

The background features a light blue gradient with a pattern of stylized, overlapping leaves and branches in various shades of blue and white. The text is centered on this background.

Santa Barbara County

**General Relief
Program**

General Relief (GR)

- State mandated by W&I Code Section 17000 et. seq.
- 100% county funded
- County specific regulations developed by DSS
- Approved by Board of Supervisors
- Program designed around community resources and fiscal restraints

General Relief (GR)

- Required by state law to provide financial relief to unemployed and incapacitated who are not eligible to assistance from any other source
- Intended to provide short-term assistance while recipient seeks other means of support
 - Employment
 - UIB / DIB
 - SSI / SSP

General Relief (GR)

- Entitlement cash assistance program
- Recipients remain eligible if they:
 - Remain within income / resource limits
 - Cooperate with all mandatory requirements
 - work search
 - work project
 - treatment of incapacity to become employable
 - application for SSI/SSP if permanently disabled

Grant Amount

- \$300 max per month
- Methodology found in W&I Code 17000 et. seq.
- Average max grant of contiguous counties is \$292
- Average max grant of similar size counties is \$318
- Average max grant of regional housing market counties is \$321
- Santa Barbara County has not increased or decreased standard of aid since 1993

Assistance Standards / Method of Payment

- \$300 one person
- \$403 married couple
- \$91 if no shelter expenses incurred
- Issued through EBT directly to recipient
- Vendor payment directly to landlord may be issued by request of recipient

Caseload Statistics

■ Fiscal Year 03/04 Applications

- Applications are higher than same period in FY 02/03
 - FY 03/04 FY 02/03
 - April – 333 April – 276
 - May – 299 May – 275
 - June – 340 June – 294

■ Fiscal Year 03/04 Active Cases

- Caseload peaked in April – 720
- Caseload has started a downward trend, although still higher than same period in FY 02/03
 - May – 653
 - June – 609

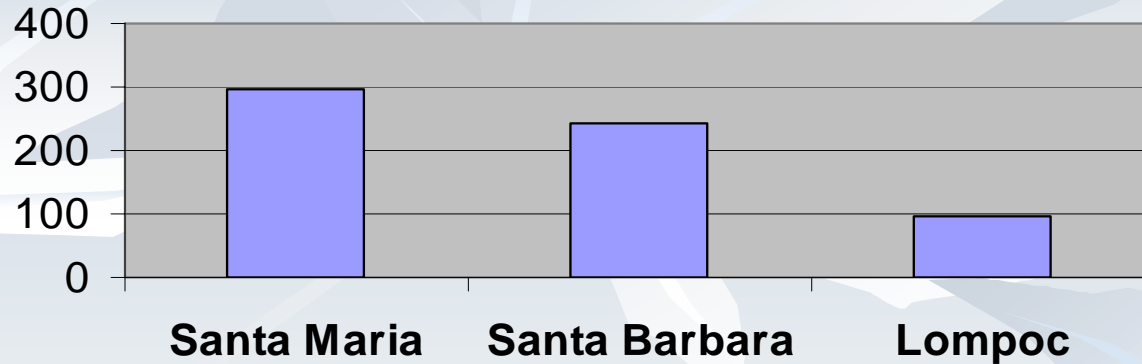
■ Fiscal Year 03/04 Average Cases Per Month 630

■ Fiscal Year 02/03 Average Cases Per Month 531

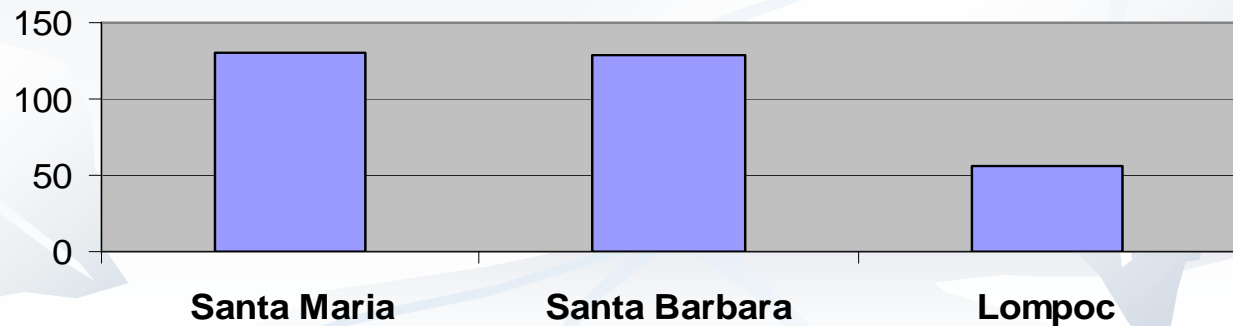
■ Fiscal Year 01/02 Average Cases Per Month 533

General Relief Caseload by Office

Active Cases



Monthly Applications



Caseload Demographics

■ Age

18 – 25 = 15%

26 – 40 = 28%

41 – 60 = 52%

61 + = 5%

■ Sex

Male = 64%

Female = 36%

Applicant History

- 11% = From other counties or states
 - 6% from Kern, Ventura or San Luis Obispo
- 9% = Released from prison

Employability Status

Employable / Able-Bodied

- 38% - Able-bodied / employable
 - marginal skills, education or training
 - many have alcohol / substance abuse issues
 - many have criminal records
- Must look for work
- Must co-operate with work project assignments
 - grant ÷ minimum wage = # of hours worked
 - work at:
 - D.S.S
 - Parks
 - Food Banks
 - Salvation Army
- Must co-operate with work project assignments or are discontinued
 - fail work project
 - loss of contact
 - failure to follow through and provide verification
- If discontinued for failing work project sanctioned for 180 days

Disability Status

Temporarily Incapacitated

- 28% have a temporary injury / illness that prevent them from employment
- minor injuries / illness not expected to last any more than one year
- must find treatment and follow through to become employable

Permanently Disabled / SSI Pending

- 34% have permanent or serious illness / injuries
- must apply for and cooperate with SSI application process
- 2 social workers assist with SSI application process
- county is reimbursed when SSI is granted
 - \$22,000 average per month back to General Fund

Living Arrangements

- 24% incur no shelter costs
 - live with family / friends
 - camp / auto / van
 - homeless
- 5% live in single room occupancy hotels or board and care facility that requires recipient to request vendor pay

Expenditures

- **FY 04/05 Recommended Budget**
 - **Aid Payments** **\$1,561,356**
 - **Budget Expansion Request** **\$237,444**
 - **Administration** **\$568,267**
 - **Total GR Budget FY 04/05** **\$2,367,067**

Key Program Components, Surrounding Counties

	Santa Barbara	Kern	San Luis Obispo	Ventura	Los Angeles
Caseload	688	195	131	106	66,224
Standard of Aid	\$300	\$336	\$315	\$296	\$212*
Vendor Pay or voucher, <u>no</u> cash issued	no, vendor pay on request; cash to recipient	yes	yes	yes	yes
Deduction from grant when housing is shared	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
EBT	yes	no	no	no	yes
Time Limit, Employables	no	yes, 3 months	No, grant aid one week at a time.	no, honor sanctions from other counties, offer case management services	yes, 9 months

*Los Angeles is a “distress” county 15

Recommended Options

- Vendor pay housing
- Shared housing deductions if recipient lives with others
 - living with 1 other = 15% reduction in grant
 - living with 2 other = 20% reduction in grant
 - living with 3 or more = 25% reduction in grant
- Time limit of 3 months in 12 months for recipients who are deemed to be able-bodied / employable