

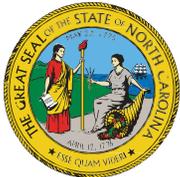
## How and where can I apply?

Apply for the Special Assistance Adult Care Home Program at your county department of social services. You may send someone to apply for you. When you apply, please provide the following items if you have them.

- Income information that includes recent pay stubs, Social Security, SSI, or Veteran's Administration (VA) award letters;
- Savings and checking account information that includes passbooks, checkbooks, bank statements, etc;
- Information on assets such as property (real and personal), stocks, bonds, IRAs, annuities, life insurance, burial insurance and trust funds owned by you and or your spouse;
- Social Security card or other verification of Social Security number;
- Proof of age (birth certificate or other);
- Health insurance information; and,
- State-issued proof of identity.

From the date of application, the eligibility determination process can take up to 45 days for applicants aged 65 or older and up to 60 days for applicants 18 and older and under 65.

A list of the county department of social services can be found at: [www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/social-services/local-dss-directory](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/social-services/local-dss-directory)



NC Department of Health and Human Services • Division of Social Services • The State/County Special Assistance Program • [www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/social-services](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/social-services) • 1915 Health Services Way, Raleigh, NC • Mailing address: 2420 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-2420 • NCDHHS is an equal opportunity employer and provider. • 12/2025

# Special Assistance Adult Care Home Special Care Unit Program

**Help for North Carolinians  
Who Need Alzheimer's or  
Dementia Care in an Adult  
Care Home Special Care Unit**



Do you or someone you know need the type of care provided in an adult care home special dementia unit and need help paying for this care? Read further about eligibility for the Special Assistance Adult Care Home Special Care Unit Program.

## Can I get help paying my expenses at an adult care home?

The State/County Special Assistance for Adults Program helps pay for room and board for older adult or adults with disabilities who need to live or are currently living in an adult care home but cannot afford it. The assistance benefits are issued monthly to eligible individuals living in eligible licensed adult care facilities, as long as that facility is licensed by the NC Division of Health Service Regulation and follows the anti-discrimination practices of the Civil Rights Act.

## Am I eligible?

Individuals with low income are potentially eligible if they are age 65 or older, or if they are 18 or older and under 65 and are disabled according to Social Security disability standards; and all applicants must:

- Need adult care home level of care in a Special Care Unit for Alzheimer's or related disorders, as verified by a health care provider
- Be a U.S. citizen or qualified alien
- Meet income and asset eligibility requirements
- Be a resident of NC
- Meet all other Special Assistance eligibility requirements

*NOTE: If you are eligible for the Special Assistance Adult Care Home Program, you are automatically eligible for Medicaid. Medicaid helps pay for medical expenses, prescription medications (for individuals who do not have Medicare), and treatment. Medicaid also helps pay for personal care services which include assistance with activities of daily living, such as dressing and bathing.*

## Financial Eligibility Requirements Apply

When you apply for Special Assistance, you will be assigned a Department of Social Services (DSS) caseworker who will determine your eligibility. In the process of determining eligibility, there are certain income deductions for earned and unearned income and assets that may be excluded.



Examples of countable income include wages, Social Security and Supplemental Security income, and Veteran's Administration income.

Your DSS caseworker can explain how income is budgeted for Special Assistance Adult Care Home eligibility, and can also explain how assets and income are verified and counted in the Special Assistance eligibility process.

## How much will my Special Assistance benefit be?

The maximum Special Assistance payment an eligible individual can receive is tied to the maximum rate adult care homes can charge Special Assistance recipients for room and board. The maximum rate (set by the North Carolina General Assembly) adult care homes can charge an SA recipient for room and board in a Special Care Unit (SCU) for Alzheimer's or related disorders is currently \$1,792 per month.

An income-eligible individual's benefit amount is determined by taking the maximum rate and subtracting the individual's total monthly countable income. A personal needs allowance of \$70 is added to the maximum rate to allow an individual spending money for clothing and other essentials each month.

	<b>\$1,792</b>	<b>SCU Rate for 2026</b>
<b>+</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>Personal Needs Allowance</b>
<hr/>		
<b>=</b>	<b>\$1,862</b>	<b>Maintenance Amount</b>
<b>-</b>	<b>subtract</b>	<b>Countable Monthly Income</b>
<hr/>		
<b>=</b>	<b>Monthly Special Assistance Payment Amount</b>	

*Note: As of 1/1/2023, rates are adjusted yearly using the federally approved Social Security cost-of-living change (if any) that is effective for the applicable year. Please confirm the published rates with the county department of social services.*