

Access and Benefits

1. How does someone access public assistance programs?

The public is encouraged to access public assistance programs including Medi-Cal, CalFresh, General Relief, and CalWORKs by applying for benefits online at [MyBenefitsCalwin](#). The worker that evaluates the application can assist to link to other resources in the community. For General Relief, appointments and interviews are conducted by phone unless the client does not have a phone, or if an urgent situation exists that requires them to come to a Family Resource Center in person.

2. Do extra CalFresh benefits affect Social Security benefit amounts?

The extra CalFresh benefits have no bearing on Social Security benefits or any of the other Self-Sufficiency programs that HHS administers including CalWORKs, Medi-Cal, General Relief.

3. What is the Landlord Engagement Assistance Program?

The San Diego Housing Commission's (SDHC) Landlord Engagement and Assistance Program (LEAP) engages with landlords to increase the inventory of units available to people who are experiencing homelessness. The LEAP offers financial incentives to landlords within the City of San Diego and financial assistance on behalf of someone who is experiencing homelessness, including application fees, security deposits and the Landlord Contingency Fund. For specific questions about LEAP, please contact: housingfirstsandiego@sdhc.org.

4. How do people experiencing homelessness access DMV services?

All DMV offices are open. Services offered vary between locations. It's now possible to complete an Identification Card and/or a Driver's License application online prior to visiting a DMV Field Office. Please visit [DMV Website](#) for the most current information regarding accessing services as these are changing with each new phase of reopening. DMV can be contacted to obtain free ID vouchers.

5. How can people who are homeless charge phones and computers so they can remain connected to information?

Clients with access to a computer can call 2-1-1 for assistance accessing internet services during COVID-19. Click [here](#) for a list of local internet service providers offering COVID-19 assistance. Some community partners allow customers to charge phones and chargers were provided to unsheltered individuals during outreach.

6. What resources are there to access IRS stimulus check? How can homeless individuals who have not filed their taxes or have no income access a stimulus check? If someone's bank account information has changed since they filed their last tax return, can they update it using *Get My Payment*? Is this payment considered taxable income? Can people who receive a Form SSA-1099 or RRB-1099 use *Get My Payment* to check their payment status?

For assistance in accessing stimulus payments, please email Teresa@dreamsforchange.org, you can learn more on [the IRS website](#). Individuals can use the “Non-Filers Application” if: Not required to file federal income tax returns for 2018 and 2019 for any reason including:

- You have no income
- Your income is less than \$12,200
- You are married filing jointly and together your income is less than \$24,400

Requirements to access Economic Stimulus Payment for non-filers:

- Name
- Current mailing address
- Email address
- Birthday
- Valid SSN
- Bank account info
- Driver license or state ID
- Info for children (if have children)

Use [Get My Payment](#) to check the status of payment after verifying identity by answering the required security questions. To help protect against potential fraud, the tool does **not** allow people to change direct deposit bank account information already on file with the IRS. The payment is not income and taxpayers will not owe tax on it. The payment will not reduce a taxpayer’s refund or increase the amount they owe when they file their 2020 tax return next year. A payment also will not affect income for purposes of determining eligibility for federal government assistance or benefit programs.