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## **General Relief - 2023**

### **What is General Relief?**

The General Relief program is an optional local program that provides assistance to children that are living with unrelated adults. It is financed by state funding (62.5%) and local funding (37.5%). State funding is authorized by the General Assembly. Local funding is authorized by the local governing bodies. Over and above these amounts, agencies may use 100% local-only funds to meet additional needs. Each agency determines the criteria for the use of local-only funds.

Localities opting to participate in this program complete a General Relief Plan. These are written plans that must be approved by the Virginia Department of Social Services

### **Who can get General Relief?**

General Relief is for needy children under the age of 18 who would be eligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) except for the relationship requirement. This means the caretaker is not a relative by blood, marriage, or adoption to the child.

To get General Relief, you must be a citizen, a non-citizen who has permanent resident status, or a non-citizen permanently living in the U.S. under color of law. The unattached child must not be eligible for TANF or Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

You must actually live in the locality where you get General Relief. You cannot transfer a General Relief case from one locality to another. If you leave the locality, General Relief is ended. You then should apply in the new locality.

### **What are the income limits to get General Relief?**

You must have low income and low resources. Income limits depend on your household size. The more people in your household, the more the monthly income limit. In general, countable income can't be more than about 30% of the federal poverty limit.

### **How much is General Relief?**

The amount of assistance depends on the city or county and the size of the assistance unit. Maximum monthly payments are as follows:

<u>Size of Assistance Unit</u>	<u>Maximum Payment</u>
1	\$187
2	\$274
3	\$344
4	\$411
5	\$486
6	\$543
7	\$607
8	\$678
9	\$738
10	\$804
each person above 10	\$ 67

### **How do I apply for General Relief?**

You apply for General Relief at your city or county's Department of Social Services (DSS). The agency has 30 days to decide whether or not you are eligible.

All ongoing cases must be reviewed every 12 months to determine whether eligibility still exists.

### **How do I appeal a General Relief decision I disagree with?**

If General Relief is denied, reduced or ended, or if you disagree with any action on your General Relief case, you may file an appeal by asking for a fair hearing, in writing, at the local DSS office. You must file an appeal within 30 days of the action. If you appeal within 10 days, you may be able to keep getting General Relief pending appeal.