

If I Need . . .

Cash

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families provides cash assistance and other support to families with children under 18. You must be a U.S. Citizen or qualified immigrant and have very low income. Grandparents and other relatives raising related children are also able to apply for cash assistance. Guardianship is not required; but you will need to prove relationship by providing a birth certificate(s) and proof the child lives in your home.

How to Access this Benefit:

Apply online at abe.illinois.gov or in-person at your local Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) office. As part of the application, you will need to go the IDHS office to be interviewed and begin to develop a Responsibility and Services Plan. You will work with a TANF case worker on the plan and the plan will state what you will do to find employment. Help may be provided for the cost of looking for work, job training or expenses related to starting a job.

Social Security

The Social Security Administration provides monthly cash benefits based on wages earned during your lifetime through **retirement, survivor or disability** insurance. If you do not have enough work history to receive benefits, Social Security will check whether or not you can get benefits based on a parent's, spouse's or former spouse's wage history. Survivor benefits can be issued to a widow(er) as early as age 60 or a disabled widow(er) as early as age 50, based on the deceased spouse's wage history.

www.ssa.gov

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

SSI may be available if you are low income, have low assets, are aged (65+) or disabled, and if you are U.S. citizens or meet special non-citizen criteria.

How to Access this Benefit:

Call 1-800-772-1213 or begin the application online at www.ssa.gov. You can also see if you qualify for these and other benefits at www.benefits.gov/ssa.

AABD Cash

IDHS provides cash assistance for persons who are aged 65+, blind, or disabled and have very low income and assets. You may be able to get AABD Cash if you:

- Get SSI
- Cannot get SSI due to income (you may be able to receive AABD if you are denied SSI due to income and your income is below program limits)
- Are a U.S. Citizen or qualified non-citizen
- Live in Illinois
- Are 65 years or older, blind or disabled



How to Access this Benefit: Apply online at abe.illinois.gov or in-person at the IDHS office.

General Assistance (outside Chicago)

If you do not qualify for state cash assistance, you may be able to get help through your local township office through a program called General Assistance. Some townships also provide one time Emergency Assistance to help with a crisis. To receive help, you must live in the township, meet the program's income, asset and citizenship requirements.

Veterans Cash Benefits

VA Compensation

Veterans who have a disability as a result of military service can apply for **VA Compensation**. VA Compensation provides a cash benefit based on a VA disability rating of 10% to 100%. Because disabilities from an injury do not appear until long after discharge there is no time limit on applying for this benefit. Veterans who have applied in the past may want to check again as conditions are added to the list as new discoveries about the impact from service are made.



Learn more about the types of compensation that are available at www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/.

VA Pension

Veterans who are disabled or elderly and low income may qualify for a **VA Pension**. The VA Pension may be available to Veterans discharged (other than dishonorably) and who served during a period of conflict. **Low income surviving dependents of veterans** who served during a period of conflict may be able to get help through the VA pension program. To learn more, visit www.benefits.va.gov/pension/.

Help may also be available to veterans or their spouses that need help to stay in the home or pay for the cost of nursing home care. The benefit is called **Aid and Attendance**. Learn more about Aid and Attendance at www.benefits.va.gov/pension/aid_attendance_housebound.asp.

How to Access this Benefit:

Apply online with the VA or contact a local Veterans Service Organization (VSO) for help. www.va.gov/vso/