



## STAFF REPORT

**Report To:** Board of Supervisors                      **Meeting Date:** April 16, 2020  
**Staff Contact:** Mary Jane Ostrander, mostrander@carson.org; Nicki Aaker, naaker@carson.org

**Agenda Title:** For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action regarding a proposed revision to the Carson City Human Services Guidelines and Standards to temporarily modify the income eligibility criteria to benefit households whose incomes have been negatively affected by the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, to be effective immediately through December 31, 2020. (Mary Jane Ostrander, mostrander@carson.org; Nicki Aaker, naaker@carson.org)

Staff Summary: The current income guidelines for general assistance under the Carson City Human Services Guidelines and Standards are as follows: for a household of one, under \$438 per month; for a household of two, under \$588 per month; and for a household of three or more, under \$588 per month plus \$150 for each additional household member. The proposed change in income eligibility would expand eligibility to any individual who not only falls within the existing income eligibility parameters but also those who can demonstrate a loss of 50% or more in income per household since March 12, 2020 when Governor Sisolak declared a state of emergency.

**Agenda Action:** Formal Action / Motion                      **Time Requested:** 15 minutes

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### **Proposed Motion**

I move to adopt the revisions as proposed.

### **Board's Strategic Goal**

Quality of Life

### **Previous Action**

N/A

### **Background/Issues & Analysis**

Pursuant to NRS 428.015, the Board of Supervisors must adopt policies establishing the requirements and standards of eligibility for financial assistance to indigent persons. The current general assistance income guidelines were approved by the Board of Supervisors on November 21, 2013 and comply with the minimum standards of eligibility set forth in NRS 428.015(2). The Human Services Division seeks to expand eligibility for assistance as it is anticipated that there will be a surge in Carson City residents who will be unable to meet their basic living needs. The Human Services Division is of the opinion that with the closure of businesses and schools in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the definition of basic needs goes beyond shelter and utilities. Further, with schools closed, internet and telephone service may become a basic need for many households.

Carson City courts have committed to stay evictions; however, the accrual of rent will not stop. As such, individuals may owe rent covering multiple months despite lacking an income during that time.

Many individuals who rely on tips as additional income are currently out of work due to the state of emergency non-essential business shutdowns. Generally, the loss of tip income is not reflected in an application for unemployment benefits. Human Services anticipates that individuals applying for benefits may not be eligible for state unemployment benefits.

Carson City has received an additional \$292,846 in reimbursement revenue from the County Match/Indigent Accident Fund to be used for Carson City indigent resident needs. These funds will be used to provide the expanded assistance under this proposed policy change.

**Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation**

NRS 428.015

**Financial Information**

**Is there a fiscal impact?** Yes

**If yes, account name/number:** G655020280 - Supplemental Indigent Fund / State Indigent Reimbursement account 2086550-501280

**Is it currently budgeted?** Yes

**Explanation of Fiscal Impact:** This reimbursement revenue has not been allocated for any specific needs but is currently available in the Supplemental Indigent Fund.

**Alternatives**

Do not adopt the proposed revisions and continue to use the existing income eligibility guidelines for general assistance outlined in the Carson City Human Services Guidelines and Standards.

**Attachments:**

[Guidelines and Standards with EMERGENCY AMENDMENT \(4.16.20\).doc](#)

**Board Action Taken:**

Motion: _____	1) _____	Aye/Nay
	2) _____	_____
		_____
		_____
		_____

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Vote Recorded By)

# CARSON CITY HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION

## Guidelines & Standards

900 E. Long Street  
Carson City, NV 89706

(775) 887-2110  
Fax (775) 887-2539

Approved by the Board of Supervisors November 21, 2013

Emergency Response Eligibility Effective Until December 31, 2020;  
Approved by Board of Supervisors \_\_\_\_\_

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**SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION**

1.1 **Purpose.** The purpose of the Guidelines and Standards is to define the policies necessary to effectuate programs and comply with the County Code and Nevada Revised Statutes.

1.2 **Definitions.** The following words and phrases used in these Guidelines & Standards will be construed as defined unless specifically defined in individual Section.

**Applicant:** The person who applies on behalf of the assistance unit.

**Assistance Period:** The period that the applicant/assistance unit is eligible to receive assistance. The length of the assistance period will vary depending upon the category under which the applicant or assistance unit is being served.

