

Do You Have Very Low Income? Apply for General Assistance

If you apply for General Assistance and are turned down, you can appeal.

Community Legal Services can help with appeals. CLS takes new cases about cash assistance, SNAP (food stamps) and Medical Assistance on **Mondays and Wednesdays, and Fridays between 9:00 and noon.**

Our office is at 1410 W. Erie Ave. (Broad & Erie).



Because of a recent court decision, some individuals with very low income can now get Cash Assistance from the welfare office.

You can qualify for General Assistance (GA) if you:

- have a temporary or permanent disability;
- are a child under 18 who is not living with a relative, or are under age 21 and in high school;
- are caring for an unrelated child under the age of 13 or are caring for someone who is ill or disabled;
- are a victim of domestic violence (GA benefits limited to 9 months in a lifetime); or
- are in a drug or alcohol treatment program that prevents you from working (GA benefits limited to 9 months in a lifetime).

The maximum GA cash grant for people in Philadelphia with no other income is \$205/month for 1 person, or \$316/month for two people. If you have more income than this, you cannot get GA.

Families with children and pregnant women can also get cash assistance if they are very low income. Their cash assistance is called TANF.

More information is available at www.clsphila.org/GA.

Center City Office:
1424 Chestnut St. | Philadelphia, PA 19102-2505 | Telephone: 215-981-3700 clsphila.org

North Philadelphia Law Center:
1410 West Erie Ave. | Philadelphia, PA 19140-4136 | Telephone: 215-227-2400

How to Apply for General Assistance

How Do I Apply?

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

Starting in September 2018, people who live in Philadelphia can also get phone or in-person help with applying by calling BenePhilly at (844) 848-4376.

What Do I Need?

- Proof that you fit into one of the categories of people who can get GA.
 - Most people should get the disability form [PA 1663](#) completed by a doctor, nurse practitioner, or psychologist. That form is attached.
 - There are also forms for people receiving domestic violence services (Form [PA 1747](#)) or in drug and alcohol treatment ([PA 1672](#)). But only use those forms if you do not have a disability. Because GA on the basis of domestic violence or drug and alcohol treatment is time limited (to 9 months in a lifetime), it is much better to get GA on the basis of disability.
 - If you are caring for someone who is disabled, you will need to get a medical form or letter from that person's doctor, describing the disability and stating that they need care.
 - If you are caring for a child who is not related to you, you will need to provide some proof that the child is living with you, such as school or medical records. You do not need legal custody.
- Proof of your income and savings.
- You will need to have a face-to-face interview at the welfare office.



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