SASSA
SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIAL SECURITY AGENCY

You and Your Grants 2014/15

paying the right social grant, to the right person, at the right time and place. NJALOI

www.sassa.gov.za 0800 60 10 11
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Introduction

Social Assistance is an income transfer in the form of grants provided by government. A social grant refers to a grant paid by the South African Social Security Agency, that is: disability grant; grant for older persons; war veteran's grant; foster child grant; care dependency grant; child support grant and grant-in-aid.

As from 01 April 2006, the responsibility for the management, administration and payment of social assistance grants was transferred to the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA).

SASSA is a section 3A public entity, the focused institution responsible to ensure that government pays the right grant, to the right person, at a location which is most convenient to that person.

Types of grants

Social Assistance is provided in the form of:
- grant for older persons;
- disability grant;
- war veterans grant;
- care dependency grant;
- foster child grant;
- child support grant;
- grant-in-aid;
- Social Relief of Distress.
Qualifying Requirements

Social Grants
Grant for Older Persons
The applicant:
• must be a South African citizen,
  permanent resident or refugee;
• must be resident in South Africa;
• must be 60 years or older
• and spouse must comply with the
  means test;
• must not be maintained or cared for in
  a State Institution;
• must not be in receipt of another
  social grant for him/ herself;
• must submit a 13 digit bar coded
  identity document.

Disability Grant
The applicant:
• must be a South African citizen,
  permanent resident or refugee;
• must be resident in South Africa;
• must be 18 to 59 years of age;
• must submit a medical / assessment
  report confirming disability;
  Medical assessment must not be older
  than 3 months at date of application.
• and spouse must meet the requirements
  of the means test;
• must not be maintained or cared for in
  a State Institution;
• must not be in receipt of another social
  grant in respect of him or herself;
• must submit a 13 digit bar coded identity
  document.

War Veteran's Grant
The applicant:
• must be a South African citizen or
  permanent resident;
• must be resident in South Africa;
• must be 60 years and over or must
  be disabled;
• must have fought in the Second World
  War or the Korean War;
• and spouse must meet the requirements
  of the means test;
• must not be maintained or cared for in
  a State Institution; and
• must not be in receipt of another
  social grant in respect of himself or
  herself;
• must submit a 13 digit bar coded identity
  document.

Child Grants
Foster Child Grant
• the applicant and child must be resident
  in South Africa;
• must provide a court order indicating
  foster care status;
• the foster parent must be a South African
  citizen, permanent resident or refugee;
• Child must remain in the care of the
  foster parent (s);
• foster parent must provide a 13 digit bar
  coded identity document;
• must provide a birth certificate for the
  foster child.
Care Dependency Grant
- The applicant must be a South African citizen, permanent resident or refugee;
- the applicant and child must be resident in South Africa;
- child must be under the age of 18 years;
- must submit a medical / assessment report confirming the child’s permanent, severe disability;
- applicant and spouse must meet requirements of the means test (except for foster parents);
- the care-dependant child/children must not be permanently cared for in a State institution;
- must provide birth certificate for the child;
- the applicant must supply a 13 digit bar coded identity document.

Note: the income of foster parents will not be taken into consideration

Child Support Grant
- the primary care giver must be a South African citizen, permanent resident or refugee;
- both the applicant and the child must reside in South Africa;
- the child must be 18 years of age or younger;
- must provide a birth certificate for the child;
- must provide 13 digit bar coded identity document for the applicant;
- applicant must be the primary care giver of the child/children concerned;
- the child/children must have been born after 31 December 1993;
- the applicant and spouse must meet the requirements of the means test;
- cannot apply for more than six non biological children
- Child can not be cared for in State institution.
- Child aged between 7 and 18 years, must attend school. However, failure to attend school does not prevent the payment of the grant.

