



sassa

SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIAL SECURITY AGENCY

[*paying the right social grant, to the right person,
at the right time and place. NJALO!*

Your and Your Grants 2009/10

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Introduction

Social Assistance is an income transfer in the form of grants provided by government. A social grant refers to grants paid by the South African Social Security Agency that is, disability grant; a grant for older persons and a war veteran's grant; foster child grant; care dependency grant; child support grant and a grant-in-aid

As from 01 April 2006, the responsibility for the management, administration and payment of social assistance grants was transferred to the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA).

SASSA is a section 3A public entity, the focused institution responsible to ensure that government pays the right grant, to the right person, at a location which is most convenient to that person.

Types of grants

Social Assistance is provided in the form of:

- grant for older persons;
- disability grant;
- war veterans grant;
- care dependency grant;
- foster child grant;
- child support grant;
- grant-in-aid;
- Social Relief of Distress.

Qualifying Requirements

Social Grants

Grant for Older Persons

The applicant:

- must be a South African citizen / permanent resident
- must be resident in South Africa;
- if a male, must be 63 years or older;
- if a female, must be 60 years or older;
- and spouse must comply with the means test;
- must not be maintained or cared for in a State Institution;
- must not be in receipt of another social grant for him or herself;

NB: All South African Males aged 61 and 62 years will qualify for Grant for Older Person from April 2009;

- *Males aged 60 years will qualify for Grant for Older Persons from April 2010; provided they meet the above criteria*

Disability Grant

The applicant:

- must be a South African citizen / permanent resident or refugee;
- must be resident in South Africa;
- must be 18 to 59 years of age if a female and 18 to 62 years of age if a male;
- must submit a medical / assessment report confirming disability;
- Medical assessment must not be older than 3 months at date of application.
- and spouse must meet the requirements of the means test;
- must not be maintained or cared for in a State Institution;
- must not be in receipt of another social grant in respect of him or herself.

War Veteran's Grant

The applicant:

- must be a South African citizen / permanent resident
- must be resident in South Africa;
- must be 60 years and over or must be disabled;
- must have fought in the Second World War or the Korean War;
- and spouse must meet the requirements of the means test;
- must not be maintained or cared for in a State Institution; and
- must not be in receipt of another Social grant in respect of himself or herself;

Child Grants

Foster Child Grant

- the applicant and child must be resident in South Africa;
- court order indicating foster care status;
- the foster parent must be a South African citizen, permanent resident or

refugee.

- Child must remain in the care of the foster parent (s)

Care Dependency Grant

- The application must be South African citizen or permanent resident;
- the applicant and child must be resident in South Africa;
- age of child must be under 18 years;
- must submit a medical / assessment report confirming permanent, severe disability;
- applicant and spouse must meet the requirements of the means test (except for foster parents);
- the care-dependent child/children must not be permanently cared for in a State Institution;

Note: The income of foster parents will not be taken into consideration.

Child Support Grant

- the primary care giver must be a South African citizen or permanent resident;
- both the applicant and the child must reside in South Africa;
- applicant must be the primary care giver of the child/ children concerned;
- the child/children must be under the age of 15 years;
- the applicant and spouse must meet the requirements of the means test;
- cannot apply for more than six non biological children
- Child can not be cared for in state institution.

Grant-in-aid

- The applicant must be in receipt of a grant for Older Persons, Disability grant or a War Veteran's grant, and require full- time attendance by another person Owing to his/her physical or mental disabilities;
- must not be cared for in an institution that receives subsidy from the State for the care/housing of such beneficiary;

Proof of Identity

Applicants who do not have 13 digit bar coded Identity Book, or birth certificate for children involved in the application can still apply for a grant. Please obtain information from your nearest SASSA office on the alternative documents which are accepted for grant applications.

Where Do You Apply For A Grant?

- You apply at the SASSA Office nearest to where you live;
- If you are too old or sick to travel to the office to apply for a grant, then a family member or friend can apply on your behalf;
- Your application form will be completed in the presence of an officer from SASSA;
- When your application is completed you will be given a receipt;
- Keep this receipt - it is your only proof of application;
- You do not have to pay any money to apply;
- If your application is not approved by SASSA, you must be informed in writing as to why your application was unsuccessful;
- You have the right to appeal to the Minister for Social Development in writing, explaining why you disagree with the decision. This appeal must be lodged within 90 days of notification of the outcome of your application.

Date of Award of Grants

If your grant is approved, you will be paid from the date on which you applied.

If Your Application For A Grant Is Unsuccessful

You must be informed in writing of the reasons for the refusal of the grant application, and your right to appeal within 90 days of notification.

