
General Assistance (GA) is a state program that provides cash assistance to individuals or childless couples who are not eligible for federally funded assistance programs, but who are unable to provide for themselves ([Minn. Stat. § 256D.01](#)).

Eligibility

An applicant qualifies for GA if he or she meets the eligibility requirements and has income and assets below the limits established by the state legislature and the Department of Human Services (DHS). Assistance is available as long as the individual continues to meet eligibility requirements; there is no set time limit.

In addition to having financial need, a GA applicant must also meet the following conditions:

- Be a resident of Minnesota
- Be ineligible for aid from any cash assistance program that uses federal funds (i.e., Minnesota Family Investment Program or Supplemental Security Income)
- Be a citizen of the United States
- Be unable to work because the person:
 - 1) Has a professionally certified illness, injury, or incapacity expected to continue for more than 45 days and that prevents the person from getting or keeping a job
 - 2) Has been diagnosed as having a developmental disability or mental illness that prevents the person from getting or keeping a job
 - 3) Is unable to seek or retain employment due to advanced age
 - 4) Is needed in the home to care for a person whose age or medical condition requires continuous care
 - 5) Is placed in a licensed or certified facility for care or treatment under a plan approved by the local human services agency
 - 6) Has an application pending for or is appealing a termination of Social Security disability or SSI payments, so long as the person has a professionally certified illness or disability
 - 7) Is assessed as not employable
 - 8) Is under age 18 in specified circumstances and with consent of the local agency
 - 9) Is eligible for displaced homemaker services and is enrolled as a full-time student
 - 10) Has had an alcohol or drug addiction that is a material factor that contributes to the person's disability
 - 11) Is involved with protective or court-ordered services that prevent working at least four hours per day
 - 12) Is over age 18 and whose primary language is not English and is attending high school at least part-time
 - 13) Has a condition that qualifies as a specific learning disability, has a rehabilitation plan that was developed or approved by the local agency, and is following the plan

GA is not provided to:

- Fugitive felons and parole and probation violators; or
- Persons who have fraudulently misrepresented residency to obtain assistance in two or more states; these people are not eligible to receive GA for ten years.

Benefits

GA recipients receive a monthly cash assistance payment, called a grant. The amount of a recipient's grant is determined by subtracting the recipient's net income from the applicable monthly GA assistance standard.

Monthly GA Standards for Single Persons and Childless Couples

Eligible Units	Monthly Standard
One adult	\$203
Emancipated minor	203
One adult, living with parent(s) who have no minor children	203
Minor not living with parent, stepparent, or legal custodian (with approved social services plan)	250
Married couple with no children	260
One adult, living in a medical facility or in group residential housing	102

Unlike MFIP, the GA program does not include an employment and training component. GA recipients are not required to participate in any employment and training services as a condition of receiving benefits.

Funding and Expenditures

The state general fund pays for the costs of GA benefits. In state fiscal year 2020, the state estimated paying \$51,537,651 in benefits to GA recipients.

Recipient Profile

Most GA recipients are single persons. Childless couples may also be eligible for GA. In March 2020, 99.6 percent of GA recipients were single persons and 0.4 percent were married couples. In state fiscal year 2020, the average monthly number of GA cases was projected to be 23,458.



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