



sassa

SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIAL SECURITY AGENCY

You and Your Grants 2023/24

*paying the right social grant, to the right person,
at the right time and place. NJALO!*

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Introduction

Social Assistance is an income transfer in the form of grants provided by government. Social grants refer to grants paid by the South African Social Security Agency that is: disability grant; grant for older persons and war veteran's grant; foster child grant; care dependency grant; child support grant child support grant Top-Up and Grant-in-Aid.

Types of grants

Social Assistance is provided in the form of:

- Grant for older persons;
- Disability grant;
- War veteran's grant;
- Care dependency grant;
- Foster child grant;
- Child support grant;
- Child support grant Top-Up;
- Grant-in-Aid;
- Social Relief of Distress.
- Covid-19 Social Relief of Distress

Social Grants

Grant for Older Persons

The applicant:

- Must be a South African citizen; permanent resident or refugee permanently residing in South Africa
- Must be 60 years or older
- Spouse will be subjected to the Means Test;
Must not be maintained or cared for in a State-funded institution;;
- Must not be in receipt of another social grant for himself or herself;



- Must submit a 13 digit barcoded identity document or the smart ID card for self and spouse. In the absence of an ID or a birth certificate an alternative identification prescribed by SASSA will be acceptable.

Disability Grant

The applicant:

- Must be a South African citizen; permanent resident or refugee permanently residing in South Africa
- Must be 18 to 59 years of age;
- Must undergo a medical or functional assessment confirming disability and;
- Must provide clinical information or referral form confirming disability;
- Must provide a referral form duly completed by a treating facility or practitioner if previously rejected on medical grounds;
- The applicant and spouse must be subjected to the Means Test;
- Must not be maintained or cared for in a State-funded institution;
- Must not be in receipt of another social grant in respect of himself or herself;
- Must submit a 13-digit barcoded identity document or the smart ID card for self and spouse. In the absence of an ID or a birth certificate, an alternative identification prescribed by SASSA will be acceptable.

War Veteran's Grant

The applicant:

- Must be a South African citizen; permanent

- resident or refugee permanently residing in South Africa.
- Spouse must meet the requirements of the Means Test;
- Must not be maintained or cared for in a State-funded institution;
- Must not be in receipt of another social grant in respect of himself or herself;
- 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 submit a 13 digit bar coded identity or a smart ID card for self and spouse. In the absence of an ID or a birth certificate an alternative identification prescribed by SASSA will be acceptable.

Grant-in-Aid

- The applicant must be in receipt of an Older Persons grant, Disability grant or a War Veteran's grant, and require regular 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-funded for the care/housing of such beneficiary.
- Must undergo a medical or functional assessment confirming disability and;
- Must provide clinical information or a referral form confirming disability;
- Must provide a referral form duly completed by a treating facility or practitioner if previously rejected on medical grounds;

Note: Grant-in-Aid is not a stand-alone grant.

Children's Grants

Foster Child Grant

- The foster parent must be a South African citizen, permanent resident or refugee permanently residing in South Africa
- The applicant and child must be resident in South Africa;
- Must provide a court order indicating foster care status;
- Child must remain in the care of the foster parent(s);
- Foster parent must provide a 13-digit barcoded identity document or the smart ID card for both applicant and spouse;

- Must provide a birth certificate for the foster child. In the absence of an ID or a birth certificate an alternative identification prescribed by SASSA will be acceptable.

Care Dependency Grant

- The applicant must be a South African citizen, permanent resident or refugee permanently residing in South Africa;
- The applicant and child must be resident in South Africa;
- Child must be under the age of 18 years;
- Must provide the child's clinical information or a referral form as clinical baseline for an assessment;
- Must provide a referral form duly completed by a treating facility or practitioner if the application was previously rejected on medical grounds;
- Must undergo a medical or functional assessment confirming disability.
- Applicant and spouse must meet requirements of the Means Test (except for foster parents);
- The care-dependent child/children must not be permanently cared for in a State-funded institution;
- Must provide birth certificate for the child;
- The applicant must supply a 13-digit bar coded identity document or smart ID card for him/herself and spouse. In the absence of an ID or a birth certificate an alternative identification prescribed by SASSA will be acceptable.
- If the child is of school going age, The child must attend school and produce proof of school attendance, 18 years. However, failure to produce this certificate or failure to attend school will not result in the refusal to pay the child support grant

