



Non-Recurring Special Need Payment CalWORKs FACT SHEET September 2025



During emergencies resulting from a sudden and unusual circumstance beyond the family's control, a CalWORKs recipient family may be eligible to receive a payment of up to \$600 as a non-recurring special need payment.

This payment would be used to repair or replace clothing or household equipment or to provide assistance for repairing damages to their home.

When the family is no longer eligible to the once-in-a-12-month period special need payment for Homeless Assistance, the \$600 non-recurring payment can be used to pay for interim shelter when the family's home was destroyed or made inhabitable or inaccessible.

The county must verify the loss due to sudden and unusual circumstances. The family must cooperate in verifying the loss. If the family is/was aware of the circumstances in advance of the event taking place, it is not considered sudden and unusual.

Once the event is verified, the payment will be made based on the following criteria:

- \$25 for each member of the paid assistance unit (AU)
- \$12 for bedding, dishes, kitchen utensils for each paid member of the AU
- \$142 for a cook stove
- \$190 for a refrigerator
- \$73 for a space heater
- \$143 for a double bed including mattress
- \$50 for other essential furniture.

When there is damage to the home, the non-recurring payment can be used to pay for moving and/or storage costs needed due to damage to the home. In addition, labor and material costs for repair needed for the home in which the family lives, and which a member of the paid AU owns, can be paid.

It is the responsibility of the recipient family to provide estimates of the costs associated with the need identified above.

Estimates must be provided for repairs needed if the request is due to damage to the home.

Estimates for the items in the list above can be provided from sources, including but not limited to, retailers of new or used items, newspaper ads, or any other source, including a sworn statement by the recipient.

The maximum amount of a non-recurring payment is \$600, whether needed for items in the bulleted list or repairs/damage to the home.

For more information, call DHA to speak with a staff member.