

# **General Assistance**

A thick, hand-drawn style orange line that underlines the text "General Assistance". It starts under the 'G' and ends under the 'e' of "Assistance".

# Program Intent

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The intent of the General Assistance (GA) program is to individuals or married couples:

- With severe disabilities,
- Who have no dependent children,
- Who are experiencing homelessness,
- Who are waiting to be awarded Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits

# Benefits

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- Housing assistance;
- Utility assistance;
- Cash assistance; and
- Free professional assistance with the Social Security application and appeals process.

# Referral Process

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Individuals who allege severe physical and/or mental health conditions and who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness may be referred to CDDU using the Disability Benefits Liaison (DBL)-General Assistance (GA) Referral Form (DE 4640)\*.

An individual will be evaluated for the GA program if the box stating “Customer is experiencing homelessness or is at risk of homelessness” is checked.

Referrals are sent to the DBL Referral mailbox at [DBL.Referral@odhsoha.oregon.gov](mailto:DBL.Referral@odhsoha.oregon.gov)

\*Referrals may also be received in other ways.

# Screening for Homelessness Criteria

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- CDDU staff who screen consumers must determine whether the individual is homeless or is at risk of becoming homeless within the next 90 days.
- Individuals live in many different settings and situations and still be considered homeless.
  - A halfway house or supervised shelter
  - A temporary accommodation
  - A place not designed to be or ordinarily used as a place to sleep
  - A place lacking consistent and operational access to utilities

# Application Process

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- Individuals who appear to meet the homelessness criteria are scheduled for an intake with a Disability Analyst (“DA”).
- The DA will contact the individual and conduct a GA intake, usually via telephone, to help the individual to complete required documentation.
- After the GA intake, the individual’s case goes to the Presumptive Medicaid Disability Determination Team (“PMDDT”). PMDDT will determine whether the individual meets the Social Security Administration’s (“SSA”) disability criteria.

# Application Process (continued)

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- If the individual DOES NOT meet SSA's disability criteria or fails to comply with the disability determination process, their GA application is denied.
- If the individual DOES meet SSA's disability criteria, then CDDU's financial team completes a financial intake to determine whether the individual is eligible for Oregon Supplemental Income Program Medical ("OSIPM").
- If the individual IS NOT eligible for OSIPM, then their application is denied.

# Application Process (continued)

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- If the individual IS OSIPM eligible, then the DA collects an Interim Assistance Authorization (“IAA”) from the individual.
  - The IAA allows the State of Oregon to collect what it pays in GA benefits from the individual’s SSI back award. GA is essentially a loan against money that CDDU believes that the individual will eventually receive from SSA. We recoup GA benefits at approximately an 80-85% rate.
- The DA also ensures that the individual has filed an SSI claim with a Social Security Field Office.



# Role of the DA

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- In addition to assisting the individual with the intake and application process, the DA can act as the individual's Authorized Representative for Social Security. This means that the DA can:
  - Receive copies of notices that Social Security sends to the individual
  - File appeals of Social Security decisions on the individual's behalf
  - Submit documents to Social Security that might aid in the adjudication of the individual's disability claim
  - Connect with local community action agencies that can help the individual with needs not covered by GA.

# GA Eligibility

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- An individual is eligible for GA once ALL of the following are met:
  - The individual meets the homelessness criteria from OAR 461-135-0700(1)
  - The individual is disabled per PMDDT
  - The individual meets the OSIPM financial and non-financial eligibility criteria
  - The individual has signed an IAA
  - The individual has filed an SSI claim with a Social Security Field Office

# Housing

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- CDDU employs a full-time Housing Specialist to help GA recipients to obtain and pay for housing. Duties include:
  - Conducting Housing Assessments
  - Collecting Rental Agreements
  - Acting as a liaison between GA recipients and potential landlords
  - Ensuring that payments are authorized and made timely
  - Determining whether housing arrangements that are made are suitable and within CDDU policy

# Benefit Amounts (2025)

## For a Single Person

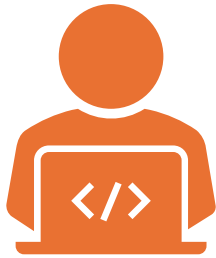
- Up to \$631/mo. in housing assistance
- \$106/mo. in Utility assistance
- \$71/mo. in Personal Incidental Fund (PIF)

## For Two Persons

- Up to \$945/mo. in housing assistance
- \$161/mo. in Utility assistance
- \$109/mo. in Personal Incidental Fund (PIF)

❖ Amounts may be pro-rated based on the day the Oregonian applied for SSI in relation to when they applied for GA. (See effective Dates)

# Contacts



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