

- The county must tell you what special needs it can pay for and how to get them.
- During your application interview, mention any unusual needs your family has.
- On aid? Call your worker, then send the request *in writing*.
- Bring any proof with you that you have. For example, pictures of fire damage, a doctor's letter about medical equipment, etc.
- Get denials in writing.
- Ask to talk to a supervisor if denied. If still denied, ask for a hearing.

To ask for a state hearing, fill out the back of any Notice of Action or call 800-952-5253.

Call Legal Services

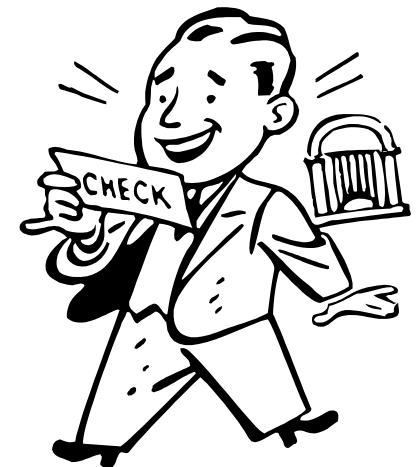
Prepared by
Legal Services of Northern California
www.lsnrc.net

CalWORKs

Making it Work for You

CalWORKs Special Needs Payments

*Getting What
You Need*





YOUR RIGHTS

WHAT ARE THEY?

- Special need payments are for things that are *not* needed by most people, but are crucial to *your* family.
- There are payments for on-going needs (needed more than one-month) and one-time payments for "non-recurring" needs.


ON-GOING NEEDS

These are the one-time payments for:


- **Therapeutic Diets** (Diabetic, High Calorie, High protein (including special infant formula), Lactation, Bland, Low Fat/Cholesterol, Low Salt
- **Special transportation** (such as really frequent or long trips for treatments) 
- **Special laundry** (such as extra washing for a medical condition)
- **Chore provider**, when no one in the house can perform the household tasks
- **Utility bills help** when you have an unusual need (such as a medical device with high energy use) 

ONE-TIME NEEDS

These are for **household emergencies** when you have a "sudden and unusual circumstance" that is:

- ✓ beyond your control **and**
- ✓ you have less than \$100.
- This payment is made *only*:
 - ✓ to repair damages to the home;
 - ✓ to replace clothing or household items; or
 - ✓ to pay for temporary housing if your home was *destroyed or made unlivable or inaccessible*. 
- The state has set a maximum amount per item that the county can pay. The total payments for this need cannot go over \$600 per emergency.

Pregnancy Supplement

- If you are *already on* CalWORKs, you can get an **extra \$47 per month** the whole time you are pregnant. You can start getting the extra money as soon as you give the county medical proof of your pregnancy. 
- If you are *applying for aid* with no other children, you get the Supplement in your 3rd trimester, when you turn in your proof.

Homeless Assistance

If you are on/applying for CalWORKs, you can get:

- **\$40/day for a motel** (for up to 16 days) if you:
 - ✓ Are homeless. (Includes staying at shelters, in cars, on the street, or with someone an emergency basis.)
 - ✓ Have less than \$100 in cash.
 - ✓ Look for permanent housing.
 - ✓ Have not gotten CalWORKs Homeless Assistance before.
 - * You can get help again if you are now homeless because of domestic violence, physical or mental illness, or your home was condemned or damaged by a fire/natural disaster.

If you qualify, you get the money the day you ask for it, unless the county finds you emergency shelter.

Move-in Costs

Money for last month's rent, utility, and cleaning deposits.

- ✓ You must prove you found a place to rent (commercial landlords only).
- ✓ Your share of the rent must be below 80% of your grant.
- ✓ You turn in a written rental agreement.

If you qualify, the county pay you the money by the next working day.