**Assistance Unit:** Specifically defined in Section 3 (Health Care Assistance Program – HCAP) and Section 4 (General Assistance).

**Client:** Anyone who has been determined to be eligible for assistance.

**Date of Interview:** The date when the initial interview is completed.

**Date of Eligibility:** The date upon which the Division determines the client is eligible to receive assistance.

**Division:** The Carson City Human Services Division (CCHS).

**Prior Resource:** Any state, federal, private, or other source of funding for which the assistance unit is eligible. All prior resources must be pursued by the applicant prior to approval of eligibility assistance.

**Public Assistance Agency:** Any state, federal, county, city, or other agency which distributes public assistance in any form.

1.3 **Conflict.** In the event of a conflict between the regulations, CCHS Policies and Procedures adopted pursuant to these guidelines & Standards and any Federal or State law, the terms of the Federal or State law will prevail.

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**SECTION 2 –AUTHORITY**

- 2.1 **County Code Creating Department.** Chapter 9.08 of the Carson City, Nevada Code of Ordinances creates the Human Services Division which consists of:
- A. An Administrative Officer of Human Services.
  - B. Authorized officers, agents and employees of the Division.
- 2.2 **Development of Rules and Regulations.** The Administrative Officer and/or Manager develop rules and regulations for programs which are the responsibility of the Division.
- 2.3 **Grant Opportunities.** The Division will seek and apply for grant opportunities to expand and meet the needs of the community it serves. New grant opportunities will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

### SECTION 3 – HEALTH CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HCAP)

- 3.1 **Program Description** – The Health Care Assistance Program assists with the costs of emergency medical care and medically necessary care. ~~provides services to meet the health care needs of eligible program applicants.~~
- 3.2 **Medical Care Available** – The Division will provide such emergency and pre-authorized medical and institutional care as is reasonable and necessary for the diagnosis and treatment of an eligible applicant’s illness or injury, as required by State law. Financial assistance may be provided in, but not limited to, the following areas:
- A. **In-Patient Hospital Care** – Upon receipt of hospital notification or an application from a patient, the Division will determine, or attempt to determine, the patient’s eligibility.
  - B. **Pre-Authorized Medical Treatment** – Division staff, upon receipt of physician statement, may authorize payment for services requested by a medical professional.
  - C. **Emergency Medical Treatment** – Indigent persons may seek care for medical emergencies, as defined herein, at any medical facility. Such care will be at County expense if the following criteria are satisfied:
    - 1) The individual meets HCAP eligibility requirements, and
    - 2) Treatment was rendered for a medical emergency, pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute 428.015 as amended.
  - D. **Alternative Living Arrangements (Adult Group Care, Assisted Living and Extended Care Facilities)** – Individuals in need of greater supervision and care than is available to them in their present independent living arrangement may apply for financial assistance for licensed extended care facilities. The following conditions apply to this type of care:
    - 1) Applicants will be screened in accordance with current Medicaid and Medicare standards to determine which level of care can best satisfy the individual’s needs,
    - 2) Eligibility for financial assistance referred to herein is based upon set forth HCAP standards with the exception that current income and asset levels as established by the Nevada State/ Carson City Medicaid Match Program must be met prior to financial assistance for extended care facilities.
  - E. **Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services (NNAMHS)** – Medical expenses, excluding mental health care, incurred by an eligible NNAMHS patient may be paid by the Division.
  - F. **Indigent Accident Fund** – The Division will determine eligibility of a motor vehicle accident victim and provide necessary certification to medical facilities for eligible individuals.
  - G. **State Supplemental Fund** – The Division will submit to the State Supplemental Fund hospital bills in excess of \$25,000 in accordance with the program and statutory requirements.



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H. **Medical Care Not Provided** – The following medical care or treatments are not provided by the HCAP program:

- 1) Elective, cosmetic, or other non-emergency surgical procedures.
- 2) Experimental surgery, defined as any surgical procedure not funded by Medicaid or Medicare, including, but not limited to, organ transplants
- 3) General and nonspecific medical needs such as physical examinations for sports or employment purpose, pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease test, immunizations, and substance abuse programs, or other services provided by federal, state or other local agencies.
- 4) Doctor, lab, radiologist, etc., unless pre-authorized.

