

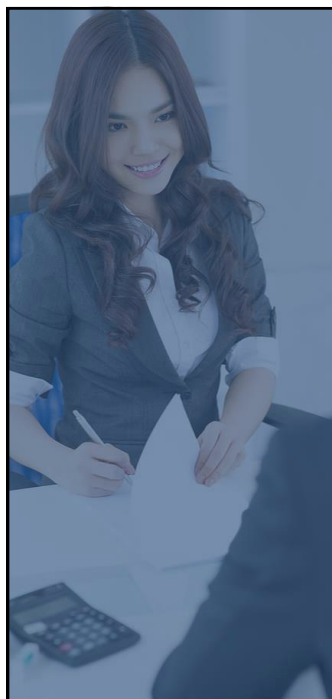
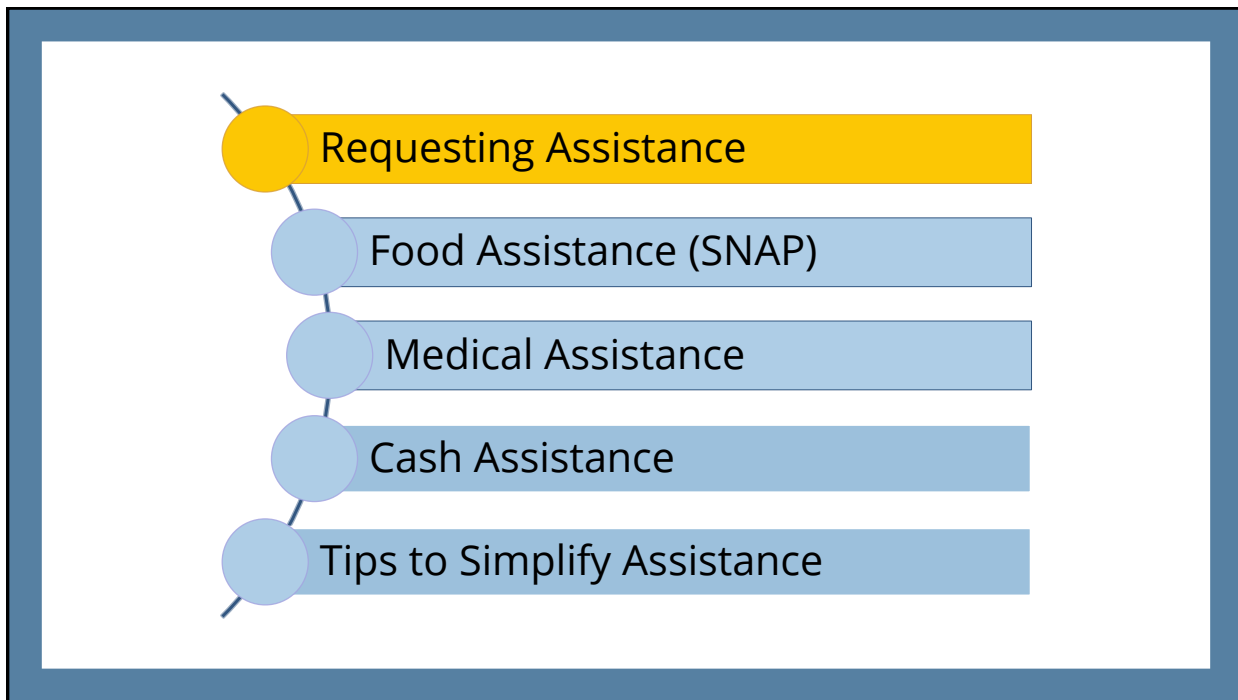
Benefits and Supportive Services



Presenter

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Ways to Apply

In person

Individuals may apply in-person at the Department of Human Services in their county
Local County Assistance Offices - [CAO Directory](#)

By phone

Individuals may apply for Medical Assistance & SNAP via telephone at 1-866-550-4355
Call 711 for TTY relay services