Methods of Payment

You can receive your grant by the following methods:

- Cash payments at designated paypoints
- Banks including Postbank
- Institutions

Note: If you are unable to collect the grant yourself you may nominate a procurator to collect it on your behalf.

Suspension of Grants

The following may result in the suspension of a grant:

- changes in circumstances(financial and or medical);
- outcome of a review;
- failure to co-operate when a grant is reviewed;
- committing a fraudulent activity or misrepresentation
- Where grant was approved in error

Restoration Of Grants

An application must be made for restoration of a grant within 90 days of the suspension.

Main Reasons For Lapsing Of Grants

- death;
- admission to a State Institution;
- if the grant is not claimed for 3 consecutive months;
- when the period of temporary disability has lapsed;
- you are absent from the Republic;
- If you cease to be a refugee (disability and foster child grants only)

Reviews

You must declare any income at the time of application. This will form the basis on which SASSA will decide whether your grant must be reviewed. You will be notified 3 months in advance of the date of the review or the date on which the life certificate is due.

Social Relief of Distress

Social relief of distress is the temporary provision of assistance intended for persons in such dire need that they are unable to meet their or their families' most basic needs. Social Relief of Distress is paid to South African citizens or permanent residents, who have insufficient means and meet one or more of the following criteria:

- The applicant is awaiting an approved social grant;
- The applicant has been found medically unfit to undertake remunerative work for a period of less than 6 months;
- No maintenance is received from a parent, child or spouse obliged in law to pay maintenance, and proof is furnished that efforts made to obtain have been unsuccessful;
- The bread winner is deceased and application is made within three months of the date of death;
- The bread winner of that person's family has been admitted to an institution

Funded by the state (prison, psychiatric hospital, state home for older persons or treatment centre)

- The applicant has been affected by a disaster as defined in the Disaster Management Act, 2002
- The person is not receiving assistance from any other organization, or
- Refusal of the application for social relief of distress will cause undue hardship.

Period of Social Relief of Distress

Social Relief of Distress is issued monthly for a maximum period of 3 months. An extension for a further 3 months may be granted in exceptional cases.

Note: No person who is in receipt of a social grant may receive the grant and social relief of distress simultaneously. Any person who received both social relief and a grant must repay the value of the social relief of distress received. This will be recovered from subsequent grant payments.

It is the responsibility of beneficiaries to keep SASSA informed of changes in their circumstances and means.

Fraud

SASSA exercises zero tolerance to fraudulent activities.

What Is A Means Test

In South Africa Social Assistance is subject to means testing which implies that SASSA evaluates the income and assets of the person applying for social assistance in order to determine whether the person's means are below a stipulated amount. This means test is a way of determining whether a person qualifies to receive a grant as grants are indeed meant for those who have insufficient means to support themselves. The means test varies from one grant to another.

Asset And Income Threshold

Asset threshold

(Grants for Older person, Disability grants and war veterans grants only)

Single person	R 338 400	R 451 200	R 460 800	R 484 800
Married person	R 676 800	R 902 400	R 921 600	R 969 600

Income thresholds (Annual Amounts)

(Grants for Older persons, Disability Grants and War Veterans Grants)

Single person	R 23 544	R 26 928	R 27 552	R 29 112
Married person	R 43 704	R 53 856	R 55 104	R 58 224

Child support grant:

Child grants: (Single person)	R 9 600	R 25 200	R 27 600	R 28 800
Child grants: (Married person)	R 13 200	R 50 400	R 55 200	R 57 600

Foster child grant: (Child income)

R 14 880	R 0	R 0	R 0
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Care-dependency grant:

Care-dependency grant (Single person)	R 48 000	R 112 800	R 115 200	R 121 200
Care-dependency grant (Married person)	R 48 000	R 225 600	R 230 400	R 242 400
Care-dependency grant (Child income)	R 22 560	R 0	R 0	R 0

Amounts of Grants as At 01 April 2008

Grant Type	Amount Payable	Amount Payable as from 1October 2008	Amount Payable as from 1October 2009
Old Age grant	R 940.00	R 960.00	R 1010.00
Disability grant	R 940.00	R 960.00	R 1010.00
War veterans' grant	R 960.00	R 980.00	R 1030.00
Grant-in-aid	R 210.00	R 230.00	R 240.00
Child support grant	R 210.00	R 230.00	R 240.00
Foster care grant	R 650.00	R 650.00	R 680.00
Care-dependency grant	R 940.00	R 960.00	R 1010.00
Institution (25%)	R 235.00	R 240.00	R 252.50