

PU Code Section 739 extends CARE program benefits to nonprofit group living facilities that provide a service, such as meals or rehabilitation, in addition to lodging, for the direct benefit of eligible residents.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Examples of potentially eligible nonprofit group living facilities consist of licensed or permitted homeless shelters, transitional housing, short-or long-term care facilities (hospices, nursing homes, seniors' or children's homes), group homes for mentally or physically disabled and/or disadvantaged persons or satellite facilities of a properly licensed "mothership" facility; and other nonprofit group living facilities that may not have a license or permit (homeless shelters, women's shelters or hospices) in which 100% of the residents would meet the most current residential CARE income eligibility requirements and where services are being provided for the direct benefit of eligible residents.
2. Each of the residents (100% of all residents) must meet the Commission's existing CARE eligibility standard for a single-person household.
3. A minimum of 70% of the energy consumed on site must be used for residential purposes.
4. Publicly-owned and government-subsidized housing facilities are not qualifying group living facilities. A group living facility that would otherwise qualify for CARE would not be ineligible because compensation for room, board, or services is provided by a governmental agency on behalf of the resident under a disability, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Administration (SSA) or other governmental assistance program.

A nonprofit owner and/or operator of a government-subsidized residential facility may be eligible if services besides lodging are provided to residents and all other eligibility criteria are met.
5. Homeless shelters must provide verification to Southwest Gas that they provide at least 6 beds for a minimum of 180 days out of the year for persons who have no alternative residence. Homeless shelters operated in a government-owned or subsidized building by a nonprofit organization may qualify for CARE so long as the nonprofit entity is the Southwest Gas customer of record for the site and a minimum of 70% of the energy consumed on site is used for residential purposes (eating or sleeping).

CERTIFICATION

1. Facilities must recertify every two years to receive CARE benefits.
2. Nonprofit status of the corporation and/or facility, including homeless shelters, must be evidenced by including a letter of tax-exempt nonprofit status under Internal Revenue Service Code Section 501(c)(3).
3. Services provided to residents of licensed or permitted group living facilities must be evidenced by including a current certification from the appropriate state licensing agency or copy of Conditional Use Permit along with the application. Homeless shelters are not required to certify provision of services, but must meet the minimum operational requirements and provide, if permitted, a copy of a current Conditional Use Permit.
4. Other non-licensed or non-permitted facilities must provide adequate proof satisfactory to Southwest Gas that its residents meet the income eligibility requirements and that its services are being provided to benefit eligible residents.
5. Except for homeless shelters, the facility must provide proof of every resident's eligibility by completing a CARE application form (properly authorized by the resident), or, in the alternative, providing proof of every resident's categorical eligibility by receipt of benefits from certain public assistance programs (e.g., a copy of Medi-Cal card). Individual documentation of income may be waived for those seeking lodging at homeless shelters.
6. At the time of each certification, all participating facilities, including homeless shelters, are required to demonstrate to Southwest Gas that they have passed on the discount for the benefit of the eligible residents. Reasonable certification shall include a statement of the dollar amount of the annual discount and an explanation of how those funds were spent for the benefit of the eligible residents.

PROGRAM BENEFITS

Once qualified, a group living facility will be eligible for a 20% discount on all rate elements of that portion of its bill for energy serving the residential end-users.

Mailing Address: ATTN CARE
Southwest Gas Corporation
PO Box 1498
Victorville, CA 92393-1498

For additional information, please call:
Customer Assistance(760) 951-4045
Hearing Impaired711
Apply online at: www.swgas.com
