

General Assistance

The Short-Term Program provides help up to three (3) months in any 12 month period. The One-Time Program provides help for one (1) month in any 12 month period. Total monthly benefits for any one month period will not exceed:

\$550 - 1 person household

\$600 - 2 person household

\$650 - 3 person household

\$700 - 4 or more person household

The primary assistance types include; rent, utilities, and burial.

Rental Assistance :

Rent payment is made to the property owner or their designee and will not exceed :

\$450 - 1 person household

\$500 - 2 person household

\$550 - 3 person household

\$600 - 4 or more person household

Utility Assistance: Utilities include fuel and electricity for the purpose of heating, cooling, cooking; and water. Maximum benefit is \$150. Applicants must be able to show they have made payments on their bill, making a minimum of 3 payments within the previous six month period. Assistance shall not be granted for housing units that are subsidized by the federal government or other programs where a utility allowance is included in calculating the rent.

Burials:

Maximum benefits are \$2,100 for funeral service expenses, and up to \$900 for cemetery expense. The assistance is intended to cover the full cost of funeral home services associated with burial or cremation, and expenses related to the internment of remains. Payment for out-of-state funerals will not be provided.

Johnson County General Assistance

855 South. Dubuque Street, Ste 202B

Iowa City, IA 52240

Phone: (319) 356-6090

Fax: (319) 688-5711

E-mail: generalassistance@co.johnson.ia.us

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SHORT-TERM & ONE-TIME ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS



Providing Financial Assistance to Meet Basic Needs

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What is General Assistance?

General Assistance (GA) provides one-time and short-term (maximum 3 months) financial help for Johnson County residents in need.

General Assistance (GA) offers a safety net for those not eligible for other government programs and promotes community strength by encouraging individual stability, self-sufficiency, and responsibility.

General Assistance (GA) promotes respect, compassion, and fairness in all of its interactions with persons seeking and receiving aid.

What Help is Available?

Financial assistance is available to address the following needs: rent, utilities, provisions, prescriptions, burial, and limited other expenses.

GA cannot provide help with deposits of any kind

General Assistance Staff:

Lynette Jacoby, *Social Services Director*
Sue Campney, *General Assistance Specialist*
Jessica Beck, *General Assistance Specialist*

Who is Eligible?

To be eligible for General Assistance, an applicant must meet the following requirements:

1. Speak with a General Assistance Assistant and complete an application.
2. Be a U.S. Citizen or have documented legal status. Households that include a combination of undocumented and documented individuals must report the income of all individuals in the household. Only household members with legal documented status will be counted when determining household size for eligibility purposes
3. Be 18 years of age, married, or an emancipated minor.
4. Applicants must apply for and follow through with all other assistance programs for which they may be eligible such as, Veterans Affairs (VA), Family Investment Program (FIP), Food Assistance, Medicaid, **Iowa Health and Wellness Plan**, Housing Assistance, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security, and/or Unemployment, prior to receiving General Assistance. Applicants placed on a limited benefit plan (LBP) by the Department of Human Services will be deemed ineligible for assistance.
5. Households that are currently receiving cash assistance or a subsidy from local (VA, MHDS), federal (SSI, SSDI, Unemployment Assistance Section 8, HUD) and/or state (FIP) assistance programs are not eligible for General Assistance unless the General Assistance worker determines the situation is exceptional in nature.
6. Able-bodied persons must be working full-time, or actively seeking employment.
7. For the short-term assistance program, net household income is at or below 50% of the Federal Poverty Guideline. (Monthly income indicated below.)

# Persons	50%	130%
1	\$520	\$1,353
2	\$705	\$1,832
3	\$889	\$2,311
4	\$1,073	\$2,790

How to apply:

If you are in need of financial assistance, please call **356-6090** and ask to speak to a General Assistance Specialist.

An initial assessment will be done over the phone and an in-person office visit will be scheduled as eligibility is indicated.

Office Hours: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm
Monday through Friday

What to Bring with You:

- Verification of all household income for at least the past 30 days.
- If you are requesting help with rent, you will need to bring a copy of your lease.
- If you are requesting help with utilities, you will need to bring a copy of your bill and you must show that you have made payments towards your balance owed.
- If you are requesting help with medication, you will need to bring your doctor's prescription.

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