

## 11.5 Other Available Assistance

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Pursuant to 11.5 a purchase of exempt property with a value exceeding \$5000 shall make the applying household subject to the provisions of that section.

1. An applicant shall apply for any form of financial assistance other than general assistance for which any member of the applying household may be eligible and shall execute a release of information to allow the General Assistance Office to contact any other assisting agency to verify application and/or compliance. Failure to make application for other eligible assistance or failure to otherwise comply with the rules of any other assisting agency shall disqualify the applying household from consideration for further assistance under the provisions of this ordinance until such time as there is compliance with this section.
  - a. All applicants for General Assistance are required to apply for food stamps through the Iowa Department of Human Services.
  - b. An applicant for General Assistance who has children must enroll in the Family Investment Program (FIP) through the Iowa Department of Human Services within the month of their General Assistance application date. Applicants shall not view FIP benefits as a form of assistance that can be saved as a safety net.
  - c. Applicants with children who are deemed eligible for General Assistance children shall receive a maximum of one month of assistance during the month they are applying for the Family Investment Program (FIP).
    - i. An applicant who has been discharged from the Family Investment Program (FIP) as a result of receiving maximum benefits (sixty months and any extension) may receive assistance one time during the first five years following the final FIP benefit date provided. After five years have past, the applicant will be eligible for the General Assistance Program based on the applicant meeting the needy or ongoing eligibility criteria.
    - ii. Should an applicant be placed on a limited benefit plan (LBP) or sanctioned by Iowa Department of Human Services regarding the applicants involvement in the Family Investment Plan (FIP) the applicant would be deemed ineligible for assistance through the General Assistance Office.
2. Assistance received from the commission of Veterans Affairs shall be considered as assistance received through the General Assistance Program. All eligible applicants shall apply for assistance through the Commission of Veteran Affairs prior to making an application to the General Assistance Program.
3. Applicants who seek assistance due to a disability that is expected to last more than twelve (12) months from the date of onset must apply and diligently pursue an

application for SSDI and SSI benefits through the Social Security Administration. Applicants must also execute a repayment agreement (Interim Assistance Reimbursement) in the event of a lump sum payment of retroactive benefits on forms provided by the director.

i. Applicants subject to 11.5(3) who apply for and diligently pursue SSI or SSDI benefits may continue to receive assistance until their application is successful or until a determination is made at the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) level that the applicant does not have a qualifying disability. Upon dismissal of an application for SSDI or SSI benefits for failure to diligently pursue the application, assistance under 11.3(2) shall terminate. A reapplication for benefits for the same disability does not entitle the applicant to additional assistance under 11.3(2).

ii. Individuals denied at the Administrative Law Judge level will be moved from “on-going” to “needy” status 11.3(1).

iii. Applicants denied at the Administrative Law Judge level are not eligible for ongoing assistance should they choose to reapply for Social Security until five years from the last date they received on-going assistance.

4. All applicants currently receiving benefits from the Social Security Administration are ineligible for assistance from the General Assistance Program.
5. Applicants who seek assistance while enrolled in a junior/community college, a four year college, a four year university, masters or doctorate study shall be deemed ineligible for assistance. This applies to any and all public and privately funded institutions, including online study. The following explanations provide understanding of eligible versus ineligible individuals related to applicants enrolled in training and or furthering their education.
  - a. Applicants enrolled in a verified program leading to a high school diploma or equivalent will be deemed eligible for assistance.
  - b. Applicants enrolled in training including but not limited to certified nurse’s aide, barber, beautician, and truck driving school will be deemed eligible for assistance as a result of the duration of the training in conjunction with the limited financial associated with these type of training opportunities.
  - c. Applicants enrolled in junior/community college, a four year college or university are deemed ineligible for General Assistance given they are likely eligible for financial aid throughout the duration of enrollment in course study.
  - d. Applicants who finished up a semester and have chosen to no longer continue attending a college or university would need to provide the General Assistance Office documentation from the college or university verifying their status as a student as well as the status as a recipient of financial aid.

- e. Applicants who completed a spring semester and are not enrolled in summer classes would be eligible for assistance during the months of June and July provided they are able to provide the General Assistance Office documentation verifying they are not receiving financial aid during the months specified.