Online

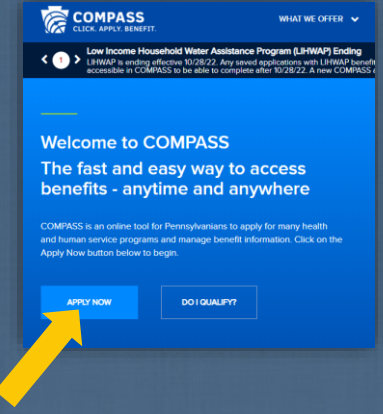
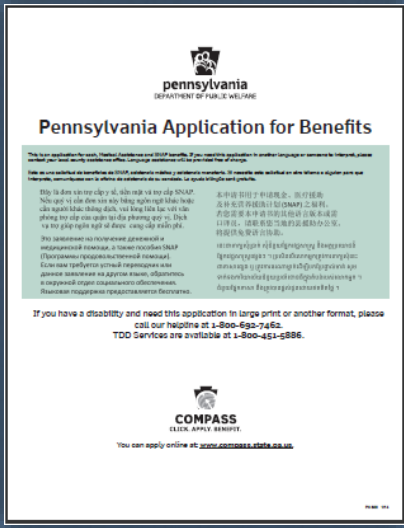
Individuals may apply via computer through COMPASS
WWW.COMPASS.STATE.PA.US

Completing an Application

Pennsylvania accepts both paper and online applications for benefits.

SNAP can be processed and issued within 5 days if approved for Expedited SNAP Services.

Applications are processed within 30 calendar days.



- Requesting Assistance
- Food Assistance (SNAP)
- Medical Assistance
- Cash Assistance
- Tips to Simplify Assistance

Food Stamps or SNAP



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
Previously known as Food Stamps

SNAP provides nutrition benefits to supplement the food budget of needy families, so they can purchase healthy food and move towards self-sufficiency

All residents of Pennsylvania can apply for SNAP. An applicant must meet certain requirements to be eligible for SNAP benefits. Criteria includes (but is not limited to):

- Residency of the person applying
- Citizenship criteria must be met
- Criminal History requirements must be met
- All household members must be listed on the application
- Resources and income must be under the limits

Food Stamps or SNAP



If determined eligible for SNAP benefits, the recipient will receive benefits back to the date the application was submitted.

Individuals will need to obtain an EBT Card – Discussed later.

Some individuals will qualify for Expedited SNAP Benefits (or fast SNAP), which will be issued within 5 days of the application being received.

Expedited SNAP Benefit Service



A SNAP household may be eligible to receive benefits within 5 days of the application date if certain circumstances are met:

1. All members are migrant or seasonal farm workers who are destitute and have \$100 or less in liquid resources and nothing else to live on.
2. All members have liquid resources that are \$100 or less, and countable monthly gross income is less than \$150.
3. All members combined monthly gross income and liquid resources are less than their monthly shelter expenses.

How to apply for SNAP



Applicants must apply for SNAP in the county in which they currently reside.

If an applicant is unable to apply for themselves, they may have another person act as an authorized representative by applying and being interviewed on their behalf. The applicant must designate the authorized representative in writing.

Once an application is submitted to the local assistance office, it will be processed within 30 days.

What is required when applying for SNAP



Once a signed application has been submitted, the applicant will need to provide verification of certain criteria that will be used during the eligibility determination.

Required information includes (*but is not limited to*):

- Identification and Social Security number
- Proof of Pennsylvania residence
- Proof of all income

Using SNAP benefits



If found eligible, SNAP benefits are issued on an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card, which works like a debit card.

SNAP benefits are automatically loaded onto the EBT card once a month.

The EBT card can be used to buy groceries at authorized food stores and retailers.

SNAP can also be used at any public or private nonprofit organization that feeds homeless individuals and may be any of the following:

- A soup kitchen
- A halfway house, supervised shelter, or similar organization that temporarily houses people
- A restaurant that has a contract to offer meals at low or reduced prices to the homeless*

Using SNAP benefits

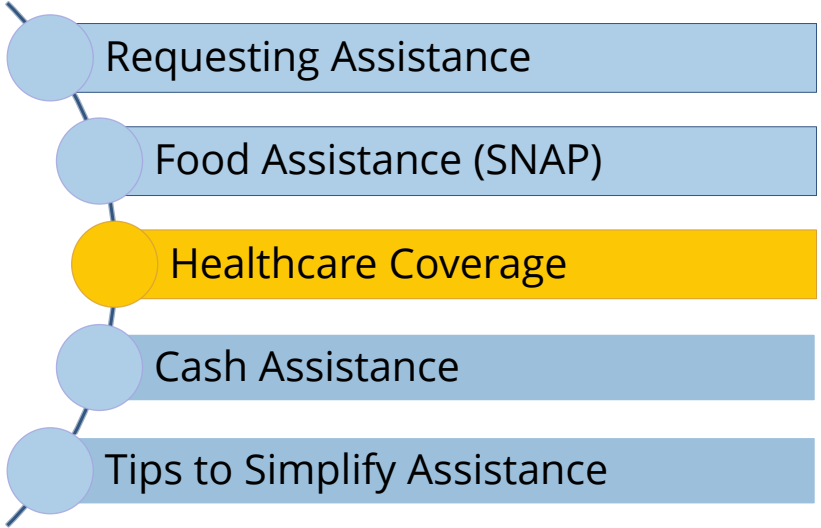


SNAP Benefit allotments are based on the number of household members and the household's income after allowable deductions.

