Fact Sheet

DISABLED PERSONS	If you are disabled, you will need to get a doctor’s statement. Most disabled persons will be required to apply for SSI and must work in cooperation with County staff during the application and approval process for SSI.		
HOW MUCH GENERAL ASSISTANCE WILL YOU GET?	Depending on your living arrangement and income: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single person with no rent = \$492; with rent can be a maximum of \$779 • Two-person household with no rent = \$608; with rent can be a maximum of \$1,000 For those living in a licensed board and care home, residential facility or recovery house, a separate benefit schedule is used.		
HOW TO USE GENERAL ASSISTANCE BENEFITS	You will receive your cash benefit on a plastic EBT (Electronic Benefits Transfer) card. You may use this card at any participating retail store, bank or ATM. You may receive some General Assistance rent benefits as a check payable to you and your landlord. These benefits are designated only to pay rent. Written landlord verification is required.		
YOUR RIGHTS	Whether you are eligible or not, you have the right to be treated with dignity, respect, and courtesy when you apply for General Assistance. The Human Services Department will not discriminate against anyone because of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, religion, age, sex, marital status, or condition of physical or mental disability. If you believe that you have not been treated equally, contact the Civil Rights Officer at (831) 454-4117.		
INTERVIEW LANGUAGE	Applicants may be interviewed in English, Spanish, American Sign Language, and others if necessary.		
HOW TO APPLY	<p style="text-align: center;">You may apply in person at either of our service centers</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> In Santa Cruz: 1020B Emeline Avenue Santa Cruz, CA 95060 (831) 454-4161 </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> In Watsonville: 18 W. Beach Street Street Watsonville, CA 95076 (831) 763-8500 </td> </tr> </table> <p>If you are unable to apply in person, call either of our offices, and we will mail you an application packet.</p> <p>You may also apply online at www.benefitscal.com</p> <p>You will be given an appointment to meet with a Benefits Representative. The appointment will take 1-2 hours. Benefits can only be approved if you are eligible, and we receive and process all required documents.</p>	In Santa Cruz: 1020B Emeline Avenue Santa Cruz, CA 95060 (831) 454-4161	In Watsonville: 18 W. Beach Street Street Watsonville, CA 95076 (831) 763-8500
In Santa Cruz: 1020B Emeline Avenue Santa Cruz, CA 95060 (831) 454-4161	In Watsonville: 18 W. Beach Street Street Watsonville, CA 95076 (831) 763-8500		

This fact sheet is not to be used as a substitute for Santa Cruz County General Assistance regulations.