

Housing and Support Services

We work to ensure that appropriate housing is available for the people we serve by supporting systems that integrate housing, services and income supports to enable people to live in the community of their choice.

The Housing and Support Services Division is the home for a number of housing and economic assistance programs that serve as critical pieces of the social safety net in Minnesota.

Housing

Section 811 Project-Based Rental Assistance

This program offers subsidized rental units in designated properties for persons under 62 who are enrolled in Moving Home Minnesota or who are experiencing long-term homelessness and serious mental illness and are receiving Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) services.



MSA housing

Minnesota Supplemental Aid (MSA) Housing Assistance helps people with disabilities who pay more than 40 percent of their income toward housing costs so that they have a choice about where they live. To qualify, the person must be eligible for MSA, be under age 65, have total housing costs that are more than 40 percent of their total income, and meet other criteria.

Housing Support (formerly Group Residential Housing)

Housing Support is a state-funded income support that pays for housing-related costs for adults with disabilities, or who are age 65 or older, and who have low income and live in authorized settings. People can receive these benefits in group facilities or in their own home. Payments are made directly to the housing provider. Housing Support may also help pay for additional services when a recipient is not eligible for personal care assistance services through Medical Assistance (MA) or MA-Waiver programs.

Income assistance

Minnesota Supplemental Aid

Minnesota Supplemental Aid (MSA) is an income supplement for people who receive federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits, or who would be receiving SSI if their income was not above the SSI limit. The typical monthly MSA benefit is \$81 for an individual and \$111 for a couple. For qualifying people with high housing costs, MSA Housing Assistance adds \$192 to the monthly MSA benefit. Other MSA special need benefits are also available. Applicants must apply for MSA through their county or tribal human service agency.



Emergency General Assistance

Emergency General Assistance (EGA) provides once-annual financial assistance to help pay for food, shelter or utility expenses in crisis situations. Applicants must apply for EGA through their county or tribal human service agency.

General Assistance

General Assistance (GA) helps Minnesotans with little or no income meet their basic needs. It offers a small monthly cash grant to those with a serious illness, disabilities or other issues that limit their ability to work. GA is a temporary aid to help while other sources of income are put in place. The typical monthly GA benefit is \$203 for an individual and \$260 for a couple, but may be less if a person has other income from work, benefits or any other source.

Support services

SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR)

SOAR is a national program designed to help people apply for Social Security Disability benefits who are under age 65, experiencing or at risk of homelessness and have a disability that is expected to last 12 months or more. SOAR advocates do not charge a fee for this service.



Social Security Advocacy

Social Security advocacy helps people apply for Social Security disability benefits who are under age 65, on certain public assistance programs and have a disability that is expected to last 12 months or more. Social Security Advocacy providers do not charge a fee for this service.

Long-Term Homeless Supportive Services

The Department provides grants to seven regional partnerships to provide services to individuals, youth and families with children who have experienced long-term homelessness, so that they can find and maintain housing in the community of their choice. People with the greatest barriers to obtaining and maintaining stable housing are prioritized.

Housing Stabilization Services

Housing Stabilization Services are a new Medicaid benefit to help people with disabilities (including mental illness and substance use disorder) and seniors find and keep housing. The goals of Housing Stabilization Services are to support an individual's transition to housing, increase long-term stability in housing, and avoid future periods of homelessness or institutionalization. Services will become available for eligible Medical Assistance recipients in July 2020.