Benefits can be used for any foods including:

- Fruits and vegetables
- Meat, poultry, and fish
- Dairy products
- Breads and cereals
- Other foods such as snack foods and non-alcoholic beverages
- Seeds and plants, which produce food for the household to eat

SNAP also offers an optional employment and training program.



How to Apply for Healthcare Coverage



The Department of Human Services (DHS) will make every effort to process an application with information provided by the applicant and other available sources, such as the IRS, Labor and Industry, Child Support.

The applicant may be:

- An individual
- A medical provider
- A representative of a hospital or institution
- A child welfare agency for a foster child
- Any individual applying for someone who would like to receive MA – An authorized representative

If the DHS is unable to verify the information provided by the applicant, or if found information is inconsistent with the individual's statements on the application, then the individual is responsible for verifying their information.

What is required to apply for Healthcare Coverage



An applicant must provide proof of identity, income, medical expenses for which payment is being requested, existing medical coverage, and resources.

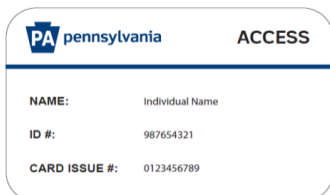
Sources of proof include the following:

- Written information
- Public records
- Collateral contacts
- Anything that shows that the individual's statement is true

The assistance office will accept an individual's statement of the following:

- Pregnancy
- Residency
- Household Composition
- Caretaker/Relative status
- American Indian/Alaskan Native status

Medical Assistance



Medical Assistance (MA), also known as Medicaid, pays for health care services for eligible individuals.

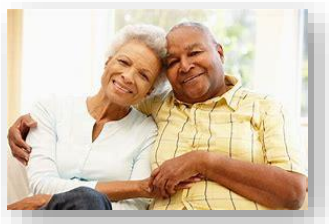
The Department of Human Services (DHS) generally does not pay for new and expensive medicine or for experimental treatment.

The Medical Assistance (MA) Program provides quality medical and dental services to individuals who are eligible based on meeting non-financial, resource, and income eligibility criteria.

DHS makes direct payments to health professionals and vendors (*such as hospitals*) for services, medications, and medical supplies.

Medical Assistance can also pay for unpaid medical expenses that a household may have from the previous 3 months. The household/individual would first have to meet all eligibility criteria.

Medical Assistance Programs



Healthy Horizons

Medical Assistance for the elderly and disabled individuals. This coverage may also qualify an individual to have their Medicare Premium paid by the Commonwealth

Affordable Care Act – Modified Adjusted Gross Income(MAGI)

Medical Assistance for adults, families, children, and pregnant women

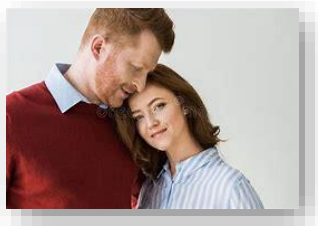
Non-Money Payment(NMP) & Medically Need Only (MNO) Benefits

Can provide coverage for individuals/households who may originally be over the income or who have unpaid medical bills

MAWD

Medical Assistance for workers with disabilities

Medical Assistance Programs



“Loophole” – PH 95

Medical Assistance for children with disabilities with a disregard to parental income

Long Term Care (LTC) and Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)

Medical Assistance for individuals residing in nursing home facilities or for individuals requiring special services to remain at home

Foster Care

Medical Assistance coverage for children who reside in foster care placement

Using Medical Assistance



The Medical Assistance Program provides mental health, drug and alcohol, vision, and dental coverage in addition to physical health.

Some examples of covered services are:

- Inpatient and outpatient drug & alcohol services
- Inpatients and outpatient hospital services
- Psychiatric hospitalization
- Psychiatric and counseling services
- Physician services
- Prescription drugs
- Primary care provider services
- Crisis services
- Medical transportation

When seeking healthcare with a medical provider, the ACCESS card, like all other medical insurance cards, must be presented at the time of service.

