DEPARTMENT OF

SOCIAL SERVICES

Possible Cost Reductions to the General Assistance (GA) Program

COUNTY OF MONTEREY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
Working Together for Our Community

Presented by: Aaron McDougal and Becky Cromer
Board of Supervisor's Meeting, August 18, 2026

OVERVIEW

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- Aid Payments
- Proposed Cost Saving Measures
- Recommendations

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GENERAL ASSISTANCE

MONTEREY COUNTY AID - $1.8 Million

Monterey County's aid payments for the Fiscal Year 2024-25. The table below breaks down the payments by type of General Assistance Received.

Total Aid Payments	Amount
Temporarily Disabled	**$725,000**
Permanently Disabled	**$729,000**
Employable IE: Worked at Sites	**$190,000**
Job Search	**$105,000**
Other (Assistance Program, Time-Expired Refugee, Time-Expired Refugee Interim Assistance, CAPI, & Student/ESL)	**$54,000**

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TEMPORARY DISABLED RECIPIENTS

NO TIME LIMIT

Temporarily disabled individuals:

- Received $725,000 in aid during the review period,
- This aid was approximately 40% of the GA aid given,
- Received aid in excess of 6 months 59% of the time,
- Receive the maximum aid payment of $340/month majority of the time

Maximum Aid Payment	Total Cases	Cases Recieving Aid >6M
$340	296	174

Length of Aid	Cases Receiving Aid	Expenditure
Customers > 6M	174	$573,350

REDUCING TIME LIMIT OPTION

TEMPORARY DISABLED RECIPIENTS

Implement a **6-month annual time limit** option would:

- Provide savings of roughly $229,340,
- Reduce benefits to 6 out of a 12-month period.

Maximum Aid Payment	Total Cases	Cases Recieving Aid >6M
$340	296	174

Savings
$229,340

Length of Aid	Cases Receiving Aid	Expenditure
Customers > 6M	174	$573,350
If Same Customers Received 6M of Aid Maximum	174	$344,010

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REDUCING TIME LIMIT OPTION

EMPLOYABLE / JOB SEARCH

Implement a **3-month annual time limit** option would:

- Provide savings of roughly $64,355,
- Reduce benefits to 3 out of a 12-month period,
- Align with majority of counties in California,
- Allow more customers to gain work experience, as the number of available slots for employable customers would increase.

Total Cases	Total Cases Receiving > 3 Months
288	105

Total Current Expenditures	Current Expenditure for Customers Receiving > 3 Months	Expenditure for Same Customers if they Received 3 Months	
$294,139	$160,887	$96,532	Savings $64,355

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GRANT REDUCTION OPTIONS

Current grant aid amount is $340

Implementing a grant reduction option would:

- Impact grant recipients financially, and
- Allow flexibility in combining this reduction with a program time-limit reduction.

Grant Reduction	Revised Grant Aid Payment	Savings
$12	**$328**	**$ 58,929**
$50	**$290**	**$245,536**
$62	**$278**	**$304,465**

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COUNTY COMPARISONS

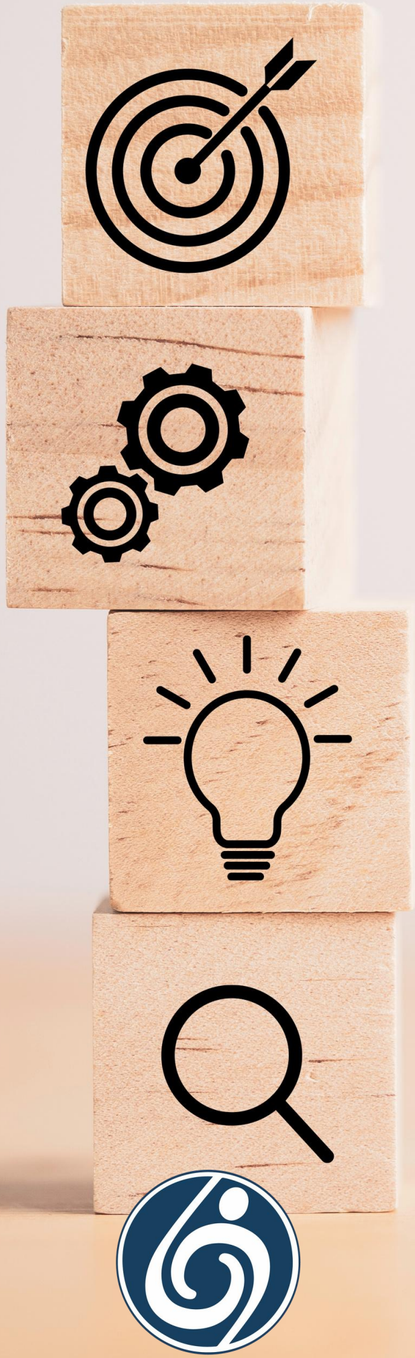
The charts below pertains to:

- Employable: meaning they are assigned work hours at our local sites, or
- Job Search: meaning they are employable, but for various reasons are unable to work at a work site.

Comparison & Non-Comparison Counties

County	Max Grant Amount	Months Allowed (Employable/Job Search)
Alameda	$336	3
Contra Costa	$336	3
Monterey	$340	6
Santa Clara	$343	Indefinite
San Luis Obispo	$355	3
San Benito	$364	3
Sonoma	$415	3
Santa Cruz	$640	Indefinite
San Mateo	$732	Indefinite

County	Max Grant Amount	Months Allowed (Employable/Job Search)
Los Angeles	$221	9
Fresno	$245	3
Amador	$331	3
Calaveras	unknown	3
Humboldt	$303	3
Placer	$326	3
San Diego	$589	3



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RECOMMENDATIONS

OPTION A: Implement a 6-month annual time limit for Temporary Disabled, and a 3-month annual time limit for non-disabled, employable recipients for a savings of $309,892; or

OPTION B: Implement a 3-month annual time limit for non-disabled, employable recipients, and a $50 grant reduction (from $340 to $290), for a savings of $309,891; or

OPTION C: Implement a 6-month annual time limit for Temporary Disabled, and a $12 grant reduction (from $340 to $328), for a savings of $304,466; or

OPTION D: Implement a $62 grant reduction, (from $340 to $278) not recommended; or

OPTION E: No modification to the program and the General Fund covers the approximate shortfall of $300,000.

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QUESTIONS?

http://countyofmonterey.gov/dss