



DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.



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October 10, 2017

Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

SUBJECT: Report from the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services regarding the General Assistance program and request to approve Resolution adopting revised General Relief Standards and Policies.

Dear Supervisors:

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Receive Department report on General Assistance program.
2. Authorize the President to approve Resolution adopting revised General Relief Standards and Policies.

SUMMARY: General Assistance (GA) is a fully county-funded program that provides a temporary cash assistance loan to eligible adults with no dependent children. The program was under a settlement agreement from June, 2013 to July, 2016, following a law suit from the Public Interest Law Project, which sued on behalf of two Marin residents. The end of the settlement agreement provided an opportunity to revisit the administration of GA and to create some programmatic shifts that shore up the program while still providing much needed safety net services for some of the County's most vulnerable residents.

Staff will present to your Board an overview of the program demographics, which will include a historical overview of program participation and reasons for shifts in volume and cost. It will also suggest new ways to explore a meaningful path towards self-sufficiency for those most in need.

The primary changes being proposed are firming up the residency requirements to ensure that program recipients are truly Marin County residents; requiring that all GA recipients also apply for Medi-Cal and CalFresh; shortening the time on aid for clients transferring in from other counties; and firming up the hearings and appeals process.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT: The community will benefit from the County's updated Standards and Policies of General Relief when applying for eligible programs.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal component associated with this item.

REVIEWED BY:	County Administrator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Department of Finance	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Human Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	County Counsel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>

Respectfully submitted,

Grant Nash Colfax, MD
Director

Munis Document #: Not required.