Free and reduced cost medical coverage for children



CHIP – Children's Health Insurance Program

DHS oversees CHIP in Pennsylvania, and on April 17, 2023, DHS began handling all applications, renewals, case updates, and eligibility questions for CHIP families.

How do I know if my child qualifies for CHIP?

Regardless of family size and income, a child or teen may be eligible if they meet the following requirements:

- Under 19 years of age
- A U.S. Citizen
- U.S. National or lawfully present person
- A resident of Pennsylvania
- Uninsured and not eligible for Medical Assistance

Benefits offered by CHIP



With CHIP, your children receive high quality comprehensive insurance coverage, including:

- Immunizations
- Routine check-ups
- Prescription drugs
- Dental care
- Vision and eye care
- Maternity care
- Mental health benefits
- Up to 90 days hospitalization/year
- Durable medical equipment
- Substance abuse treatment
- Partial hospitalization for mental health services
- Rehabilitation therapies
- Home health care
- Hospice and palliative services
- Medically necessary orthodontia
- Autism spectrum disorder and related services

Income Guidelines for CHIP



For many families, it's free. However, even families with higher incomes can take advantage of quality insurance with low monthly premiums and co-pays for most services.

Free CHIP

- No monthly premium
- No copays or deductibles

Low Cost CHIP

- Monthly Premiums range from \$53 to \$86
- Copays range from \$5 to \$25 depending on service

Full Cost CHIP

- No income limit
- Monthly premiums range from roughly \$160 to \$325
- Copays range from \$15 to \$50 depending on service

All premiums are based on a number of factors including income, plan selection, and county.

Example 4 person family



Free CHIP

Income between \$47,000 and \$62,400 annually

Low Cost CHIP

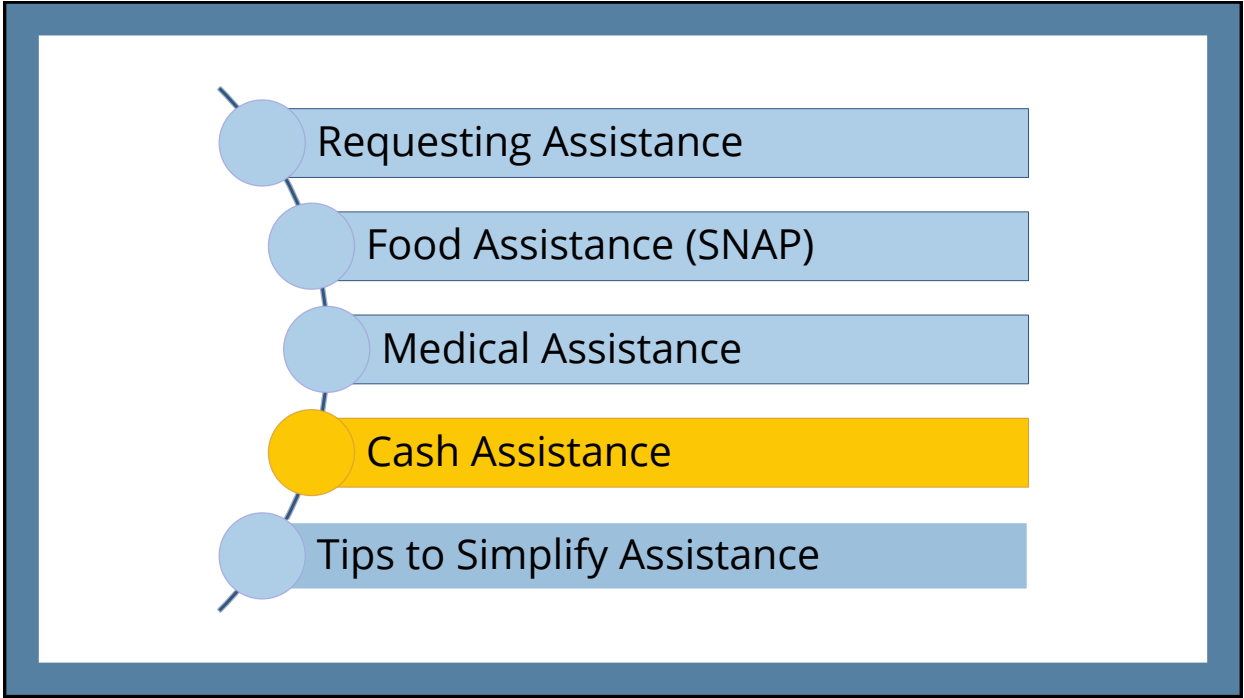
Income between \$62,400 and \$78,600 annually
Monthly premium of \$53

Income between \$78,600 and \$86,400 annually
Monthly premium of \$75

Income between \$86,400 and \$94,200 annually
Monthly premium of \$86

Please note, when eligibility is determined, all household income is evaluated and certain sources may be excluded. Certain deductions from gross income can apply in some cases.