Grant-in-aid
- the applicant must be in receipt of a grant for Older Persons, Disability grant or a War Veteran’s grant, and require full time attendance by another person owing to his/her physical or mental disabilities;
- must not be cared for in an institution that receives subsidy from the State for the care/housing of such beneficiary;

Proof of identity
Applicants who do not have a 13 digit bar coded Identity Book, or birth certificate for children involved in the application can still apply for a grant. Please obtain information from your nearest SASSA office on the alternative documents which are accepted for grant applications.
Where Do You Apply For A Grant?

- You apply at the SASSA Office nearest to where you live;
- If you are too old or sick to travel to the office to apply for a grant, then a family member or friend can apply on your behalf, with a letter from you authorizing the application;
- Alternatively you may call the SASSA office to request a home visit;
- Your application form will be completed in the presence of an officer from SASSA;
- When your application is completed you will be given a receipt;
- Keep this receipt - it is your only proof of application;
- You do not have to pay any money to apply;
- If your application is not approved by SASSA, you must be informed in writing as to why your application was unsuccessful;
- You have the right to request SASSA to reconsider its decision, if you are unhappy with the decision made. If the reconsidered decision is still unfavourable, you have the right to appeal to the Minister of Social Development. The request for SASSA to reconsider its decision must be made within 90 days of you being informed of the outcome of your application.

Date Of Award Of Grants

If your grant is approved, you will be paid from the date on which you applied, unless you have applied for a foster child grant. Foster child grants are paid from the date of court placement.

If Your Application For A Grant Is Unsuccessful

You must be informed in writing of the reasons for the refusal of the grant application, your right to request the decision to be reconsidered, and your right to appeal within 90 days of notification.

Methods Of Payment

You will receive your grant through a SASSA card. If you wish to use alternative methods of payment such as
- Banks including Postbank, or
- Institutions, you must contact your nearest SASSA office

Note: If you are unable to collect the grant yourself you may nominate a procurator to collect it on your behalf.

Suspension Of Grants

The following may result in the suspension of a grant:
- changes in circumstances (financial and / or medical);
- outcome of a review;
- failure to co-operate when a grant is reviewed;
- committing a fraudulent activity or misrepresentation
- Where grant was approved in error

Restoration Of Grants

An application must be made for restoration of a grant within 90 days of the suspension.

Main Reasons For Lapsing Of Grants

- death;
- admission to a State Institution;
- if the grant is not claimed for 3 consecutive months;
- when the period of temporary disability has expired.
- you are absent from the Republic for a period of longer than 90 days;
- if you cease to be a refugee;
- if the child for whom the grant is received turns 18.

**Reviews**
You must declare any income at the time of application. This will form the basis on which SASSA will decide whether your grant must be reviewed. You will be notified 3 months in advance of the date of the review or the date on which the life certificate is due.

**Life Certificates**
If you do not collect your own grant by finger print or voice print, you will be asked to provide proof of life once per year. You will be informed in advance of the requirements.

**Social Relief of Distress**
Social relief of distress is the temporary provision of assistance intended for persons in such dire need that they are unable to meet their or their families' most basic needs. Social Relief of Distress is paid to South African citizens; permanent residents or refugees, who have insufficient means and meet one or more of the following criteria:
- the applicant is awaiting payment of an approved social grant;
- the applicant has been found medically unfit to undertake remunerative work for a period of less than 6 months;
- no maintenance is received from a parent, child or spouse obliged in law to pay maintenance, and proof is furnished that efforts made to obtain maintenance have been unsuccessful;
- the bread winner is deceased and application is made within three months of the date of death;
- the bread winner of that person's family has been admitted to an institution funded by the state (prison, psychiatric hospital, state home for older persons, treatment centre for substance abuse or child and youth care centre);
- the applicant has been affected by a disaster as defined in the Disaster Management Act or the Fund Raising Act, 1978
- the person is not receiving assistance from any other organization or refusal of the application for social relief of distress will cause undue hardship.