Note: *The income of foster parents will not be taken into consideration when they apply for the care dependency grant for their foster child.*

Child Support Grant

- The primary care giver must be a South African citizen, permanent resident or refugee permanently residing in South Africa;
- Both the applicant and the child must reside in South Africa;
- The child must be younger than 18 years;



- Must provide a birth certificate for the child;
- Must provide a 13 digit barcoded identity document or smart ID card for the applicant and his/her spouse. In the absence of an ID or a birth certificate an alternative identification prescribed by SASSA will be acceptable
- Applicant must be the primary care giver of the child/children concerned;
- 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;
- If the child is of school going age, The child must attend school and produce proof of school attendance. 18 years. However, failure to produce this certificate or failure to attend school will not result in the refusal to pay the child support grant.

Child Support Grant Top-Up

African citizen, permanent resident or refugee related (grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, aunt or cousin) to the child or the applicant can be a child between 16 to 18 years who is heading a household.

- Both the applicant and the child must permanently reside in South Africa;
- The child must be younger than 18 years;
- Must provide a birth certificate for the child
- Must provide a 13-digit barcoded identity document or smart ID card for the applicant and his/her spouse. In the absence of an ID or a birth certificate an alternative identification prescribed by SASSA will be acceptable;

- Applicant must be the primary care giver of the child/children and must be living with the child/children
- The applicant and spouse must meet the requirements of the Means Test;
- Cannot apply for more than six children
- Child cannot be cared for in State-funded institution;
- If the child is of school going age must attend school and produce proof of school attendance;
- Both parents must be deceased and death certificates must be submitted
- Where there is one death certificate and whether the other parent is deceased or alive it is unknown or cannot be confirmed an affidavit is required.

.Proof of identity

- Applicants who do not have a 13 digit bar coded ID document, smart ID or birth certificate for the 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. Refugees can provide the Section 24 permit as proof of refugee status and identity.

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, are resident in South Africa and meet one or more of the following criteria:

- The applicant is awaiting payment of an approved social grant;
- The breadwinner has been assessed to be disabled for a period of less than 6 months;
- The breadwinner of that household has died and an application is made within 12 months following the death of the breadwinner;
- The breadwinner has been admitted to a public or private institution for a period of at least one month;
- The breadwinner does not receive any maintenance from a person legally obliged to pay maintenance to him or her;

- The applicant has been affected by a disaster as defined in the Disaster Management Act or the Fund Raising Act, 1978;
- In cases where the applicant experiences undue hardship, and meets the requirements as set in the SRD procedure manual, he/she may qualify for the social relief of distress grant of R350 per month

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 at a time may be granted if the applicant meets the criteria as set.

Covid-19 Social Relief of Distress

A person in need of temporary assistance, may qualify for Covid-19 Social Relief of Distress if he or she is a person with insufficient means.

The person with insufficient means must in addition be a person who is-

- a South African citizen; or
- a permanent resident; or
- a refugee; or a holder of a special permit under the Special Angolan Dispensation, the Lesotho Exemption Permit Dispensation or the Zimbabwe Exemption Permit Dispensation; or
- an asylum seeker, whose section 22 permit or visa is valid; and
- registered on the Department of Home Affairs database or registered on the Agency's social grant database with a unique system generated identifying number for people without identity documents; and
- between the ages of 18 and 60; and
- currently residing within the borders of South Africa;
- not a resident in a government funded or subsidized institution;
- not unreasonably refuse to accept employment or educational opportunities;
- must meet the requirements of the Means Test; and
- Not entitled to a social grant for himself or herself.

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 letter from you as applicant authorizing the application;
- Your application form will be completed in the presence of an official from SASSA unless it was done online;
- When your application is completed you will be given a receipt or reference number;
- Applications for older person grants, child support grants or foster child grants can be done online at <https://services.sassa.gov.za>
- Keep this receipt/reference number as 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 appeal the decision
- The staff at the local office will advise on the process to follow.

Date Of Grant Application

For Grant application date of application is when all the required documents are submitted and fully meets SASSA requirements.