Income limits for free and low cost CHIP are dependent on the age of the child.



Cash Assistance



Cash Assistance provides money and other supportive services with the purpose of promoting self respect, rehabilitation, and independence.

Cash Assistance is designed to meet one or more of the following goals:

- To quickly engage adults in work or work activities
- To divert families from the need for long-term cash assistance
- To assist working families receiving TANF
- To help Pennsylvania families reach the highest level of work participation possible

Any individual who is eligible for Cash Assistance is also eligible for Medical Assistance and receives an ACCESS Medical Assistance card.

It is best practice to request both Cash Assistance and Medical Assistance when completing an application.

How to Apply for Cash Assistance



Everyone has the right to apply for Cash Assistance, and by doing so, they will have an application interview. An individual may apply on their own behalf or on behalf of someone else (*Authorized Representative*).

An interview (either telephone or in person) must be completed for all Cash Assistance applications. This interview will be scheduled within 13 days of the date the application was turned into the office.

Cash Assistance is available to families with children, pregnant single women, and refugees.

Once an application is submitted to the DHS, it will be processed within 30 days.

An individual can receive supportive services in addition to Cash Assistance benefits.

What is required when applying for Cash Assistance



As a condition of eligibility, the person who is required to sign the application, is also required to verify the information provided.

The person must provide information about the age, residence, citizenship, employment, income, and resources of all applicants, legally responsible relatives, stepparents, parents of minor parents, and sponsors of non-citizens.

Additional Requirements:

- Cooperate, unless claiming good cause, with DHS or DRS in determining paternity and establishing support
- Apply for any potential income that may decrease the need for assistance
- Participate in employment and training activities
- Develop an Agreement of Mutual Responsibility which includes long-term and short-term goals intended to help the individual obtain self-sufficiency

Using Cash Assistance



Cash Assistance is issued through the EBT card, just like SNAP.

Individuals can use their card to make purchases at eligible retailers. They can also withdrawal funds from an ATM.

Monthly cash benefits are automatically loaded onto the EBT card two times each month.

Cash Assistance funds issued through the EBT cannot be used in:

- Liquor stores
- Casinos (*gambling casinos, gaming establishments*)
- Places for adult entertainment where performers undress or perform without clothes

Supportive Services



Some individuals who can work will be referred to employment and training service providers based on that individual's needs and goals:

- EARN
- Work Ready
- KEYS
- ELECT
- Job search activities, employment, and career preparation
- Refugee employment providers
- Rehabilitative services

The DHS is also able to provide financial support for:

- Transportation expenses
- Clothing
- Vehicle purchases
- Work, education, and training expenses
- Childcare (*provided through ELRC*)

Emergency Shelter Allowances



Emergency Shelter Allowance are available to assist homeless or near homeless families or persons who need financial assistance to:

- Prevent eviction or foreclosure
- Obtain permanent housing
- Obtain temporary shelter

To prevent eviction or foreclosure:

- \$400 for an individual under 21 or with children under 21
- \$300 for an individual over 21 and no children over age 21

To provide permanent living quarters:

- \$300 for an individual under 21 or with children under 21
- \$100 for an individual over 21 and no children over age 21

To provide temporary shelter: \$100 maximum

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)



Supplemental Security Income is a Federal Cash Program that is funded and administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA). That means that the SSA determines eligibility, and the monies are paid by SSA directly to the recipient.

