



Phillip L. Browning  
Director

## **8-Month Rental Subsidy Assistance FACT SHEET**

### **Background**

The Economic Stimulus Package signed into law in February 2009 by President Obama, allows States to access Emergency Contingency Funds (ECF) for a) Short-term non-recurring benefits, b) Subsidized Employment and c) Basic Needs. Currently, there is no rental subsidy in the State's CalWORKs program. With the County's high rents and the current economic crisis, homeless families often need rental assistance to remain housed once they have secured permanent housing. In order to optimize the ECF and to better serve our families, DPSS provides a rental subsidy for up to eight (8) months as basic assistance to CalWORKs cases where the adult is participating in Welfare-to-Work activities.

### **Up to \$300 Per Family**

Under the program, families receiving or eligible to receive Permanent Homeless Assistance or Moving Assistance (i.e., CalWORKs families who have just found permanent housing) may qualify for a rental subsidy of up to \$300 per family (based on the family size) for up to eight months. These funds are issued via two-party checks to the participant and the landlord. In addition, money management services and Transitional Subsidized Employment referrals are offered through homeless case management services to assist families in sustaining their housing and avoiding future homelessness.

Eligibility to RA is a two-step determination process:

Step 1 - Eligible Population:

Applicant/participant must:

- Be receiving CalWORKs;
- Be employed or enrolled in GAIN, if currently receiving CalWORKs, or be employed or enrolled in Post-Time Limited Services, if already exhausted the CalWORKs 60-Month Time Limit;
- Be eligible to receive Permanent Homeless Assistance and/or Moving Assistance; and
- Agree to receive RA payments.

Step 2 - Housing Situation:

If all of the above is met, the applicant/participant must have either:

- Signed a rental agreement to secure non-subsidized permanent housing within the past 30 days of the request for RA; or
- Found non-subsidized permanent housing and has requested permanent housing/Moving Assistance.