3.3 **Eligibility Criteria** - The Division Manager has jurisdiction over the enforcement and interpretation of eligibility provisions subject to the review and concurrence of the Board of Supervisors. Eligibility is determined by applying the guidelines set forth herein, completing an interview and submitting the necessary Division forms. Eligibility of the applicant must be established prior to expenditure of City funds.

A. **Financial Criteria** – Residents of Carson City without sufficient income or resources to pay for necessary medical assistance may be eligible for HCAP if their gross income does not exceed the limits established by the HCAP Income and Asset Tests as outlined in this Section 3.3 A. parts 1) and 2)

- 1) **Income** – Gross income from any source must not exceed the limits established by the HCAP Income Test. Gross income of the applicant’s assistance unit is countable. An Assistance Unit, specific to this section is identified as the applicant, the applicant’s spouse and minor children, and the natural or adopted parents of minor children for whom assistance is being requested. These amounts shall apply until such time as the Nevada Revised Statute (NRS 428) changes.

Income Test:

<b>Persons in the Assistance Unit</b>	<b>Gross Monthly Income</b>
1.....	\$ 438
2.....	\$ 588
3.....	\$ 738
4.....	\$ 888
5.....	\$ 1,038
6.....	\$ 1,188

For each additional person in the assistance unit, add \$150

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Countable gross income includes:

- a. **Earned Income** – Cash received through salary, self-employment, tips, or work-study is considered earned income.
- b. **Unearned Income** – Unearned income is cash not earned through salary, self-employment or tips.
- c. **Lump Sum Income** – Such payments will be included in the calculation of gross income and include inheritances, cash settlements and other similar monies.
  1. Non-recurrent lump sum payments are counted as gross income up to 6 months prior to the date of application and will be prorated for 12 months from the date of receipt forward.
  2. Recurrent lump sum payments are prorated for the specific time period by dividing the number of months each payment is intended to cover to determine the monthly income.
  3. There may be allowable deductions related to the lump sum payment.
  4. Documented verification of expenditure of lump sum income is required in order to determine and/or maintain eligibility for HCAP.
- d. **Income Deductions** – There are various income disallows for HCAP, which are described in the HCAP Policies and Procedures

2) **Assets** – The value of assets and other resources may not exceed the levels set forth herein.

- a. **Personal Property** – The following assets are considered personal property and shall be considered when determining eligibility for HCAP:
  1. **Cash Reserves** – An applicant/client may own cash reserves and/or liquid assets with a quick sale or cash value not to exceed \$2,000. For each additional member of the assistance unit, add \$300 to the personal property limit.
  2. **Insurance** – Life insurance policies with a cash surrender value will be considered personal property.
  3. **Vehicles** – Automobiles, boats, trailers, motorcycles, fixed and non-fixed winged aircraft, jet skis, and other recreational vehicles will be valued as personal property. As applicable, the wholesale value specified in the most current Kelley Blue Book will be applied to his/her asset level. Up to two vehicles per household, not to exceed one vehicle per licensed adult member of the household, primarily used to secure and maintain employment, are exempt assets. Other sources of verification may include a statement from an auto dealer or mechanic stating the retail value of damaged or inoperable vehicle, vintage or classic vehicle, motorcycle, all boats, travel trailers, motorhomes, jet skis, and snowmobiles, trailers, and/or recreations vehicles.

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4. **Burial Plots/Plans** – The value of any irrevocable burial plan purchased prior to application for assistance will not be considered an asset. The purchase of an irrevocable burial plan after application for assistance may be exempt up to \$1,500 per person in the assistance unit in order to reduce the applicant’s countable reserves.

b. **Real Property** – The market value of real estate owned by an applicant, other than a personally occupied residence, is an available asset. The market value of the property will be considered as personal property. Property currently listed for sale by the applicant is not considered an asset. Verification, and reimbursement to the City when sold is mandatory. Bona fide efforts must be made to sell the property during the period in which the client receives assistance as a condition of continued eligibility.

3) **Medical Hardship** – If an applicant’s income exceeds HCAP income standard and the applicant’s hospital account for the past 4 months exceeds \$25,000, he/she may be eligible if it is determined that the applicant does not have sufficient funds to pay for all or part of his/her medical care and the applicant cannot retire his/her medical expenses within 60 months.