**Period Of Social Relief of Distress**
Social Relief of Distress is issued monthly for a maximum period of 3 months. An extension for a further 3 months may be granted in exceptional cases.

**Note:** No person who is in receipt of a social grant may receive the grant and social relief of distress simultaneously. Any person who received both social relief and a grant at the same time must repay the value of the social relief of distress received. This will be recovered from any social grant payment, including an arrear payment. However, where the person who is in receipt of a social grant received social relief of distress as a result of a disaster, that amount will not be recovered.

**Voice Activation of Grants**
All beneficiaries who wish to transfer their grant into their commercial bank account will be required to telephone and request this. You will be provided with the telephone number to call.
Responsibility of the Beneficiaries
It is the responsibility of beneficiaries to keep SASSA informed of changes in their circumstances and means, and to respond to any correspondence received.

Fraud
SASSA exercises zero tolerance to fraudulent activities.

What Is A Means Test
In South Africa Social Assistance is subject to means testing which implies that SASSA evaluates the income and assets of the person applying for social assistance in order to determine whether the person's means are below a stipulated amount. This means test is a way of determining whether a person qualifies to receive a grant as grants are indeed meant for those who have insufficient means to support themselves. The means test varies from one grant type to another.

Note: Grants for older persons, war veterans and disabled are paid on a sliding scale. That is, the more private income you have, the smaller the government grant you will qualify for.

Asset And Income Threshold

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asset threshold:</th>
<th>01 October 2013</th>
<th>01 April 2014</th>
<th>01 October 2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Grants for older persons, disabled and war veterans only)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single person</td>
<td>R 838 200</td>
<td>R 891 000</td>
<td>R 891 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married person</td>
<td>R 1 676 400</td>
<td>R 1 782 000</td>
<td>R 1 782 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income threshold: (Annual amounts)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single person</td>
<td>R 50 340</td>
<td>R 61 800</td>
<td>R 61 800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married person</td>
<td>R 100 880</td>
<td>R 123 600</td>
<td>R 123 600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Support Grants:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single person</td>
<td>R 36 000</td>
<td>R 37 200</td>
<td>R 38 400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married person</td>
<td>R 72 000</td>
<td>R 74 400</td>
<td>R 76 800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care Dependency Grants:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single person</td>
<td>R 152 400</td>
<td>R 162 000</td>
<td>R 162 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married person</td>
<td>R 304 800</td>
<td>R 324 000</td>
<td>R 324 000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Amounts Of Grants As At 01 April 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Type</th>
<th>Amount payable as from 1 October 2013</th>
<th>Amount payable as from 1 April 2014</th>
<th>Amount payable as from 1 October 2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Older Persons Grant (Old age pension)</td>
<td>R 1 270.00</td>
<td>R 1 350.00</td>
<td>R 1 350.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Older Persons Grant (Old age pension): Beneficiary older than 75 years</td>
<td>R 1 290.00</td>
<td>R 1 370.00</td>
<td>R 1 370.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disability grant</td>
<td>R 1 270.00</td>
<td>R 1 350.00</td>
<td>R 1 350.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>War veterans' grant</td>
<td>R 1 290.00</td>
<td>R 1 370.00</td>
<td>R 1 370.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant-in-aid</td>
<td>R 300.00</td>
<td>R 310.00</td>
<td>R 320.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child support grant</td>
<td>R 300.00</td>
<td>R 310.00</td>
<td>R 320.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster child grant</td>
<td>R 800.00</td>
<td>R 830.00</td>
<td>R 830.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care-dependency grant</td>
<td>R 1 270.00</td>
<td>R 1 350.00</td>
<td>R 1 350.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Contact Details

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071 100 6483
076 710 0862

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076 662 1545
072 186 8095
071 416 6324

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072 456 7506
072 453 7858
CPS Voice recognition number:
0860 690 717 (call from Telkom, cell phone or public phone)
082 1277 (Vodacom/Net 1 starter pack)