

Cunningham Township Supervisor's Office
205 W. Green St, Urbana, IL. 61801
Phone # (217) 384-4144, Fax # (217) 367-7063

General Assistance: maximum monthly grant amount is \$265.

Townships are required by law to provide General Assistance (GA). **GA is a category of public aid to serve those persons who are not presumptively eligible for other categories of state/federal assistance such as Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI).** A person who is eligible for AABD or TANF at Department of Human Services (DHS) cannot choose to receive GA instead. General Assistance is a monthly cash grant not exceeding \$265. General Assistance units are required to provide a Community Work Program for eligible recipients. Homelessness is not a barrier for eligibility. Clients can accept or reject any services or programs that they qualify for. However, they must cooperate with General Assistance program guidelines in order to qualify for benefits.

Eligibility requirements:

- Minimum age is 18
- Gross income must be \$674 or less per month of earned income (employment, including self-employment) and must be \$264 or less per month unearned income (unemployment benefits, contributions or loans from another person, pensions, maintenance payments). Amount of income can result in a reduced grant amount.
- Assets (bank accounts, credit union accounts, non-homestead property, tax returns) must be \$264.00 or less per month.
- Have not been convicted of a Class X or Class 1 felony or comparable federal law, for acts that occurred on or after 08/22/96 involving possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance.
 - ** If convicted of a drug-related felony other than Class X or Class 1 for an act that occurred on or after 08/22/96, is NOT ELIGIBLE FOR 2 YEARS FOLLOWING THE DATE OF CONVICTION unless in a drug treatment or successfully completed drug treatment/aftercare subsequent to conviction.
- If able to work, you must register with Illinois JobLink, be actively seeking employment and accept full time employment; and comply monthly with the Community Work Program requirements.
- If unable to work, documentation from a physician regarding inability to work must be provided along with proof of pending benefits at the Social Security Administration.

Eligibility requirements continued:

****Pregnant women and parents of children under age 18 are presumptively eligible for cash and medical programs through the Department of Human Services and must apply for those benefits at the DHS Office.**

Application Process:

An application must be submitted and can be submitted any time during office hours, Monday-Thursday 8:30am-12:00pm and 1:00pm-4:30pm and Friday 8:30am-12:00pm and 1:00pm-4:00pm. We cannot accept a faxed application.

After an application is submitted, we will schedule the initial interview within 2 weeks. Applicants are sent an appointment date and time along with a packet of information and a list of required documentation to determine eligibility.

We are required to make a decision on an application within 30 days from the date the application is submitted, providing that the applicant has supplied all required information/documentation. This process can be extended up to 45 days under certain circumstances. Client records are kept confidential, with certain exceptions specified by law.

Cash benefits are issued in the form of a check payable to the applicant.

Additional Information:

A client must provide proof that they are eligible for our program(s).

Cunningham Township does not discriminate against a person because of race, color, religious affiliation, ancestry, national origin, sex, age, marital status, physical or mental disability, sexual preference, political affiliation, or any other legally protected status. Any person who believes that they have been discriminated against by Cunningham Township, its employees, or any group, vendor, or person acting on behalf of Cunningham Township, may file a complaint. The complaint may be filed by a client, an applicant, a client/applicant representative or a Cunningham Township employee. It must be filed within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory act. A written complaint may be submitted to the Cunningham Township Supervisor.

If an applicant or a current GA recipient feels they have been unjustly denied, terminated or reduced, they have the right to appeal for a fair hearing to the Champaign County Public Aid Committee within 60 days after the decision of the local office.

General Assistance is NOT Emergency Assistance, Rent Assistance, Utility Assistance or

Travelers Aid.