General Assistance and Supplemental Security Income

General Assistance (GA) is Minnesota’s cash assistance program for childless adults who are unable to work due to long- or short-term illness or disability. The maximum monthly grant is $203 for an individual or $260 for a married couple. Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Income (RSDI) are federal programs for low-income, disabled adults with more restrictive disability standards than GA.

Some GA recipients are ultimately found to be SSI or RSDI eligible. During the application process for SSI, applicants continue to receive GA benefits. When SSI eligibility is determined for a GA recipient, the federal Social Security Administration reimburses the State for the GA grants retroactive to the date of the initial SSI application.

Figure 1 shows the total number of GA recipients, separating the two-thirds that have an SSI or RSDI application pending from those that do not.

Figure 2 shows the number of approved SSI applications and the federal reimbursement amounts (Interim Assistance Reimbursement (IAR)) by month for State Fiscal Year 2010.

In that year, a monthly average of 262 GA recipients became eligible for SSI or RSDI. The average federal reimbursement per person for the entire SSI application period was $2,973. The total reimbursement for SFY 2010 was $9,330,314.

For more information contact the DHS Program Assessment and Integrity Division, Statistics and Analysis Unit.