

## FUNDING STRATEGIES UTILIZED FOR GA PARTICIPANTS SAN FRANCISCO

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### **County Adult Assistance Programs (CAAP)**

The San Francisco Human Services Agency's County Adult Assistance Program (CAAP) is an umbrella program offering financial support and services for very low-income San Francisco residents without dependent children. CAAP consists of four individual programs:

**General Assistance (GA):** A basic, safety-net benefit program for very low income adults. Clients receive a grant of \$342/month unless they are homeless in which case they receive \$59/month. Homeless clients in GA (and the PAES, SSIP and CALM programs listed below) are provided housing/shelter, utilities and food in lieu of the maximum cash grant.

**Personal Assisted Employment Services (PAES):** This program provides a cash stipend and services to clients who are interested in pursuing employment. This program provides clients with employment assistance and training. Clients receive a grant of \$412/month, homeless PAES participants receive \$65/month. Note that we provide a higher grant level for PAES (and SSIP and CALM ) to motivate clients to get involved in appropriate employment and other support services.

**Supplemental Security Income Pending (SSIP):** This program is for clients with disabilities that have lasted or are likely to last 12 or more consecutive months. This program is designed to assist clients through the SSI eligibility process and get them enrolled in SSI. Grant level is \$412/month, homeless SSIP clients receive \$65.

**Cash Assistance Linked to Medi-Cal (CALM):** This program is for clients that receive Medi-Cal benefits because they are either aged or disabled, but do not currently qualify for SSI. Grant level is \$412 with homeless receiving \$65.

### **Funding for Housing and Support Services for Homeless CAAP clients**

CAAP provides homeless clients with housing and supportive services through the "Care Not Cash" Program. Care Not Cash was a San Francisco ballot measure approved by the voters and implemented in May 2004. This program reallocates a portion of the CAAP homeless cash grant towards funding for housing, and supportive services for CAAP clients. This measure is intended to encourage homeless CAAP clients to obtain housing and engage in case management and other supportive services, in order to promote self sufficiency and independence among San Francisco's homeless population.

Care Not Cash housing and the support services provided therein are funded through the Human Services Care Fund which totals approximately \$14 million dollars annually. The funding for the Human Services Care Fund is generated by two means:

- Savings accumulated from the reduction in the value of homeless grants provided by the City and County of San Francisco through the CAAP program. Prior to the implementation of Care Not Cash, the value of the homeless grants provided by CAAP ranged from \$332 for GA or \$410 for PAES or SSIP. Currently, the cash portion of the homeless grant is valued at \$59 for GA and \$65 for either PAES, SSIP or CALM. The difference between the total value of the homeless grant amount and the reduced cash grant amount is utilized to fund Care Not Cash housing and supportive services through the Human Services Care Fund.

- Savings accumulated from the reduction in the number of homeless CAAP grant recipients. Since the implementation of Care Not Cash in May of 2004, the number of homeless CAAP grant recipients has dropped from 2,600 homeless clients to 418 homeless clients (July 2009). The reduced CAAP caseload, resulting from the decrease in homeless CAAP grant recipients, yields cost savings which are also utilized to fund Care Not Cash housing and supportive services through the Human Services Care Fund.

For additional information concerning Care Not Cash contact Gregory Kats at [gregory.kats@sfgov.org](mailto:gregory.kats@sfgov.org)

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### **Funding for SSI Advocacy**

Title XIX, Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), allows county welfare agencies to draw down Federal funding for the cost of staff that assist clients to qualify for Medi-Cal. This funding is used to assist clients with SSI Advocacy because the application and qualifications are equivalent and when SSI is granted, the client is also awarded Medi-Cal.

Assistance can include practical aspects such as informing clients of the benefit of Medi-Cal, assisting clients in completing application materials, and collecting past medical records that are necessary to submit with the application materials. These types of activities are categorized as CSBG - Health Related and the block grant provides a Federal match of 50%.

The block grant allows for funding of physicians' and psychologists' time spent evaluating whether clients have disabilities that would qualify them for disability linked Medi-Cal and for the time spent documenting the results of these exams. These activities are categorized as CSBG - Skilled Professional Medical Personnel (SPMP) and the block grant provides a Federal match of 75%.

For additional information about the funding contact Thomas Neill at [thomas.neill@sfgov.org](mailto:thomas.neill@sfgov.org).

### **Other Funding for Employment and Training**

San Francisco's Food Stamp Employment and Training (FSET) program serves Non-Assistance Food Stamps (NAFS) clients, many of whom also receive General Assistance/General Relief benefits. (San Francisco requires all CAAP applicants to also apply for Food Stamps). NAFS clients who receive GA/GR benefits are primarily Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) who receive a cash grant and/or employment services through the GA/GR program. These services include vocational case management, vocational assessment, training and job placement. FSET provides a 50% Federal reimbursement for the cost of providing these services. All NAFS applicants and recipients may participate in FSET activities either as a mandatory participant or as a volunteer. To receive this funding, County agencies develop a plan which is reviewed and approved by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS).

For additional information concerning San Francisco's FSET plan contact Terri Austin at [terri.austin@sfgov.org](mailto:terri.austin@sfgov.org)