



## Response to Questions on the 2016 LOBs

**Request By:** Supervisor Gross

**Relevant LOB(s):** LOB #120

**Question:** Explain the local General Relief program.

**Response:**

The General Relief (GR) program is both a state and local program that provides cash assistance of up to \$220 per month to individuals, primarily adults with disabilities and little or no income, and unattached children in need of financial support who are not eligible for programs such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Social Security. Homelessness and foster care may be prevented for many of the recipients, and the burden on the nonprofit community and other government emergency services is lessened as a result. The GR program for unattached children is funded with a combination of both state and County General Fund dollars while the GR program for adults is funded with only County General Fund dollars. Below is a brief description of each.

### GR Program for Unattached Children

The GR program for unattached children is locally administered with a 62.5 percent revenue match from the state. Payments for eligible individuals are up to \$220 per month. The average monthly caseload year-to-date in FY 2016 in the Unattached Children GR program is currently 26 cases. FY 2015 actual spending for the program was \$49,322 in expenditures offset by \$30,826 in revenue for a net cost of \$18,496.

### GR Program for Adults

The GR program for adults provides financial assistance to low income adult residents without minor children who are unable to provide for themselves due to a temporary or permanent disability that prevents them from working. Payments for eligible individuals are up to \$220 per month for individuals living in the community and up to \$40 per month for individuals in institutional care. For FY 2016, the average monthly caseload for the adult GR program is 361 cases. FY 2015 actual spending for the Adult GR program was \$481,820. The adult GR program includes the following components:

- Disabled/Unemployable Individuals - The individual's capacity for employment must be substantially affected by a physical or mental disability that is expected to last 90 days or longer or result in death;
- Institutional Care - Limited to the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB) Alcohol and Drug Residential Treatment Center residents; and
- Interim Assistance - permanently disabled individuals applying for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or appealing an SSI decision. It should be noted that Interim



Assistance recipients are required to apply for SSI as a condition of receiving local GR program assistance, and if found eligible, the GR program benefits they received from DFS while waiting for their SSI eligibility determination are refunded to the County.

Redetermination of eligibility must be conducted at least annually, or more often, depending on factors that impact continued eligibility for the program including, but not limited to, an anticipated SSI decision; end of disability; or loss of County residence. Interim Assistance cases must be “special reviewed” every two months to check on the status of their SSI claim.