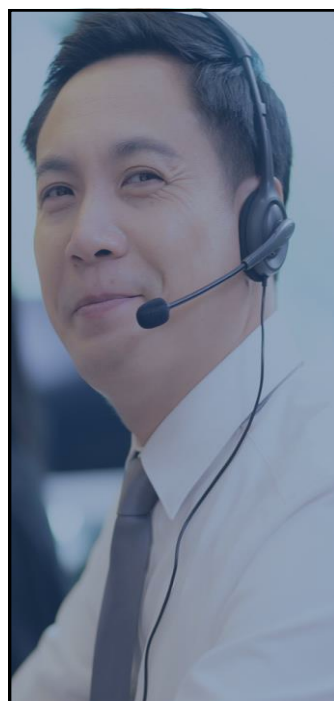
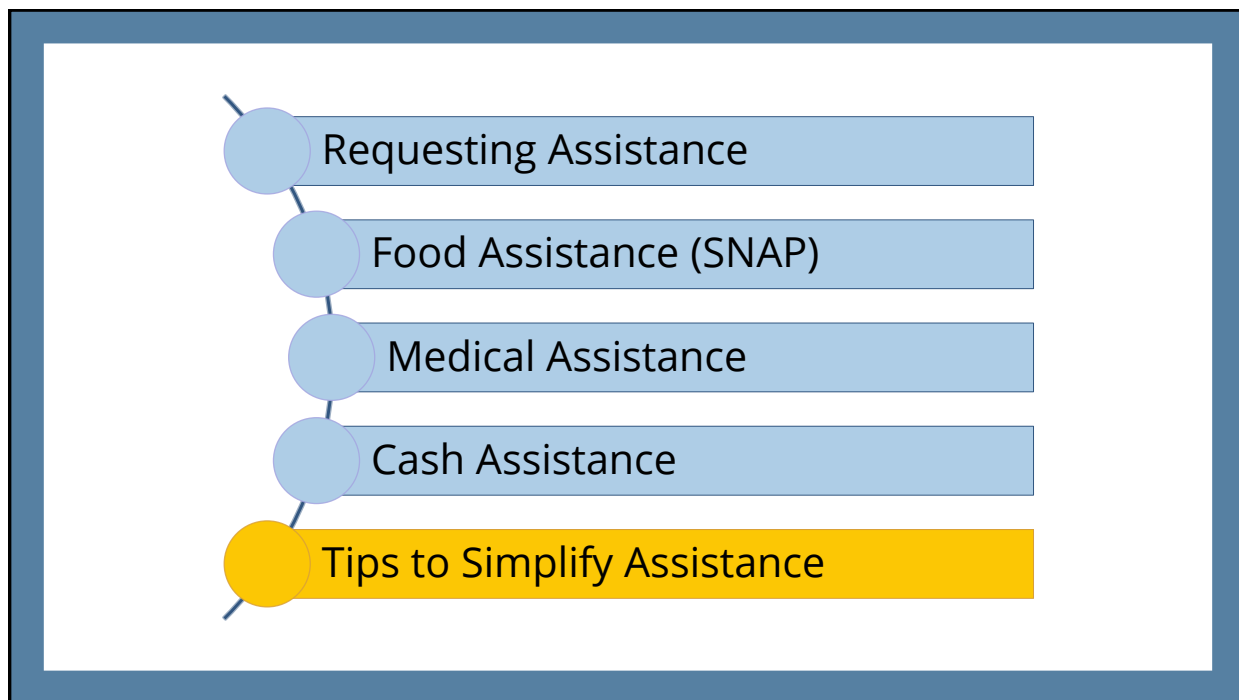
Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a monthly cash payment to a person who meets the requirements of age, disability, or blindness and has minimal or no work history.

The SSI amount is a national minimum assistance standard which does not consider the differences in the cost of living throughout the country. To address these differences, Congress allowed States to provide additional assistance through a State Supplementary Payment (SSP). Pennsylvania opted to provide the SSP to eligible individuals.

SSP Amounts

Single	\$22.10
Couple	\$33.30

DHS manages the Medical Assistance to which all SSI recipients are entitled.



Tips to get your application processed accurately and timely:

- **Always sign** the application, semi-annual review, and/or renewal before submitting/ mailing
- **Answer all questions** on paperwork
- **Provide supporting documents**
 - ID for all applying
 - Verification of income, both earned and unearned, resources, etc.
- Sign the **Rights and Responsibilities** page/section
- **Cooperate** fully with caseworker by quickly providing any additional verification/documentation that is requested



Tips to maintain assistance:

An individual must report changes timely to their local CAO or to the Statewide Customer Service Center (SWCSC)

- Changes can include a change of address, a new job, a new telephone number, a job loss...
- SWCSC phone 1-877-395-8930

Pick up and review your mail regularly

Ensure that your caseworker has your most recent telephone number

Return all required reporting forms including, but not limited to the:

- Semi-annual reporting form
- Renewal packet



Questions?

Thank you for your time and attention!

