

Summary of Eligible Housing Assistance Fund (HAF) Expenses – April. 2024

The provision of rental assistance and deposits for units in incorporated Santa Cruz County, and home furnishings through the Housing Assistance Fund was placed on a temporary pause in Dec. 2023 due to the depletion of funding sources needed to cover costs. This list serves to inform providers of current HAF eligible expenses and will be used to update the HAF policies last revised in May 2023. For further information about the HAF program, see its policy document available on the Housing for Health Partnership website: <https://housingforhealthpartnership.org/ForProviders/HousingAssistanceFund.aspx>

Assistance Limits Reminder:

- Household of 1 person = up to \$5,000 (plus \$500 per additional adult household member)
- Households with minor children = up to \$8,000
- Essential home furnishings = up to \$1,500 (plus \$500 per additional household member)
- Maximum amounts available per category may differ on a case-by-case basis. If the total amount is not expended, households with an eligible situation may return for additional assistance within the year until household funding limits are reached.

Eligible Expenses

- **Prevention Assistance –**
 - Up to three month's rental arrears and up to three month's forward rent for all areas of Santa Cruz County
 - Can include rental assistance for people that have moved into a unit and are still waiting for Housing Authority voucher to activate up to 2 months.
 - Does include 1st month's rent and an additional month of rental assistance if needed, into a unit from homelessness.
- **Security Deposit Assistance –**
- **Homeward Bound –** See Brian Land's HB Guidance Document for additional information.
- **Housing Pathways Scholarship Program**
- **Supportive Services**
 - Moving Costs: One-time moving costs including truck rental and moving company
 - Child Care: Childcare vouchers, including meals and snacks.
 - Children must be under 13 or under 18 for disabled children.
 - Child-care center must be licensed.
 - Education – Basic knowledge/educational skills training
 - Eligible trainings: consumer education, health education, substance abuse prevention, literacy, ESL, and GED
 - Component services: screening, assessment, testing fees, tutoring, books, supplies, course materials, educational counseling.
 - Employment Assistance and Job Training – Costs of employment assistance and job training, including classroom, online and/or computer instruction, on-the-job instruction, services that assist individuals in securing employment, acquiring learning skills, and/or increasing earning potential.

- Costs to acquire vocational licenses and/or certificates.
 - Book and instructional materials
 - Special training and tutoring, including literacy training and pre-vocational training.
- Life Skills Training – Costs of teaching critical life management skills that may have never been learned or have been lost during the course of physical or mental illness, dv, substance abuse, and homelessness. Services must be necessary to assist participant to function independently in the community. Examples are budgeting of resources and money management, household management, conflict management, shopping for food and other needed items, nutrition, use of public transportation, and parent training.
- Food – Meals or groceries for non-CalFresh eligible participants
- Housing Search and Counseling Services
 - Housing application fees
 - Mediation with property owners and landlords on behalf of participants
 - Credit counseling, resolving personal credit issues.
- Legal Services – Fees charged by licensed attorneys and persons under the supervision of licensed attorneys, for advice and representation in matters that interfere with the homeless individual or family's ability to obtain and retain housing.
 - Eligible subject matters are child support; guardianship; paternity; emancipation legal separation orders of protection and other civil remedies for DV/stalking/sexual assault/dating violence victims; appeals of veterans and public benefit claim denials; landlord tenant disputes; and the resolution of outstanding criminal warrants.
 - Component services: receiving and preparing for trial, provision of legal advice, hearing representation and legal counseling.
 - Fees based on the actual service performed (i.e., fee for service) are also eligible, but only if the cost would be less than the cost of hourly fees. Filing fees and other necessary court costs eligible.
 - Ineligible: Legal services for immigration and citizenship matters and issues related to mortgages and homeownership. Retainer fee arrangements and contingency fees are ineligible.
- Mental Health services – Direct outpatient treatment of mental health conditions provided by licensed professionals. Component services include crisis interventions, counseling, individual, family or group therapy; prescription of psychotropic medications when not covered by insurance.
- Outpatient Health Services – Eligible costs are the direct outpatient treatment of medical conditions when provided by licensed medical professionals for preventative and non-cosmetic medical and dental services not fully covered by medical insurance.
- Outreach services – Addressing urgent physical needs, such as providing meals, blankets, clothes or toiletries.
- Substance abuse treatment services – Costs of program participant intake and assessment, outpatient treatment, group and individual counseling, and drug testing. Inpatient detoxification and other inpatient drug or alcohol treatment ineligible.
- Transportation – Eligible costs include:
 - Costs of travel on public transportation

- If public transportation options not sufficient within the area, one-time payment for car repairs. Payment may not exceed 10% of the vehicle's Blue Book value.
- Utility deposits – One-time utility deposit fees paid directly to utility company (water, PG&E, etc.).