



PO 105.1: General Assistance

A person who does not qualify for TANF, AABD, or RRA, may receive cash and limited medical through the State's General Assistance (GA) program. The **category designator** for these cases is **07**.

DHS runs this program for people in Chicago. Outside Chicago, townships that receive state funds run the program based on DHS policy.

There are 2 types of GA. They are Family and Children Assistance (GA-FCA) and Transitional Assistance (GA-TA).

a. Family and Children Assistance

A family that does not qualify for TANF or RRA may be eligible for GA Family and Children Assistance (GA-FCA). But if the family didn't qualify for TANF or RRA because they failed to cooperate, or because they received a lump sum payment, they cannot get GA-FCA. Also, an 18-year old child who is ineligible for TANF Cash due to the income or assets of their parent(s) with whom they live, is ineligible for GA-FCA as a child-only assistance unit.

b. Transitional Assistance

A person who doesn't qualify for AABD or RRA and doesn't receive SSI can apply for GA Transitional Assistance (GA-TA). But if the person doesn't qualify for TANF or RRA because they failed to cooperate, or because they received a lump sum payment, they cannot get GA-TA.

To qualify for Transitional Assistance a person must meet program rules and must meet one of the "not employable" criteria. A person is "not employable" if they:

- are disabled; *or*
- are age 55 and over and have gross earnings of less than \$2,000 in the past year and earned less than \$200 a month in 7 months of the past year; *or*
- are needed at home to care for someone with a medical condition; *or*
- are homeless due to a court ordered evacuation, domestic violence, fire, or natural disaster within the last 6 months; *or*
- are age 19 or under *and* attend high school or equivalent vocational or training school full-time; *or*
- are required to take prescription medicine regularly to control diabetes, severe high blood pressure, or seizures; *or*
- have a medically documented temporary illness or incapacity, such as a broken leg.

