Solving Problems

- Most proof of eligibility can be done later, to avoid delays in issuing the emergency benefits.
- Certain proof is required:
  - Eviction notice for back-rent help
  - Pregnancy verification for immediate need, if no other children in house
- Proof of immigration status for immediate need
- If denied emergency benefits, ask to speak to the worker’s supervisor. If that doesn’t work and you still need help, ask for an expedited hearing.
  - Call the state hearing office, (800) 743-8525, and tell them you need an expedited hearing.
- If you can, bring as much paperwork as you can, to avoid another trip to the office and for faster processing of your regular benefits.
  - Proof of age of children
  - Proof of residence
  - Your identification papers
  - Social Security Numbers
  - Proof of relation to the child
  - Proof of income and resources
  - If no other children, proof of pregnancy with expected due date
  - Proof of immigration status

How to Contact Bay Area Legal Aid

Office:
1735 Telegraph Avenue
Oakland, CA 94612

Hours:
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Legal Assistance Line:
(800) 551-5554

Health Consumer Center:
(855) 693-7285
Immediate Need
For CalWORKs applicants who can’t pay for basic needs (rent, utilities, etc.), if you qualify, you will:
• Get up to $200 within 3 days.
• If you have an eviction notice, get your full CalWORKS check in 3 days.
• Get your CalWORKS application processed in 15 working days (instead of 45).
• To qualify, you must seem eligible for CalWORKS based on your application, and:
  ◦ Have less than $100; or
  ◦ Have an emergency such as a lack of food, housing, or other essentials such as clothing or diapers; or
  ◦ Are facing a pending eviction.
• Welfare to Work requirements can be modified or waived in the event of an emergency or disaster

Emergency CalFresh
• Receive CalFresh in 3 days if:
  ◦ Your rent and utilities are more than your income or resources can cover, or
  ◦ You have less than $100 in resources.
• If you are required to work to receive CalFresh, your work requirements may be waived in the event of an emergency or disaster

Homeless Assistance
CalWORKs eligible families and pregnant women can get:
• $85/day for a motel ($15/per person extra if more than 4 people) for up to 16 days if you:

Types of Emergency Aid
- Have less than $100 in cash.
- Are homeless and looking for permanent housing.
- Have not gotten CalWORKs Homeless Assistance in the last 12 months.
  ◦ 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.
- Back rent
  ◦ You can get up to two months rent to prevent an eviction. You must provide the “pay rent or quit” notice.
- Move-in Costs
  ◦ Money for last month’s rent, security, utility, & 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 household income.
  ◦ If you qualify, the county must give you the motel money the same day, or find shelter for you; it must pay the move-in money by the next day.
  ◦ You turn in a written rental agreement.

Household Emergency
If you receive CalWORKs, you may receive payments for things lost/destroyed by an emergency. It must be a “sudden and unusual” situation beyond your control.
• You must have less than $100 in resources.
• You can get help with:
- Repair or replace clothing or household equipment (beds, clothing, stoves, etc.)
- Help fix damages to the home
- Pay for interim shelter (home destroyed, made uninhabitable or inaccessible) - if not eligible for Homeless Assistance.
• The county can give you donations or used goods, instead of a payment.
• The maximum for all needs is $600, but each need has its own payment cap.

Medi-Cal
• Medi-Cal covers emergency services regardless of immigration status. An emergency medical condition is when you are pregnant, or your health would be at serious risk if you didn’t get immediate medical attention. Labor and delivery and kidney dialysis treatment are emergency conditions.
• If you are low-income, County health will cover all or part of your medical costs, including emergency care.
• You can also get screening and treatment for breast and cervical cancers if you are low-income and qualify.
• If you are pregnant, many health care providers can give you immediate pregnancy services under “Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women” program, even before you apply for Medi-Cal.
• Medi-Cal’s Hospital Presumptive Eligibility Program (HPE) gives eligible individuals immediate access to temporary, free Medi-Cal while waiting for permanent Medi-Cal approval through qualified HPE providers.