B. **Non-financial Criteria** – Non-Financial eligibility requirements include:

- 1) **Residence** – It is the responsibility of the applicant/client to prove residency. Applicants/clients who express no intent to reside in Carson City may be deemed ineligible for assistance. Carson City Human Services makes the final determination of residency. NRS 428.020 inclusive defines legal residence as:
  - a. The county of residence of a person is the county in which he is physically present with the intent to reside, at least for an indefinite period of time and/or
  - b. The county of residence of a person placed in institutional care is the county of residence of that person before he was placed in institutional care

The Division will consider an applicant’s substantial contacts with or significant attachment to the community and whether a bona fide intent to establish or maintain a permanent domicile exists in its determination of that applicant’s county of residence

Residency is considered when determining eligibility for HCAP when there is the possibility of other county or state payments for services rendered.

2) **Prior Resources** – Federal, State, and community programs, including alien sponsorship, are prior resources to City programs. Carson City does not supplement Federal, State, or community programs.

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- 3) **Cooperation** – Applicants/clients or their authorized representatives are the primary source of information and are required to cooperate with the Human Services Division in securing all information needed to determine eligibility for assistance for the HCAP or other Federal, State, or community programs. If an applicant/client is unable to obtain necessary information, the worker may assist. Failure to cooperate may result in denial or termination of assistance.
- 4) **Verification** – In order to determine and/or maintain eligibility for the HCAP, verification of eligibility criteria will be requested. It is the applicant/client’s responsibility to verify information necessary to determine eligibility. Failure to verify information necessary to determine eligibility for HCAP may result in HCAP being denied or terminated.
- 5) **Responsible Relatives** – Pursuant to NRS 428.070, the spouse, father, mother, children, brothers, or sisters of an applicant for whom medical assistance is rendered may be responsible for the costs of care to the extent of their financial ability to pay.

3.4 **Disposition of Application** – The Division will attempt to determine eligibility within 30 days from the date the application is received.

A. **Approval** – When HCAP is approved, notification to the client and payment of the account are completed as outlined in the CCHS Policies and Procedures.

B. **Denial** – Applicants (or applications) for HCAP may be denied if at least one eligibility factor is not met. The applicant may be denied because:

1. Voluntarily withdraws or cancels the request for assistance,
2. Fails to provide information needed to determine eligibility,
3. Misrepresents information,
4. Fails to contact and/or maintain contact with the Division,
5. Fails to cooperate with the Division and/or any prior resource,
6. Has assets in excess of program standards,
7. Has income in excess of program standards,
8. Is approved for prior resource.

3.5 **Reimbursement** – An applicant/client may be required to agree to reimburse the City for the cost of assistance provided in accordance with the following criteria:

A. **Individual** – The applicant/client may be individually responsible for reimbursing the City for the cost of assistance provided:

To the extent of the applicant’s/client’s present and future financial ability to do so. By applying acquired assets to satisfy accumulated costs of care. Statements setting forth charges to be reimbursed will be available upon request. No interest or carrying charges for such indebtedness will be charged

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or collected. Reimbursement for the costs of assistance provided may be made in installment payments in amounts and at intervals deemed acceptable to the City.

B. **Interim Assistance Reimbursement (IAR)** – If Carson City participates in the IAR Program, applicants/clients receiving financial assistance for extended services must fulfill the requirement of the IAR Program.

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**SECTION 4 GENERAL ASSISTANCE**

4.1 **Program Description.** The purpose of General Assistance is to provide financial assistance and social services to eligible Carson City residents.

4.2 **Definitions Specific to this Section.**

Assistance Unit: Consists of the applicant, the applicant's spouse and minor children, those related by blood or marriage, and those persons acting in the role of the spouse (PARS).

4.3 **Application Procedure**

- A. All applicants requesting assistance must complete an initial interview with a Division Eligibility Specialist.
- B. The Division will attempt to determine eligibility within 10 business days of the date of interview. The Division will have up to 30 days to make a determination of eligibility.
- C. Denial of the application may be appealed pursuant to Section 7 of these Guidelines and Standards.

4.4 **Eligibility Categories**

A. **Employable Applicants**

1. **Presumption of Employability.** All applicants and members of the assistance unit 18 years of age or older are presumed to be employable.
2. **Termination and Resignation**
  - a. Termination from employment of any member of the assistance unit, because of their own faults or habits, (defined in Section 4.7) within 30 days prior to the date of interview may result in denial of assistance.
  - b. Resignation by any member of the assistance unit within 30 days prior to the date of interview may result in denial of benefits.
3. **Maximum Assistance.** Employable applicants may receive assistance no more than one time per program in a 12-month period.

