

# CASH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR IMMIGRANTS FACT SHEET

## ABOUT THE CASH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR IMMIGRANTS

The Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) provides cash aid to legal permanent residents of the United States who are aged, blind or disabled and have been denied Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or State Supplementary Payment (SSP) benefits due to their immigration status. CAPI applicants can apply for and receive General Assistance (GA) while a CAPI determination is being made.

## BENEFITS

CAPI provides monthly cash assistance to help pay for living expenses such as rent and utilities.

## PAYMENT AMOUNTS as of January 1, 2026

Individuals	Independent Living	Independent Living-No Kitchen	Non-Medical Board and Care	Household of Another
Aged and/or Disabled Individual	\$1,233.94	\$1,362.81	\$1,626.07	\$907.87
Disabled Minor Child	\$1,091.27			\$765.20
Blind Individual	\$1,318.32		\$1,287.07	\$992.25

Couples-Both CAPI	Independent Living	Independent Living-No Kitchen	Non-Medical Board and Care	Household of Another
Aged and/or Disabled Couple	\$2,098.83	\$2,356.57	\$3,252.14	\$1,609.70
Blind Couple	\$2,324.35			\$1,835.22
Blind Person with Aged or Disabled Spouse	\$2,238.44			\$1,749.31

## ELIGIBILITY

Individuals may be eligible for the Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants if they meet the following criteria:

- Be at least 65 years old, OR
- Meet Social Security's definition of disability or blindness.
- Reside in California
- Show proof that you applied for SSI/SSP and have been denied due to your immigration status
- Have income and resources below the CAPI limits
- Certain immigrants who entered the United States before August 22, 1996
- Sponsored immigrants who entered the United States after August 21, 1996 and the sponsor is deceased, or disabled, or abusive (or the sponsor's spouse is abusive)
- Certain immigrants who:
  - Entered the United States after August 21, 1996; and
  - Do not have a sponsor; or
  - Have a sponsor who is not deceased, disabled or abusive.

## LIMITS

The property limit for CAPI is \$2,000 if you are single and \$3,000 if you are married. CAPI does not count your home, car, and certain other resources when figuring out your eligibility.

CAPI applicants cannot have countable income (income after certain deductions have been applied) greater than the maximum benefit rate. While that figure varies depending on age, living situation and disability, the 2026 monthly limit is \$1,233.94 for an individual living in their own home and \$2,098.83 for couples (if both are on CAPI).

## SPONSOR

Usually, if you have a sponsor, their income and resources are considered when determining your CAPI eligibility. Their spouse's income and resources are also considered. This is a process called deeming. Your sponsor's income and resources will not be deemed if:

- You are a victim of abuse, a child who is a victim of abuse, or a parent whose child is a victim of abuse; OR

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- Your sponsor can not meet your basic needs and are therefore eligible for the indigence exception.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

The application for CAPI includes completion of forms and an interview with a Benefit Representative. Aid cannot begin until all conditions of eligibility have been verified. As an applicant, you must:

- Provide identification (Legal Permanent Resident card, passport, birth certificate)
- Provide proof of residency (Rent or mortgage receipt or utility bill)
- Provide proof of income (Pension, annuity, unemployment, disability, or pay stubs)
- Provide proof of property/resources (bank accounts, savings bonds, stocks, life insurance policies, vehicle registration, land deeds)
- Apply for potentially available income
- If sponsored, provide Sponsor's information

After you submit your application, you will meet with a County Representative who will review your application for completeness and gather all supporting documents.

**NOTE:** CAPI applications received by the County of Santa Cruz are not processed by County of Santa Cruz Employment and Benefit Services Division (EBSD). EBSD is a member of the Bay Area CAPI Consortium and all CAPI applications are sent to the County of San Mateo Human Services Department for eligibility determination of applications and case maintenance of approved cases.

## INTERVIEW LANGUAGE

Applicants may be interviewed in the following languages: English, Spanish, and others if necessary. Hearing impaired services are also available.

## YOUR RIGHTS

Whether you are eligible or not, you have the right to be treated with dignity, respect, and courtesy when you apply for CAPI. The Human Services Department will not discriminate against anyone because of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, religion, age, sex, sexual or gender orientation, marital status, pregnancy, or physical or mental disability. If you believe that you have not been treated equally, contact the **Human Services Department Civil Rights Coordinator at (831) 454-4117**.

## TO APPLY

Applications can be submitted in person, by fax or mail or via phone.

**IN PERSON:** Visit us at one of our Human Services Department Customer Service Centers:

- 1020 Emeline Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
- 500 Westridge Drive, Watsonville CA 95076
- Customer Service Centers are open 8 am - 5 pm., Monday - Friday
- TTY for Hearing Impaired (831) 454-4763

Call our **Phone Customer Service Center at 1 (888) 421-8080** to have an application mailed to you. Once completed, the application can be FAXED to (831) 786-7100 or MAILED to: Human Services Department P.O. BOX 1835 Santa Cruz, CA 95061.

**BY PHONE:** Apply by phone by calling our **Phone Customer Service Center at 1 (888) 421-8080 Monday – Friday 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

- If you cannot get to the office, someone who knows your circumstances, and is authorized by you, can apply and be interviewed for you.
- If you are disabled and cannot get someone to apply for you, you can apply by mail or phone by calling our **Phone Customer Service Center at 1 (888) 421-8080**.

**DISCLAIMER:** This Fact Sheet is not a substitute for State CAPI regulations. The County of Santa Cruz Human Services Department has copies of the state regulations you may review.