

## OSWEGO TOWNSHIP GENERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

General Assistance (GA) is a public assistance program mandated by state law for qualified individuals with financial needs. GA can provide monthly payments to help individuals meet basic needs. Individuals can apply at the Township's Supervisors Office or with the Township General Assistance Officer. An applicant must be a resident of Oswego Township, age 18 or older, and a United States Citizen or qualified immigrant. In addition, an applicant must meet all financial and non-financial eligibility requirements. The General Assistance Office has 30 days from receipt of a completed application in order to make a determination of eligibility.

1. To be eligible for General Assistance Benefits the person or family applying must:
  - a) Be a resident of the township, and must be a U.S. citizen or legally admitted alien;
  - b) Make written application to the township
  - c) An application may be electronically sent but not returned to the Township
2. General Assistance may be provided to qualifying residents for any hardship including utilities, however, no disbursement will be made to the applicant.
3. The applicant may not be eligible for or be receiving financial assistance from the Illinois Department of Public Aid (IDPA). The applicant may however be receiving medical from IDPA and be eligible for General Assistance. The applicant may not receive General Assistance if currently receiving other Categorical Assistance (AABD, MANG, SSI, Medicaid, and Refugee and Repatriation Assistance) but may currently be receiving Section 8 Subsidized rent.
4. For purposes of General Assistance, a Family Assistance Unit shall be defined as two (2) or more persons residing in the same household and composed of either: (a) husband and wife; or (b) two or more adults regardless of whether they are married or related; or (c) one (1) or more children with one (1) or more specified adult relative(s). This definition shall control and supersede any conflict provision in the General Assistance Manual.
5. All General Assistance payments, if approved, shall be made directly to the vendor/utility. Oswego Township does not pay general assistance or emergency assistance payments to vendors who are related to the applicant(s).
6. Financial and non-financial eligibility requirements as set forth in the Township Supervisors of Illinois General Assistance and Emergency Assistance Manuals will be applied in determining eligibility for General Assistance. If there is any variance between the Manuals and this Addendum, this Addendum shall control.
7. The General Assistance Grant shall be no more than the maximum reward payment set by the Township Supervisor and the GAO. The applicant must provide the GAO caseworker documentation of need prior to disbursement.

- a. Clothing, hygiene and other items eligible under Section 9.03 in the Township Supervisors of Illinois General Assistance Handbook, applicants must provide a needs list to the GAO caseworker for items to be purchased or a voucher issued. No payments will be directly may to applicant.
8. Life-threatening circumstances and situations affecting an applicant's ability to obtain or retain gainful employment and thus affecting the applicant's self- sufficiency are defined for eligibility determination purposes as follows:
    - a. The family or individual must have received within the last 30 days a summons in forcible entry and detainer (eviction) or a landlord's termination of tenancy such as "5 Day Notice" at the time of application for General Assistance or Emergency Assistance, thus threatening homelessness, or the family or individual is homeless; or
    - b. The individual or family assistance unit must be more than 30 days in arrears on the rent and the landlord shall so certify in writing.
  9. For rental/utility assistance, the applicant(s) must cure the remaining balance prior to or at the same time as the payment of rental/utility assistance; or the applicant(s) must provide satisfactory proof that the Landlord/ utility service has agreed to a payment schedule or workout agreement, or that the landlord/utility service has agreed to forego the balance of debt in arrears.
  10. Applicant shall cooperate in applying for and obtaining any other benefits for which applicant is deemed eligible.
  11. Applicant shall apply for and cooperate with any special services deemed by the general assistance office to be appropriate.
  12. This General Assistance program may be terminated at any time by written action of the Supervisor of General Assistance.

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