

What is it?

The State Supplementary Assistance Program in Iowa provides additional funds to persons who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or who would be eligible for SSI benefits except that their income is too high. State Supplementary Assistance payments can be made to aged, blind or disabled people, whose special needs fall into one of the following categories:

- ◆ Special Blind Allowance
- ◆ Residential Care
- ◆ Family-Life Home
- ◆ Dependent Relative
- ◆ In-Home Health-Related Care

Where Can I Apply?

If your countable income is less than the basic SSI payment, you should apply at the Social Security District Office serving your county. If your “countable income” is above the basic SSI payment, you should apply at the local Department of Human Services office.

What is Countable Income?

“Countable income” is the money you have left after certain deductions have been made.

When the Social Security Administration figures your benefit, they disregard the first \$20 of our other income. When you, your spouse or another person whose income is deemed to you, have earned income, \$65 is disregarded to meet work expense and one-half of the balance of earnings is disregarded.

Who is Eligible?

If you are aged, blind or disabled and your income is too low to meet the cost of one of the five special needs categories, and if your resources are within established limits, you may be eligible for State Supplementary Assistance.

What is the Resource Limit?

The resource limit is \$2,000 for one person and \$3,000 for a couple.

Resources are generally defined as those assets, including both real and personal property, which a person owns.

What is Real Property?

A homestead (your house and land) is not counted as a resource, regardless of its value. Non-homestead real property is considered a resource. Life estate interest in real property is a resource when it is salable.

What is Personal Property?

Personal property is all those items which you own, except real estate. This includes cash, checking and savings accounts, negotiable, promissory notes, mortgages or contracts, trusts, stocks, and bonds. You may own certain other items of personal property and they won’t affect your State Supplementary Assistance payment. Among those are:

- Household goods and personal effects if valued at \$2,000 or less.
- One automobile per household if valued at \$4,500 or less. The value may exceed \$4,500 and still not be counted if it is needed for employment purposes, or is specially equipped for a handicapped person. A second automobile may be excluded if it is needed in connection with an approved plan for self-support.
- An irrevocable funeral contract.
- A revocable burial trust, up to a maximum of \$1,500.
- Life insurance policies having a combined face value of \$1,500 per person. Policies which have no cash value (term insurance) are not considered.

Are There Other Factors of Eligibility?

Citizenship: To be eligible for State Supplementary Assistance, you must be a citizen, an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residency, or otherwise permanently residing in the United States under law.

Residency: A resident of Iowa is one who is voluntarily living in the state for other than a temporary purpose. State Supplementary Assistance payments will not be paid to out-of-state residents.

Other Benefits: An applicant for State Supplementary Assistance must have applied for, or be receiving, all other benefits for which eligible. “Other benefits” include SSI, Social Security, benefits, Iowa Public Employees Retirement System (IPERS), Railroad Retirement, Veteran’s benefits, pensions from private employment, etc.

IF YOU HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES OFFICE.

What Does it Provide?

Special Blind Allowance

A special blind allowance of \$22 per month may be added to a blind person’s SSI benefit. If other income exceeds the SSI benefit, the blind allowance will be less than \$22. You should apply for this benefit at the Social Security District Office serving your county. The Social Security Office will add the special blind allowance to your SSI (gold-colored) check.

Residential Care

A person who meets the eligibility requirements listed earlier in the pamphlet may be eligible for State Supplementary Assistance in a licensed residential care facility. Your physician must certify, in writing, that you do not require nursing care, but you do require residential care.

Persons receiving residential care are entitled to keep a portion of their monthly income to meet personal needs. The balance of that income must be applied toward the cost of care in the facility. The Iowa Department of Human Services will issue a State Supplementary Assistance payment to cover the balance of the cost of your care. The payment is made directly to you, and you reimburse the facility.

Dependent Relative

If you are aged, blind or disabled and have a dependent relative (parent, spouse, child or adult child) living with you, you may be eligible for a dependent person allowance. Eligibility for the category of assistance is determined by the local office of the Department of Human Services, and payment is made by the Social Security Administration as part of your SSI payment.

Application should be filed in the local Department of Human Services office.

Family-Life Home

If you meet the eligibility requirements listed earlier in this pamphlet you may be eligible for State Supplementary Assistance payments to cover the cost of care in a family-life home (Family-life homes are sometimes referenced to as adult foster homes). Persons receiving this type of care are entitled to keep a small part of their monthly income to cover personal needs. The balance of their income must be applied toward the cost of care. The local Department of Human Services approves the living arrangement. The Social Security Administration determines eligibility and issues payments as a part of your SSI check.

In-Home Health Related Care

This category of assistance is designed to enable you to remain in your own home for as long as possible, rather than be placed in a nursing home. Apply in the local office of the Department of Human Services. Payments for care are made by the Iowa Department of Human Services directly to you and you pay the provider.

Medical Coverage

If you qualify for state Supplementary Assistance under one of these categories you are automatically eligible for Medicaid. The Medicaid program covers most medical expenses not covered by Medicare or private health insurance companies.

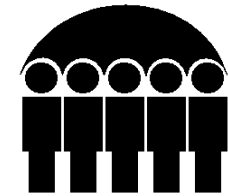
Policy Regarding Discrimination, Harassment, Affirmative Action, and Equal Employment Opportunity

It is the policy of the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide equal treatment in employment and provision of services to applicants, employees and clients without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, political belief or veteran status.

If you feel DHS has discriminated against or harassed you, please send a letter detailing your complaint to:

Iowa Department of Human Services, Office of Human Resources, Hoover Building – 1st Floor, 1305 E. Walnut, Des Moines IA 50319-0114; fax (515) 281-4243 or via e-mail FDHS@hhs.iowa.gov

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State Supplementary Assistance

***Iowa
Department of
Human Services***