For Covid-19 SRD the date on which a complete application for the Covid-19 Social Relief of Distress is submitted, is deemed to be the date on which the application is lodged.

Date Of Award Of Grants

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

If Your Application For A Grant Is Unsuccessful

You must be informed in writing of the reasons for the refusal of the grant application, as well as your right to appeal the decision, should you not agree with the outcome.



Methods Of Payment

You have the right to choose how you wish to receive your social grant, you can either have the grant paid directly into your personal bank account, or you can have the grant paid into the account opened with SASSA's appointed service provider.

Note: *If you choose to have the grant paid into your own account, you will be requested to give permission to such payment by electronic communication or any means of communication and has submitted such permission to the Agency. Where a beneficiary is unable to submit the permission an alternative arrangement must be made with the Agency.*

Suspension Of Grants

Every grant beneficiary has the responsibility to inform SASSA of any change in his/her circumstances – whether this is a change of address, change of marital status, change of financial position, or the child for whom he/she receives a grant is no longer in his/her care.

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.
- Failure to submit the required missing documents

Restoration Of Suspended Grants

Should a grant be suspended due to failure to

collect for more than 3 consecutive months or due to failure to review, an application must be made for the restoration of that grant within 30 days of the suspension.

Main Reasons For Lapsing Of Grants

- When the beneficiary or primary care giver dies;
- In respect of a child grant, when the child dies;
- Admission to a State institution;
- When the period of temporary disability has lapsed;
- You are absent from the Republic, for a period longer than 90 days.
- If you cease to be a refugee.
- If the child for whom the grant is received, turns 18.
- If the grant was not collected for 3 consecutive months.

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 30 days in advance of the date of the review or the date on which the life certificate is due. 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 30 days in advance of the date of the review or the date on which the life certificate is due.

Life Certificates

You may be asked to provide life certificate as proof of life. You will be informed in advance of the requirements. SASSA may conduct electronic interface with other systems to confirm your life status.

Note: *No person who is in receipt of a social grant may receive the grant and social relief of distress simultaneously. Any person who receives social relief of distress while awaiting payment of an approved grant will be expected to repay the amount received from the first payment of the grant. 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.*

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. It is a beneficiary's responsibly to safeguard his/ her social grant card and not to divulge the PIN to anyone. SASSA will never request the PIN in any dealings with the beneficiaries

Fraud

SASSA exercises zero tolerance to fraudulent activities.

What Is A Means Test

Asset And Income Threshold

	01 October 2022	01 April 2023	01 October 2023
Asset threshold			
Older person's, disability and war veteran's grant	-	-	-
Single person	R 1,247,400	R 1,372,800	R 1,379,400
Married person	R 2,494,800	R 2,745,600	R 2,758,800
Income threshold per annum			
Older person's, disability and war veteran's grant			
Single person	R 87,720	R 96,840	R 97,320
Married person	R 175,440	R 193,680	R 194,640
Child support grant			
Single	R 55,200	R 60,000	R61,200
Married	R 110,400	R 120,000	R122,400
*Means test also same for Additional payment (01/04/2022)			
Foster child grant			
Child	No Means Test	No Means Test	No Means Test
Care-dependency grant			
Parent/PCG: Single	R 226,800	R 249,600	R 250,800
Parent/PCG: Married	R 453,600	R 499,200	R 501,600

In South Africa Social Assistance is subject to means testing which implies that SASSA evaluates the income and assets of the person applying as well as his/her spouse 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 support you may qualify for.

Amounts of grants as at April 2023

Grant Type	October 2022	April 2023	October 2023
Old Age Grant (Below 75 years)	R1 990	R2 080	R2 090
Old Age Grant (Above 75 years)	R2 010	R2 100	R2 110
War Veteran's Grant	R2 010	R2 100	R2 110
Disability Grant	R1 990	R2 080	R2 090
Care Dependency Grant	R1 990	R2 080	R2 090
Foster Child Grant	R1 070	R1 120	R1 130
Child Support Grant	R480	R500	R510
Child Support Grant Top-Up	R720	R750	R760
Grant In Aid	R480	R500	R510
Covid-19 Social Relief of Distress	R350	R350	R350

CONTACT DETAILS

SASSA HEAD OFFICE

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501 Prodinsa Building
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Pretoria 0083
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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

