

## **The General Assistance Program**

### **Program Description**

The General Assistance Program serves as Minnesota's primary safety net for single adults and childless couples who are unable to provide for themselves. The program provides monthly cash grants for persons whose income and resources are less than program limits. Recipients are also usually eligible for help with medical costs through the General Assistance Medical Care (GAMC) program or the Medical Assistance (MA) program.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

Program participants must fit at least one of the 21 categories of eligibility specified in state statutes. Eligibility categories are primarily defined in terms of inability to work and disability. Applicants and recipients are generally required to apply for benefits from federally funded disability programs for which they may qualify. In addition, the person or couple must have income and resources less than program limits. After subtracting certain income disregards, a single person must have net income less than \$203 per month, and a couple must have net income less than \$260 per month.

### **Monthly Benefits**

The maximum benefit for a single adult is \$203 per month and \$260 per month for a married couple. Special funding is available for emergency situations where the person or family lacks basic need items and that lack threatens the person's or family's health or safety (such as lack of shelter or food). Additional payments are also available for people who must follow certain medically prescribed diets.