

Minnesota Supplemental Aid

MSA

Minnesota Supplemental Aid provides monthly cash support to help meet basic living expenses. **It is mainly for people who receive Supplemental Security Income**, but if your income is just over the Supplemental Security Income limit, you may also be eligible for Minnesota Supplemental Aid.

Typical monthly benefit

Minnesota Supplemental Aid can help you pay for basic living expenses like clothing, utilities and housing. The specific amount you receive may vary depending on your situation. The typical monthly benefit is:



MSA may also help if you have special expenses, including:

- Special medical diets
- Home repair costs
- High housing costs
- Conservator or representative payee expenses.

Applying for MSA

You can apply for Minnesota Supplemental Aid by mail, phone, in person or online. Apply for aid at the same time you apply for Supplemental Security Income so it can start as soon as your Supplemental Security Income starts. To apply you must:

- Fill out a Combined Application Form, available at your local county human services office
- or apply online at www.applymn.dhs.mn.gov.
- Return the form right away.
- Meet with a county worker, in person or over the phone, and give information about yourself. During this meeting, ask any questions you have about the forms or program.
- Bring proof of the information the county asks for.

Give the application to the county even if you have not answered all of the questions. The county will follow up with you if they need more information. If the county agency decides you can receive Minnesota Supplemental Aid, it pays you from the first day of the month it receives your application.

Get help applying

It can be hard to apply for benefits on your own. Disability Hub MN can connect you with someone who will help with your application or appeal if you have been denied. This help is free. Contact Disability Hub MN at 866-333-2466 and tell them you need help applying for Supplemental Security Income.

It may take more than 30 days if the county needs proof of a disability or other information. If you are eligible, payments will begin right away. The county will send you a letter notifying you of its decision. If you cannot receive benefits, you may appeal or apply again at any time, especially if your situation changes.

Q & A for Minnesota Supplemental Aid

Q. What is Supplemental Security Income?

A. Minnesota Supplemental Aid is mainly for people who receive Supplemental Security Income. Supplemental Security Income is a program of the Social Security Administration. The program offers monthly cash benefits for people who have low income and few resources, and are:

- Age 65 or older or
- Blind or
- Disabled.

To apply for Supplemental Security Income, contact the Social Security Administration at 800-772-1213 or visit www.ssa.gov. If you work, you may also be able to receive Social Security disability benefits, so ask about both.

Q. What other programs are available if you receive Minnesota Supplemental Aid?

A. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) If you receive Minnesota Supplemental Aid, you could also receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits (formerly known as food support or food stamps) to help buy food. You may apply for assistance on the same application you use for Minnesota Supplemental Aid or online.

Q. How do you appeal?

A. If you do not agree with the action the county takes on your application, tell your county worker. Ask the worker to explain the reasons for the action. You may see the policy manuals, rules and laws that give reasons for the action. If you still do not agree, you can appeal. Your county worker will help you ask for an appeal hearing or contact:

Minnesota Department of Human Services
Appeals Division
P.O. Box 64941
St. Paul, MN 55164-0941
Metro: 651-431-3600 (Voice)
Greater Minnesota: 800-657-3510 or use your preferred relay service Fax: 651-431-7523

You should bring any facts to the hearing that will help you explain why you do not agree. You may bring a friend or a lawyer. If you want a lawyer, ask your county worker for information about free legal services. You may bring people to the hearing to give information about the facts. After you and the county have talked about your case, a human services judge will decide the case. You will receive the decision in the mail.

If you are still not satisfied, you have 30 days to appeal to the state district court.

Your right to privacy

Most of the time, the facts that human services agencies ask for are considered private. This means you may see the facts about yourself, but they are not available to the public. Certain other government agencies may see them too. You have the right to question what you think is wrong in your file.

For more facts about data privacy, ask your county worker or write to the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

If you have questions

For questions about Minnesota Supplemental Aid, contact your local county human services agency.

Civil Rights Notice

Discrimination is against the law. The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) does not discriminate on the basis of any of the following:

- race
- color
- national origin
- creed
- religion
- sexual orientation
- public assistance status
- marital status
- age
- disability
- sex
- political beliefs

Civil Rights Complaints

You have the right to file a discrimination complaint if you believe you were treated in a discriminatory way by a human services agency.

Contact **DHS** directly only if you have a discrimination complaint:

Civil Rights Coordinator
Minnesota Department of Human Services
Equal Opportunity and Access Division
P.O. Box 64997
St. Paul, MN 55164-0997
651-431-3040 (voice) or use your preferred relay service

Minnesota Department of Human Rights (MDHR)

In Minnesota, you have the right to file a complaint with the MDHR if you believe you have been discriminated against because of any of the following:

- race
- color
- national origin
- religion
- creed
- sex
- sexual orientation
- marital status
- public assistance status
- disability

Contact the **MDHR** directly to file a complaint:

Minnesota Department of Human Rights
Freeman Building, 625 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-539-1100 (voice)
800-657-3704 (toll free)
711 or 800-627-3529 (MN Relay)
651-296-9042 (fax)
Info.MDHR@state.mn.us (email)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office for Civil Rights (OCR)

You have the right to file a complaint with the OCR, a federal agency, if you believe you have been discriminated against because of any of the following:

- race
- color
- national origin
- age
- disability
- sex
- religion

Contact the **OCR** directly to file a complaint:

Director, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office for Civil Rights
200 Independence Avenue SW, Room 509F
HHH Building
Washington, DC 20201

800-368-1019 (voice) 800-537-7697 (TDD)

Complaint Portal: <https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf>

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and **U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)** civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, religious creed, disability, age, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992.

Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- 1 mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- 2 fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- 3 email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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