
Do you need cash assistance?

You might be eligible for General Assistance.

Because of a recent court decision, some individuals with very low income can now get cash assistance from the welfare office. People can qualify for General Assistance if they are in one of these situations:

- have a temporary or permanent disability;
- are a child who is not living with a relative;
- are caring for an unrelated child under the age of 13 or are caring for someone who is ill or disabled;
- are victims of domestic violence (benefits are limited to 9 months in a lifetime);

OR

- are in a drug or alcohol treatment program that prevents them from working (benefits are limited to 9 months in a lifetime).

The maximum cash assistance for people in Allegheny County with no other income is \$205/month for one person, or \$316/month for two people.

The income limit for qualifying is also \$205/month for one person, or \$316/month for two people.

In addition, individuals must have less than \$250 in countable assets, or \$1,000 if there is more than one person applying. Your house and one car do not count as assets.

How Do I Apply?

You can apply in person at the county assistance office, or online at www.compass.state.pa.us.

You will need to complete a face-to-face interview with a worker at the county assistance office and provide documentation.

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What Paperwork Do I Need?

You will need to provide information about where you live and proof of identity. If you have any income or assets (like a bank account), you will need to provide information about that.

To prove that you are in one of the qualifying situations, you will need to bring one of the following forms:

- To prove disability you will need to get a welfare department medical form (Employability Assessment Form PA 1663) completed.
- To prove domestic violence you will need to get a welfare department Domestic Violence Verification Form (PA Form 1747) completed. You can verbally verify your situation with the caseworker if you do not have a PFA.
- If you are in a drug and alcohol treatment program, the program will need to fill out a welfare department form showing that you are actively participating.
- If you are caring for someone who is disabled, you will need to get a medical form completed by their doctor, or a letter from their doctor.
- If you are caring for a child who is not related to you, you will need to explain the situation to the welfare department and provide some proof that the child is living with you—for example, a letter from a neighbor or relative, or school or medical records.

Please note, having outstanding court fines can be a reason for denial. If you have outstanding fines, you may need to get on a payment plan with a judge and get your fines in good standing to qualify.

What if I have problems with my application or get denied?

If you apply for General Assistance and are turned down, you can appeal or request a reconsideration.

Contact Just Harvest at (412) 431-8960 x602 if you need assistance.



ACTION AGAINST HUNGER