

How and where can I apply?

Apply for the Special Assistance 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 under 65.

A list of the county department of social services can be found at: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/social-services/local-dss-directory>



NC Division of Aging and Adult Services
693 Palmer Drive, Raleigh, NC
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Raleigh, NC 27699-2101

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Division of Aging and Adult Services



Special Assistance Program

Help for North Carolinians Who Need Care in a Residential Facility



Do you or someone you know need the type of care provided in a residential facility, such as an adult care homes/assisted living, family care homes, group homes/supervised living or a mental health group home and need help paying for this care? Read further about eligibility for the Special Assistance Program.

Can I get help paying my expenses at a residential facility?

Yes, if you are an older adult, an adult with a disability or a child that is legally blind living in a specialized community residential center and need to live or are living in an adult care home. The State/County Special Assistance Program helps pay for room and board. The assistance benefits are issued monthly to eligible individuals living in licensed residential facilities, as long as that facility is licensed by the NC Division of Health Service Regulation and follows 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, between the ages of 18 and 65 and disabled according to Social Security disability standards, or (if under age 18) are

a child that is legally blind living in a specialized community residential center.

All applicants must:

- Need residential facility level of care 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 Program, you are automatically eligible for Medicaid. Medicaid helps pay for medical expenses and treatment. Medicaid may also help 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) that adult care homes can charge an SA recipient for room and board is currently \$1,285.

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 some spending money for clothes and other essentials each month.

\$1,285	Maximum Adult Care Home Rate
<u>+ 70</u>	Personal Needs Allowance
= 1,355	Maintenance Amount
<u>- Subtract</u>	Countable monthly income
= Monthly	Special Assistance Benefit Amount

Note: As of 1/1/2023, rates shall be 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.