

General Assistance

General Assistance (GA) helps Minnesotans with little or no income meet their basic needs. It offers a small monthly cash grant to people with serious illnesses, disabilities or other circumstances that limit their ability to work. General Assistance is interim aid to help until you find another source of income.

Benefit amounts depend on where you live, who you live with and if you have other income.

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| A single person with no income up to \$203 a month | A childless couple with no income up to \$260 a month | A person living in a facility up to \$121 |
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Who can get General Assistance

You may be able to receive assistance if you have lived in Minnesota for 30 days and you are in **one of these categories**:

- You cannot work because of your mental or physical health
- Someone in your household needs you at home to take care of them
- You live in a home which helps people who have physical, mental or chemical health concerns
- You are a displaced homemaker and go to school full time
- You are an adult who cannot speak or understand English and go to high school at least half time
- You have a mental illness or a developmental disability
- You have applied for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)
- You are 55 or older and have limited ability to work
- You have a learning disability
- You are under certain court-ordered services and cannot work at least four hours a day
- Your chemical or alcohol use has resulted in a disability
- You are a child 16 or 17 years old and not living with your family.

For some of these, you must bring a letter signed by your doctor. The county can help you decide if any of these apply to you.

Emergency General

Emergency General Assistance helps in a crisis including not having food, shelter or utilities. You do not have to receive General Assistance to get emergency help, but you must have a low income. Emergency General Assistance is limited to once a year and only while there are funds available.

For up-to-date information or to apply for assistance, talk to your county human services office.

General Assistance Q&A

How much money can you make?

If you are single, do not live with a parent and do not live in a facility, your income must be less than \$203 a month to qualify for assistance. This limit is higher if you live with your spouse or if you earn income from working.

What can you own?

To receive assistance, the total value of your property and cash must be less than \$10,000. We count only cash, bank accounts, stocks and bonds you can access without financial penalty, and some vehicles. We do not count one vehicle for each person over the age of 16 in your household.

What does “interim aid” mean?

If you could receive money from another program like Social Security, worker’s compensation or private insurance benefits, you must apply for those benefits.

If you are eligible, you will have to pay back the assistance you received while you were waiting to receive other benefits.

Most people who receive General Assistance also apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). If you’re eligible for this, the Social Security Administration will take the amount of General Assistance you received from your Supplemental Security Income back payment. The state uses this money to help more people meet their basic needs and provides free help to apply for benefits.

For more information, visit www.db101.org or contact the Social Security Administration.

What other programs are available to people who get General Assistance?

Medical Care

If you get receive General Assistance, you may be eligible for Medical Assistance (MA), which pays for doctors, hospitals, medicine and other medical care.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

If you receive General Assistance, you could also be eligible for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly Food Support or Food Stamps) to help buy food. You may apply for food assistance on the same application you use for General Assistance or online.

Social Services

Your county can help with case management, homemaking, child care, family planning and contacting other agencies.

How to apply

You can apply by mail, phone, in person or online.

To apply you must:

- Ask the county for an application or apply online at <https://mnbenefits.mn.gov/>
- Fill out the forms and return them right away
- Meet with a county worker in person or over the phone, and give information about yourself
- Bring proof of the information the county asks for.

If you have questions

For questions about General Assistance or Emergency General Assistance, contact your local county human services agency.

More about the application process

Assistance will only be paid from the date you give the county a signed application or apply online. When you meet with the county worker, ask any questions you have about the forms or program. The county cannot decide your eligibility until you turn in your forms.

You will need to verify the following:

- Social Security number
- Residence (where you live)
- Driver's license or other identification
- Immigration status, if you are not a United States citizen
- Check stubs and proof of other income
- A letter from your doctor if you cannot work
- Stocks, bonds, savings certificates, bank statements or trust fund papers
- Farm or self-employment records
- Tax records
- Title cards and loan papers for any vehicles you own.

The county will decide within 30 days if you can receive assistance. They will send you a letter to inform you of what they decide. If you cannot receive assistance, you may apply again at any time.

Your right to privacy

Most of the time, the facts asked for by the human services office are called private. This means that you can see facts about yourself, but they are not open to the public. Certain other government agencies may see them too. You have the right to question what you think is wrong in your file.

