

## Public Assistance Benefits

One of the best ways to help someone who is homeless or at risk of homelessness is to help them apply for public assistance benefits. Many people who are homeless are not accessing all the benefits that they are eligible for and this is often because they don't know of the benefits. In Minnesota, the counties and in some cases, tribes administer state and federal public assistance benefits. There are three categories of benefits – *cash, food and emergency assistance*.

The primary form to apply for any public assistance benefit is the Combined Application Form (CAF). In addition to this form, the person will also have to complete and sign other forms. If you can help someone complete all the paperwork and send all the completed and signed forms into the county or tribe this will greatly help the person access these benefits which can help them pay for their housing. Copies of all of these forms are in your packet and the agency you are working for is also likely to have copies of the forms on file. The agency will also know how to submit the forms to the county or tribe.

Some tips when helping someone complete the forms –

- If the person is homeless, state that on page 1 in the space for address on the Combined Application Form. Being homeless can expediate some benefits.
- Authorized Rep – this is on page 7 of the Combined Application. An Authorized Rep will help to fill out forms and get notices on behalf of the person. This can be very helpful as it will expediate the process to get someone on benefits. Check with your agency to be sure they are ok with being named the Authorized Rep. You should *not* check the box for getting and using SNAP benefits. The authorized rep will also have to sign at the bottom of page 9.
- Healthcare is an important benefit and nearly everyone you will work with is likely to be eligible for Medical Assistance which is Minnesota's Medicaid program. The process for applying varies based on whether or not the person is receiving a Social Security benefit (SSI or SSDI).

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## **Housing Support (formerly GRH)**

Housing Support is a program for people with disabilities and older adults who have low income. It helps pay for housing and things people need to stay housed in certain group settings or in the community. Housing Support may also [help pay for additional services](#) to help people with stable housing, employment, or health needs they may have if they are not eligible for [personal care assistance](#) (PCA) services through [Medical Assistance](#) (MA) or [MA-Waiver](#) programs.

All forms can be found at DHS edocs - <https://mn.gov/dhs/general-public/publications-forms-resources/edocs/>

Combined Application Form

DHS Form 5223 <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-5223-ENG>

SSI Interim Assistance Authorization

DHS Form 1795 <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-1795-ENG> (FOR CLIENTS NOT ON SSI OR SSDI)

Interim Assistance Agreement (Do not use for SSI)

DHS Form 1795A <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-1795A-ENG>

Professional Statement of Need DHS Form

7122 <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-7122-ENG>

Professional Statement of Need Guidance for Qualified Professionals

<https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-7122A-ENG>

Habitability Inspection Form DHS Form 7123 <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-7123-ENG>

Authorization for Release of Information About Residence and Shelter Expenses DHS

2952 <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-2952-ENG>

Signed Personal Statement about Assets for Cash Programs DHS Form

6054 <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/DHS-6054-ENG>

Long Term Homelessness Eligibility Form from MN Housing

<https://www.mnhousing.gov/sites/multifamily/postselection/supportivehousing>

Scroll down to LTH Verification Forms, then click on LTH Eligibility Form

## **General Assistance (GA)**

This program is for single adults without children who have no income and are not able to work.

All forms can be found at DHS edocs - <https://mn.gov/dhs/general-public/publications-forms-resources/edocs/>

Combined Application Form

DHS Form 5223 <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-5223-ENG>

SSI Interim Assistance Authorization

DHS Form 1795 <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-1795-ENG> (FOR CLIENTS NOT ON SSI OR SSDI)

Interim Assistance Agreement (Do not use for SSI)

DHS Form 1795A <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-1795A-ENG>

Medical Opinion Form

DHS Form 2114 <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-2114-ENG>

Authorization for Release of Information About Residence and Shelter Expenses

DHS 2952 <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-2952-ENG>

Signed Personal Statement about Assets for Cash Programs

DHS Form 6054 <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/DHS-6054-ENG>

Direct Deposit Form – if a person has a bank account and wants to use that instead of the benefit going on their EBT card.

DHS Form 3360 <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-3360-ENG>

*Please note that the application for direct deposit is at the end of this DHS Form.*

## **Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)**

This program is for families with children who have no income or very low income.