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4. **Work Search**

- a. Except as provided in Subsection B below, all persons determined to be employable must participate in a work search as required by the Division. Completion of a work search is required but does not guarantee approval of the application for assistance.
- b. The following persons are not required to participate in a work search:
  - 1) Persons 60 years of age or older;
  - 2) Caretakers of children less than one year of age, for whom no adequate child care arrangements can be made;
  - 3) Caretakers of family members who are ill or otherwise unable to care for themselves. The Division may request medical documentation of illness from the relevant family member's treating physician;
  - 4) Persons participating in a job-training program such as Vocational Rehabilitation, Job Opportunities In Nevada (JOIN), or other similar programs.
  - 5) Persons employed or receiving State unemployment benefits at the time of the initial interview.

B. **Appeals of Public Assistance Agency Determinations.** Persons appealing decisions of the Nevada Employment Security Division or other recognized employee representatives may apply for assistance pursuant to 4.4.A of these Guidelines and Standards during the pendency of that appeal.

C. **Disability**

1. Persons claiming mental/physical disability may be requested to provide the Division with a current disability statement from a treating physician. The Division may, at its own expense, request an independent medical, psychological and/or vocational evaluation prior to determination of disability and allowance of benefits.
2. Persons claiming disability status may be referred to State Vocational Rehabilitation for an evaluation to determine whether they may be retrained or aided toward becoming employable.

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3. Refusal to cooperate with or to pursue assistance from Social Security or Vocational Rehabilitation when reasonably requested by the Division may result in denial of the application.

**D. Public Assistance Applicants**

1. Persons applying for or awaiting approval of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or other public assistance may be eligible to receive assistance.
2. Persons currently receiving TANF are not eligible to receive Carson City General Assistance.
3. Failure to cooperate with any public assistance agency may result in denial of the application.

**4.5 Eligibility Criteria**

- A. Financial Criteria Eligibility is determined based upon the residency of the persons comprising the assistance unit and the assistance unit’s gross income 30 days prior to the date of the initial interview as described in Section 4.5.A.1 of these Guidelines and Standards. The total value of the assistance unit’s liquid assets may be considered. The assistance unit’s gross income, value of assets, and current situation must meet grant specific requirements. The gross income may not exceed the amounts detailed in Table 4.5.A, below:

TABLE 4.5.A

**ELIGIBILITY TABLE**

Persons in the Assistance Unit	Maximum Benefit
1.....	\$ 438.00
2.....	\$ 588.00
3.....	\$ 738.00
4.....	\$ 888.00
5.....	\$ 1,038.00
6.....	\$ 1,188.00

For each additional person in the assistance unit, add \$ 150

**EMERGENCY RESPONSE/ELIGIBILITY**

**Approved by Board of Supervisors on \_\_\_\_\_ due to the COVID-19 crisis, these income guidelines may be used until December 31, 2020.**

The emergency response income eligibility expands eligibility to any individual who fits within the existing income eligibility parameters, OR who can demonstrate a loss of 50% or more per household since March 12, 2020, when Governor Sisolak declared a state of emergency.



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Due to the COVID-19 crisis, individuals who rely on tip money as additional income are out of work due to the state of emergency non-essential business shutdowns. Generally, the loss of tip income is not reflected in an application for unemployment benefits. The income guideline used for this emergency program is an applicant needs to show a 50% or more decrease in gross income in the last 30 days. The income for the previous 30 days will also be required. See example:

Example: February 1 to March 2 Income: \$2,800 Gross Wages  
\$1,200 Tips  
Total income: \$4,000 Gross Income

March 2 to March 30 Income: \$1,400 Gross Wages  
\$ 500 Tips  
Total Income: \$1,900 Gross Income

Income Loss is  $\$2,100 - (\$2,100 \text{ divided by } \$4,000) = 0.525$  or 53%  
Income Loss is 53%

