**GENERAL ASSISTANCE**

Eligibility:

Very low income and savings ([see below](https://clsphila.org/GA#helpful)), and they:

1. Have a temporary or permanent disability.  The disability or illness must be [verified](http://services.dpw.state.pa.us/oimpolicymanuals/ma/PA_1663_(SG)_(2-10).pdf) by a doctor or certain other medical providers (as described below).

*EXAMPLE:* John experiences severe depression. He cannot currently work.  His psychiatrist verifies that, due to his depression, he is not able to work right now.  John can get GA for the duration of his disability.

1. Are a victim/survivor of domestic violence who is not eligible for TANF cash assistance (for example, because she does not have children under 18 or her children do not live with her.)

*NOTE:* This category is limited to nine months in a lifetime.

*EXAMPLE:* Maria is staying at her sister’s house after fleeing her abuser.

1. Are in a drug or alcohol treatment program that prevents them from working.  The treatment program [verifies](https://clsphila.org/sites/default/files/issues/GA/PA%201672%20D%26A%20treatment%20form%20%283-97%29.pdf)that the individual is in treatment.

*NOTE:* This category is limited to nine months in a lifetime.

*EXAMPLE*: James participates in a drug or alcohol treatment program.  His treatment program verifies that, due to his participation in the program, he is not able to work right now.

1. Are a child who is not living with a relative.

*EXAMPLE:*  Julia, a family friend, is caring for her neighbor’s 10-year-old son Andrew while her neighbor is incarcerated.  Julia can get GA for Andrew.

1. Are caring for a person with a disability or for a child under age 13 who is not related to them.

*EXAMPLE:*  Julia is caring for her neighbor’s 10-year-old son Andrew while her neighbor is incarcerated.  If Julia has very low income and savings, Julia can get GA.

1. Are between the ages of 18 and 21 and a full-time secondary school student who expects to graduate before age 21 (and who do not qualify for TANF).

**INCOME LIMIT – $205 OR LESS IN INCOME OR IN COUNTABLE ASSETS**

**HOW TO APPLY FOR GENERAL ASSISTANCE**

* + **Online –** [**www.compass.state.pa.us**](http://www.compass.state.pa.us)
  + Submit an application by mail or in person to their nearest County Assistance Office.  A list of County Assistance Offices across Pennsylvania can be found by clicking [**here**](http://www.dhs.pa.gov/citizens/findfacilsandlocs/countyassistanceofficecontactinformation/index.htm).