All forms can be found at DHS edocs - <https://mn.gov/dhs/general-public/publications-forms-resources/edocs/>

### Combined Application Form

DHS Form 5223 <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfservlet/Public/DHS-5223-ENG>

### SSI Interim Assistance Authorization

DHS Form 1795 <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfservlet/Public/DHS-1795-ENG> (FOR CLIENTS NOT ON SSI OR SSDI)

Interim Assistance Agreement (Do not use for SSI)

DHS Form 1795A <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfservlet/Public/DHS-1795A-ENG>

### Medical Opinion Form

DHS Form 2114 <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfservlet/Public/DHS-2114-ENG>

### Authorization for Release of Information About Residence and Shelter Expenses

DHS 2952 <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfservlet/Public/DHS-2952-ENG>

### Signed Personal Statement about Assets for Cash Programs

DHS Form 6054 <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfservlet/DHS-6054-ENG>

Direct Deposit Form - if a person has a bank account and wants to use that instead of the benefit going on their EBT card.

DHS Form 3360 <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfservlet/Public/DHS-3360-ENG>

*Please note that the application for direct deposit is at the end of this DHS Form.*

## **Minnesota Supplemental Aid (MSA)**

This is a state supplement to SSI or a low SSDI monthly payment.

All forms can be found at DHS edocs - <https://mn.gov/dhs/general-public/publications-forms-resources/edocs/>

### **Combined Application Form**

DHS Form 5223 <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-5223-ENG>

### **Authorization for Release of Information About Residence and Shelter Expenses**

DHS 2952 <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-2952-ENG>

### **Signed Personal Statement about Assets for Cash Programs**

DHS Form 6054 <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/DHS-6054-ENG>

Direct Deposit Form - if a person has a bank account and wants to use that account instead of the benefit going on their EBT card.

DHS Form 3360 <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-3360-ENG>

*Please note that the application for direct deposit is at the end of this DHS Form.*

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP - food assistance)**

This program provides funding to pay for food. Many people who work or are on Social Security benefits maybe eligible for this benefit.

All forms can be found at DHS edocs - <https://mn.gov/dhs/general-public/publications-forms-resources/edocs/>

Combined Application Form

DHS Form 5223 <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-5223-ENG>

Authorization for Release of Information About Residence and Shelter Expenses

DHS 2952 <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-2952-ENG>

## **Emergency Assistance**

Please work with your agency staff to determine how the county or tribe administers Emergency Assistance. In addition to the forms below the county or tribe is likely to have their own forms that must also be completed to access Emergency Assistance. Emergency assistance pays for damage deposit, first month's rent, past due utility bills. A household is usually eligible once a year.

All forms can be found at DHS edocs - <https://mn.gov/dhs/general-public/publications-forms-resources/edocs/>

Combined Application Form

DHS Form 5223 <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfservlet/Public/DHS-5223-ENG>

Authorization for Release of Information About Residence and Shelter Expenses

DHS 2952 <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfservlet/Public/DHS-2952-ENG>

## Healthcare

Healthcare is a critical benefit for clients and must be renewed annually. Nearly everyone you work with is likely to be eligible for Medical Assistance (Minnesota's version of Medicaid). Since most of the people you serve are or have been homeless, they probably have not received their Medical Assistance renewal packet in the mail.

For Medical Assistance for people who are on SSI or SSDI the form for Certain Populations (DHS Form 3876) <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-3876-ENG> along with the AVS form (DHS Form 7823) <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-7823-ENG> should be completed.

For people *not* on SSI or SSDI (people on General Assistance and MFIP) help them contact a local MNSURE navigator.

<https://www.mnsure.org/help/find-assister/find-navigator.jsp>



## **Social Security**

Department of Human Services' (DHS) Social Security Advocacy services help individuals (both children and adults), increase access to Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits for those who are homeless or experiencing at risk of becoming homeless. To qualify for either Social Security program an individual must have a physical or mental health impairment that will last more than a year and have significant functional impairments that affect their ability to do any work activity.

DHS' Social Security Advocacy Directory:

<https://mn.gov/dhs/partners-and-providers/program-overviews/housing-and-homelessness/social-security-advocacy-directory.jsp>