

What is general assistance?



The Oregon Department of Human Services has a General Assistance (GA) program that provides cash and medical help to people with physical or mental disabilities.

This program serves people with severe disabilities that are expected to last for 12 straight months.

General assistance may be available to you while you are waiting to get Supplemental Security Income (SSI) from the Social Security Administration.

If you qualify for GA, you will be eligible for medical benefits. You may also be eligible for food benefits.

Requirements

To qualify for general assistance you must:

- ☞ Be between ages 18 and 64 or be a legal noncitizen, age 65 or older.
- ☞ Have a documented physical or mental disability that is expected to last for 12 straight months.

- ☞ Have no dependent children living at home.
- ☞ Have monthly income less than \$314 for an individual or have monthly income less than \$628 for a couple.
- ☞ If married, both you and your spouse meet the SSI impairment criteria.
- ☞ Have less than \$2000 in resources for an individual or have less than \$3000 in resources for a couple.
- ☞ Apply for, and pursue SSI benefits through the Social Security Administration.

The process

Contact your local Department of Human Services (DHS) or Area Agency on Aging (AAA) office. We will help you with the application process. If your SSI claim is denied we will also help you with an appeal of your case.

After the application is completed, you will have a personal interview with a DHS/AAA worker who will answer your questions and help you get the information you need.

The DHS/AAA worker will review your claim and usually make a decision on your case within 45 days of the date the application is submitted.

Note: To receive and continue receiving GA, you must cooperate with the SSI Liaison Program staff once you are referred to them and appeal all SSI denials issued by SSA.

What you need to file a claim

When you come to the DHS or AAA office you will need to bring identification, your Social Security card, proof of where you live and bank statements, if you have them.

You will also need medical documentation of your condition. If you have not seen a doctor in the past six months, or if we need specific medical information on your condition, we will send you to a doctor at no expense to you.

If you have a statement from your doctor regarding your condition, please bring it to your interview.

Note: If you qualify for GA, you may also be eligible for GA medical benefits under the Oregon Health Plan and for food benefits. Check with the staff at the DHS or AAA office to find out.

For more information

Contact your local DHS or Area Agency on Aging office or call

Seniors and People with Disabilities
500 Summer Street, NE E-10
Salem, Oregon 97301-1073
Phone: 1-800-282-8096
Fax: 503 373-7902

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What you need to know...

DHS will not discriminate against anyone. This means DHS will help all who qualify. DHS will not deny help to anyone based on age, race, color, national origin, sex, religion, political beliefs or disability. You can file a complaint if you think DHS singled you out because of any of these things.

If you have questions or need this document in a different format, please contact your local DHS office.

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**Oregon Department
of Human Services**

**Seniors and People with
Disabilities**