- 1) **Gross Income.** Gross income is the assistance unit's income of any kind, which is not otherwise excluded pursuant to Article III Section 2, Excluded Income, of CCHS Policies and Procedures. Gross income includes but is not limited to:
  - a) Assistance from public assistance agencies – Income from state, federal, or other public assistance agencies including but not limited to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Social Security. Members of the assistance unit receiving benefits from these or other similar agencies that have had their benefits reduced by those agencies due to an overpayment, as the result of the assistance unit's own faults, will be determined as having had the total benefit of the program.
  - b) Lump sum payments will be included in the calculation of gross income and include annuities, cash settlements or other similar monies. Recurrent and non-recurrent lump sum payments will be counted as gross income up to 12 months prior to the date of application and prorated forward for a period of 12 months from the date received.
- 2) **Assets.** Assets include all personal and real property interests owned by any member of the assistance unit, wherever found, with the following exceptions:
  - a) Clothing, personal items, and tools and equipment necessary to employment;
  - b) One vehicle per licensed driver of the assistance unit, not to exceed two vehicles;

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- c Cash, stocks, bonds, IRA's or any similar monetary instruments or funds, not to exceed \$ 150. An additional \$ 75 per member of the assistance unit will also be exempted. Life insurance cash surrender value may not exceed \$1,500 per person;
- d Any burial plot or plans purchased prior to the date of application;
- e The fair market value of one personal residence that is actually occupied by the members of the assistance unit; and
- f Real property listed for sale at the date of application, only upon verification by the Division that bona fide efforts to sell are occurring.

**B. Non-Financial Criteria**

- 1) **Residency**. All members of the assistance unit must reside in Carson City as defined in NRS 428.020.

**4.6 Distribution of Assistance**

- A. The Division will attempt to render a decision concerning eligibility within 10 business days from the date application is received.
- B. Once eligibility is determined, assistance is distributed according to the size of the assistance unit. The benefit amount will be reduced by the assistance unit's gross income.
- C. Assistance is payable directly to the vendor (i.e., landlord, utility company, etc.). No cash assistance is provided.

**4.7 Denial of Benefits**

- A. Denial of Assistance**. In addition to any reasons described in the sections above, applications for General Assistance may be denied when any member of the assistance unit:
  - 1. Fail to meet the eligibility criteria;
  - 2. Voluntarily terminates other means of financial support of whatever kind within 30 days prior to the date of interview;
  - 3. Voluntarily withdraws or cancels the application;
  - 4. Fail to provide all information necessary to the determination of eligibility;

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5. Misrepresents information necessary to the determination of eligibility;
6. Fails to maintain contact with the Division as reasonably requested;
7. Has qualified to receive monetary assistance from a public assistance agency, but due to the applicant's acts or omissions, has not received assistance;
8. Fails to cooperate with the reasonable requests of the Division;
9. Has received the maximum assistance allowed by these Guidelines and Standards;
10. Refuses to pursue a prior resource;
11. Has excess income;
12. Has excess assets;
13. Does not reside in Carson City;
14. Is terminated from employment due to their own fault or habit;
15. Unreasonably fails to accept employment; and/or
16. Is approved for a prior resource.

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**SECTION 5 - BURIAL OR CREMATION**

- 5.1 **Program Description.** The Division may direct that a deceased indigent person be buried or cremated at City expense. Friends or relatives of the deceased may also seek City assistance with the expenses of final arrangements.
- 5.2 **Eligibility Criteria.** Eligibility for assistance with burial or cremation arrangements will be established pursuant to the Health Care Assistance Program criteria, except that the deceased must have been a Carson City resident at the time of death. If the assets and resources of the deceased or responsible relative exceed City eligibility guidelines, but the available liquid assets are not sufficient to pay full funeral expenses prior to disposition, the Division may consider paying the costs and may secure an agreement that the responsible relative reimburse the City.
- 5.3 **Authorized Rates.** Refer to Burial/Cremation Policies and Procedures.
- 5.4 **Other Charges.** No charges in addition to the authorized rates set forth herein are eligible for City reimbursement unless Division approval is obtained prior to such efforts being undertaken. Any payments made by a third party towards the fees will void City assistance for cremation.
- 5.5 **Payment.** Itemized statements of charges for services provided must be submitted to the Division. Charges in excess of authorized rates are not considered for payment.
- 5.6 **Veterans.** If the deceased is a veteran, the Veteran's Administration death benefit may be a prior resource. If a death benefit is not available, the authorized rates for burial or cremation may be paid by the Division. Eligible veterans may be buried or inurned at the Fernley National Cemetery upon certification by the Veteran's Administration.
- 5.7 **Indian Burials.** Indian funeral arrangements are the responsibility of the Inter-Tribal Council. Indian Health Service will provide burials.
- 5.8 **Deceased Patients of Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services (NNAMHS).** The NNAMHS provides burials for their indigent patients pursuant to [NRS 433.544](#). This responsibility includes NNAMHS patients at Renown Regional Medical Center for medical treatment.
- 5.9 **Nonresident Burials/Cremation.** Burial or cremation expenses for nonresidents of Carson City may not be accepted or paid unless the decedent's county of last residence agrees to reimburse Carson City for such expense.

