



Housing Best Practices: Minnesota Supplemental Aid

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Minnesota Supplemental Aid (MSA)

- Since 1974, Minnesota has had a ‘maintenance of effort’ agreement with SSA. Our Medicaid funding depends upon funding for MSA.
- MSA provides a monthly cash supplement to around 31,000 Minnesotans with disabilities.
- Costs about \$37 million annually (all state funds).

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Federal cash assistance benefit for people who:

- Are elderly, blind or disabled
- Have limited income and resources
- Some people get both SSI and RSDI

2020 SSI benefit amounts (Federal Benefit Rate or FBR):

- \$783/month (individual)
- \$1,175/month (couple)

MSA Eligibility: 3 parts

1. **Basis** – Receiving SSI or Meet a non-SSI basis
 2. **Counted Income** - less than the assistance standard
 3. **Assets** – less than \$10,000 (only for non-SSI clients)
- People don't automatically get MSA when they're approved for SSI



MSA Monthly Benefit Amounts

Individuals	\$81
Couples	\$111
Facility residents	\$74
(FLA D, receiving \$30 SSI)	

Additional \$ for special needs

MSA Special Needs Programs

- Special Diets CM 23.12
- Guardian/Conservator Fees CM 23.15
- Representative Payee Fees CM 23.21
- Home Repairs CM 23.06
- Home Furnishings & Appliances CM 23.09
- Housing Assistance CM 23.24

You must apply for MSA:

- Online (applymn.dhs.mn.gov)

OR

- Use the DHS Combined Application Form (**DHS-5223**) or “**CAF.**” Check the “**cash**” box on page 1 and sign/date it.

CAF Question 24

Other information (Answer questions below.)

Yes No **22. For recertifications only:** Did **anyone** move in or out of your home in the past 12 months?

AGENCY USE: ADME, REMO

Confirmed response


VERIFICATION: requested attached

Yes No **23.** For children under the age of 19, are **both** parents living in the home?

AGENCY USE: INFC/CSIA, ABPS

Confirmed response

VERIFICATION: requested attached

 **24. For MSA recipients only:** Does **anyone** in the household have any of the following expenses?

Yes No Representative Payee fees

Yes No Guardian or Conservator fees

Yes No Physician-prescribed special diet

Yes No High housing costs

AGENCY USE: DIET

Confirmed response

VERIFICATION: requested attached

MSA Special Diet

- Must be prescribed by a licensed physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant
- There is not (yet) a standard DHS special diet form.
- Not available to residents of nursing home, RTC, or HS settings.



MSA Special Diet, continued

- Special diets include only: anti-dumping, controlled protein, gluten free, high protein, high residue, hypoglycemic, ketogenic, lactose free, low cholesterol, pregnancy and lactation.
- Clients can have more than one special diet simultaneously.
- If they overlap, the client gets the higher amount.
- If they don't overlap, they get the total of all special diets.
- **Must be renewed at least annually**

MSA Guardian/Conservator Fees

- Maximum fee is 5% of the client's income, up to \$100/month.
- Fee must be negotiated by the county or approved by a court.
- Not allowed if guardian/conservator is a county employee.
- Not available to nursing home, RTC, or HS residents.



MSA Representative Payee Fees

- MSA allows up to 10% of a client's gross income, or a \$25, for representative payee services
- SSA allows \$44 for professional representative payee services (\$83 for recipients with drug or alcohol addiction).



MSA Home Repairs

- For recipient living in their own home to repair the roof, foundation, wiring, heating/cooling system, or water/sewer system
- Client must apply all available assets to the cost of the repair
- Repair costs must be reasonable, considering the condition of the home, and documented by at least one estimate
- MONY/CHCK payment to the vendor directly. See TE02.08.035

MSA home furnishings and appliances

- Can purchase or repair an item once in a 3-year period (unless damage, loss, normal wear and tear, or theft).
- Costs are based on 1996 AFDC standards: table (\$24), twin bed (\$72), washer (\$93), bedding (\$20), car seat (\$35), couch (\$74), lamp (\$13), refrigerator (\$93).



MSA Housing Assistance Eligibility

Must meet ALL of these conditions:

- Eligible for MSA, **and**
- Housing costs that exceed 40% of gross monthly income, **and**
- Under age 65 (grandfathering allowed), **and**
- **Meet one of the following criteria on the next page**



MSA Housing Assistance Eligibility

Meet ONE of the following criteria:

- Relocating from a hospital, nursing facility, RTC, ICF-DD, IRTS, **or Housing Support setting (*effective 7/1/2020*)** **or**
- Eligible for PCA services, **or**
- Waiver recipient living in their own home or rented/leased apartment

MSA Housing Assistance - example

\$783	SSI benefit
\$81	MSA benefit
+\$192	MSA Housing Assistance*
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\$273	Total MSA benefit
\$1,056	Total monthly income

****Equal to the maximum SNAP benefit amount***

MSA Housing Assistance – July 1, 2020

\$783	SSI benefit
\$81	MSA benefit
+\$392	MSA Housing Assistance*
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\$473	Total MSA benefit
\$1,256	Total monthly income

**** Half the current SSI federal benefit rate (\$783)***

Thank you!

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