

## **CalWORKs Housing Support Program (HSP)**

In order to be eligible to the Housing Support Program, customers must be determined eligible and active with CalWORKs services **AND** be currently homeless.

For the purpose of this program, homelessness is defined as:

- Lacking a fixed and regular nighttime residence; or
- Having a primary nighttime residence that is a supervised publically or privately operated shelter; or
- Residing in a public or private place no designed for regular sleeping accommodation for human beings; or
- In receipt of a judgment for eviction, as ordered by a court.

The Department of Social Services contracted with the Housing Resource Center of Monterey County to provide direct services for the Housing Support Program. Under this program, families will receive progressive, ongoing case management services, assistance in locating, and retaining housing units.

Assistance may include:

- Rental application fee(s)
- Rent arrears
- Credit report(s)
- Moving expenses
- Rental payment(s)
- Security deposit(s)
- Unexpected financial burdens (ex. emergency car repairs)
- Utility deposits
- Utility payments

Families interested in accessing these services must contact their Eligibility Worker to request a referral to the Housing Support Program.

For additional information regarding the Housing Support Program, contact the Community Action Partnership office at (831) 796-1553.

## Housing Support Program Customer Testimony

I am 51 years old and my daughters are 12 and 13 respectively. I could have been standing next to you and you would not have known I was Homeless, unless I told you. Before our life turned upside down, you could have found us working in our garden, canning, cooking, feeding our chickens, collecting eggs, and caring for our 3 cats and 2 dogs. We lived in a 4 bedroom house and life was great up until the point where I was victimized.

My daughters and I have been homeless since August 2014. I suffer From PTSD and Clinical Depression as a result of surviving an aggravated assault in 2002 while 4 months Pregnant in Arizona. I went through a reconstructive surgery to rebuild my left eye socket. I ran as far as I could to survive. My mistake was letting my guard down. I began to believe he could never find us.

My daughters and I have spent the last year floating from one spot to another just to survive. I spent my days looking for housing; trying to locate resources to help house my family. I contacted CalWORKs, SSI, Housing Authority, CHISPA, etc...We were referred from one agency to the next always being told "We are sorry, we are unable to help you. Have you tried...?" My desperation and frustration started building.

I started taking my daughters to Dorothy's Place Hospitality Center for showers and to eat... I learned about a homeless forum at the Methodist Church and decided to go and speak about the lack of housing services for single parent families. I spoke with several people. A lady approached me and told me I should look into having my Eligibility Worker refer me to the Housing Support Program. I received a call from the case manager at Housing Resource Center who assigned me to a Housing Specialist. At the same time I was connected with a case manager at Dorothy's Place.

Through the Housing Support Program and all of the housing support services I am now blessed with an amazing two bedroom apartment. I have been able to keep my children safe and keep our dog with us. I am so very thankful to for the assistance received while putting my life back together.

Thank you