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- 5.10 **Reimbursement**. The Division will offset against any amounts payable for burial or cremation, any death benefit payments which may be applied for by the decedent's survivors.
- 5.11 **Carson City Residents Who Expire in Other Nevada Counties or Out-of-State** may qualify for Carson City payment of burial or cremation services. Reimbursement for the cost of burial or cremation will be at the Carson City rates, or county of expiration, whichever is less, as outlined in the CCHS Policies and Procedures.

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**SECTION 6 - CONFIDENTIALITY**

- 6.1 **Client Files and Applications.** All Division client files and applications for assistance are confidential and may not be published, released, or otherwise disclosed.
- 6.2 **Request for Information.** The Division will require that a request for confidential information be in writing and state a specified purpose as outlined in Carson City Human Services Policies and Procedures Manual.

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**SECTION 7 - APPEALS**

7.1 **Case Review.** Any applicant for Health Care Assistance or General Assistance, who is dissatisfied with the decision of the Division, will be given the opportunity to appeal that decision. The applicant will be informed of the procedure to follow for filing a written request for a case review.

7.2 **Appeals Procedure.**

- A. Decisions made by the Division may only be appealed pursuant to this section and NRS 428.093. In the event this section conflicts with or contradicts the provisions of NRS 428.093, the provisions of NRS 428.093 will apply. The provisions of NRS Chapter 233B, the “Nevada Administrative Procedures Act,” are not applicable to appeals of Division decisions made pursuant to these Guidelines and Standards.
- B. Applicants denied assistance may appeal that decision by submitting a written request for appeal to the Division within 30 business days from the date of the denial letter. A copy of the appeal may be forwarded to the Carson City District Attorney.
- C. Upon receipt of the request for appeal, the Division will conduct a review to determine the propriety of the decision denying the application.
- D. Any employee or other representative of the City who investigated or made the initial decision to deny assistance will not participate in any decision made pursuant to the review. A copy of the review decision must be in writing, set forth the factual basis for the decision and the applicable Guidelines and Standards, and must be served personally or by certified mail to the address listed on the application or last known address, within 10 business days of the decision.
- E. An applicant may, within 30 days after the date on the written notice of decision, send a written petition in writing to the Director of Carson City Health and Human Services to review the decision. The Director will consult with the Carson City District Attorney and issue a final decision within 10 business days of receipt of the petition challenging the decision. A copy of the final decision must be in writing, set forth the factual basis for the decision and the applicable guidelines and standards, and must be served personally or by certified mail to the address listed on application or last known address.
- F. An aggrieved party may appeal the final decision of the Division to the court system in the same manner as a civil case.

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**SECTION 8 - FRAUD - ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

- 8.1 **Penalty.** Any person who makes a false statement or a misrepresentation of information in order to qualify for assistance with the intent that the false statement or misrepresentation be relied upon in granting assistance, is guilty of a misdemeanor.
- 8.2 **Divestiture.** If it appears that an applicant or responsible relative has conveyed property within 60 months prior to the date of application for assistance or at any time after such date, the Division will determine whether such conveyance was for fair and adequate consideration. Any asset conveyed by an applicant or by a recipient of City assistance will be valued at the current fair market value and that figure will be used to compute a period of ineligibility. Transferring an asset for less than fair and adequate consideration is grounds for denial of assistance. The City may also in such cases proceed against the applicant or responsible relative to recover expenses incurred by the City.



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**SECTION 9 - VERIFICATION FOR ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

- 9.1 **Verification of Information.** Information submitted as proof of eligibility for the assistance programs will be subject to verification. The applicant will be informed of items to be verified.
- 9.2 **Non-cooperation.** Failure to provide or refusal to consent to such verification will constitute non-cooperation and will render the applicant ineligible for assistance.