For more information about data privacy, ask your county worker or write the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

How to appeal

If you do not agree with the action the county takes on your application, tell your worker. Ask the worker to explain the reasons for the action.

You can see the policy manuals, rules or laws that give the reasons for the action. If you still do not agree, you may appeal. Your county worker will help you ask for an appeal hearing or contact:

Minnesota Department of Human Services Appeals Office

P.O. Box 64941 St. Paul, MN 55164-0941

Metro: 651-431-3600 (Voice)

Outstate: 800-657-3510

TTY: 800-627-3529

Fax: 651-431-7523

You should bring any facts to the hearing that will help you explain why you do not agree. You may bring a friend or a lawyer. If you want a lawyer, ask your worker for information about free legal services. You may bring people to the hearing to give information about the facts. After you and the county have talked about your case, the human services judge will decide the case. You will receive a decision in the mail. If you are still not satisfied, you have 30 days to appeal to the state district court.

Your right to file a complaint

If you feel the county or the Minnesota Department of Human Services treated you differently in the handling of your public assistance application or benefits because of race, color, national origin, political beliefs, religion, creed, sex, sexual orientation, public assistance status, age or disability, including physical access to government buildings, you may file a complaint with your county agency or any of the following agencies.

Minnesota Department of Human Services Equal Opportunity and Access

P.O. Box 64997 St. Paul, MN 55164-0997

651-431-3040 (Voice) 866-786-3945 (TTY)

Minnesota Department of Human Rights

Freeman Building 625 Robert Street

North St. Paul, MN 55155

800-657-3704 or 651-296-1283 (TTY)

651-431-3941

Attention. If you need free help interpreting this document, call the above number.

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في الرقم أعلاه، اتصقه الوثيقة مترجمة لاجمّة عداسم تدرًا أنلاحة: إم

သတိ။ ဤစာရွက်စာတမ်းအားအခမဲ့ဘာသာပြန်ပေးခြင်း အကူအညီလိုအပ်ပါက၊ အထက်ပါဖုန်းနံပါတ်ကိုခေါ်ဆိုပါ။

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請注意，如果您需要免費協助傳譯這份文件，請撥打上面的電話號碼。

Attention. Si vous avez besoin d'une aide gratuite pour interpréter le présent document, veuillez appeler au numéro ci-dessus.

Thov ua twb zoo nyeem. Yog hais tias koj xav tau kev pab txhais lus rau tsab ntaub ntawv no pub dawb, ces hu rau tus najnpawb xov tooj saum toj no.

ဟ်သုဉ်ဟ်သးဘဉ်တက့ၢ်. ဝဲန့ၢ်လိဉ်ဘဉ်တၢ်မၤစၢၤကလိလၢတၢ်ကကျိးထံဝဲဒၣ်လံာ် တီလံာ်မိတခါအံၤန့ၢ်,ကိးဘဉ်လိတဲစိနီၣ်ဂံၢ်လၢထးအံၤန့ၢ်တက့ၢ်. 알 려드립니다. 이 문서에 대한 이해를 돕기 위해 무료로 제공되는 도움을 받으시려면 위의 전화번호 로 연락하십시오.

ໂປຣດຊາບ. ຖ້າຫາກ ທ່ານຕ້ອງການການຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອໃນການແປເອກະສານນີ້ພຣີ, ຈົ່ງໂທຮໂປທ໌ໝາຍເລກຂ້າງເທິງນີ້.

Hubachiisa. Dokumentiin kun tola akka siif hiikamu gargaarsa hoo feete, lakkoobsa gubbatti kenname bilbili.

Внимание: если вам нужна бесплатная помощь в устном переводе данного документа, позвоните по указанному выше телефону.

Digniin. Haddii aad u baahantahay caawimaad lacag-la'aan ah ee tarjumaadda qoraalkan, lambarka kore wac.

Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para interpretar este documento, llame al número indicado arriba.

Chú ý. Nếu quý vị cần được giúp đỡ dịch tài liệu này miễn phí, xin gọi số bên trên.

LB2 (8-16)

ADA1 (2-18)



For accessible formats of this information or assistance with additional equal access to human services, write to dhs.adultincomesupport@state.mn.us, call 651-431-3941, or use your preferred relay service.