

ENGLISH



sassa

SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIAL SECURITY AGENCY

# You and Your Grants 2017/18

*paying the right social grant, to the right person,  
at the right time and place. NJALO!*

[www.sassa.gov.za](http://www.sassa.gov.za) 0800 60 10 11

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## Introduction

Social Assistance is an income transfer in the form of grants provided by government. A social grant refers to grants paid by the South African Social Security Agency that is: disability grant; grant for older persons and war veteran's grant; foster child grant; care dependency grant; child support grant and grant-in-aid.

As from 01 April 2006, the responsibility for the management, administration and payment of social assistance grants was transferred to the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA).

SASSA is a section 3A public entity, the focused institution responsible to ensure that government pays the right grant, to the right person, at a location which is most convenient to that person.

## Types of grants

Social Assistance is provided in the form of:

- grant for older persons;
- disability grant;
- war veterans grant;
- care dependency grant;
- foster child grant;
- child support grant;
- grant-in-aid;
- Social Relief of Distress.

# Qualifying Requirements

## Social Grants

### Grant for Older Persons

#### The applicant:

- must be a South African citizen; permanent resident or refugee
- must be resident in South Africa;
- Must be 60 years or older
- and spouse must comply with the means test;
- must not be maintained or cared for in a State Institution;
- must not be in receipt of another social grant for him/ herself;
- must submit a 13 digit bar coded identity document or the smart ID card.

### Disability Grant

#### The applicant:

- must be a South African citizen; permanent resident or refugee;
- must be resident in South Africa;
- must be 18 to 59 years of age;
- must submit a medical / assessment report confirming disability;
- Medical assessment must not be older than 3 months at date of application.
- and spouse meet the requirements of the means test;
- must not be maintained or cared for in a State Institution;
- must not be in receipt of another social grant in respect of him or herself.
- Must submit a 13 digit bar coded identity document; the smart ID card.

### War Veteran's Grant

#### The applicant:

- must be a South African citizen; or permanent resident
- must be resident in South Africa;
- must be 60 years and over or must be disabled;

- must have fought in the Second World War or the Korean War;
- and spouse must meet the requirements of the means test;
- must not be maintained or cared for in a State Institution; and
- must not be in receipt of another social grant in respect of himself or herself;
- Must submit a 13 digit bar coded identity document; the smart ID card.

## Child Grants

### Foster Child Grant

- the applicant and child must be resident in South Africa;
- must provide a court order indicating foster care status;
- the foster parent must be a South African citizen, permanent resident or refugee.
- Child must remain in the care of the foster parent (s)
- foster parent must provide a 13 digit bar coded identity document; the smart ID card
- must provide a birth certificate for the foster child

### Care Dependency Grant

- The applicant must be a South African citizen, permanent resident or refugee;
- the applicant and child must be resident in South Africa;
- child must be under the age of 18 years;
- must submit a medical / assessment report confirming the child's permanent, severe disability;
- applicant and spouse must meet requirements of the means test (except for foster parents);
- the care-dependent child/children must not be permanently cared for in a State Institution;
- must provide birth certificate for the child;



- the applicant must supply a 13 digit bar coded identity document;  
**Note:** the income of foster parents will not be taken into consideration

### Child Support Grant

- the primary care giver must be a South African citizen, permanent resident or refugee;
- both the applicant and the child must reside in South Africa;
- the child must be 18 years of age or younger;
- must provide a birth certificate for the child;
- must provide a 13 digit bar coded identity document for the applicant;
- applicant must be the primary care giver of the child/children concerned;
- the child/children must have been born after 31 December 1993;
- the applicant and spouse must meet the requirements of the means test;
- cannot apply for more than six non biological children

- Child can not be cared for in State institution.
- It should be noted that one of the intentions of the child support grant is to ensure that children attend and complete schooling. It is therefore a requirement that a school attendance certificate be produced for children aged between 7 and 18 years. However, failure to produce this certificate or failure to attend school will not result in the refusal to pay their child support grant.

### Grant-in-aid

- the applicant must be in receipt of an Older Persons grant, Disability grant or a War Veterans grant, and require full time attendance by another person owing to his/her physical or mental disabilities;
- must not be cared for in an institution that receives subsidy from the State for the care/housing of such beneficiary;

### Proof of identity

- Applicants who do not have a 13 digit bar coded Identity Book, or birth certificate for children involved in the application can still apply for a grant. Please obtain information from your nearest SASSA office on the alternative documents which are accepted for grant applications. Refugees can provide the Section 24 permit as proof of refugee status and identity.

### Where Do You Apply For A Grant?

- You apply at the SASSA Office nearest to where you live;
- If you are too old or sick to travel to the office to apply for a grant, then a family member or friend can apply on your

behalf; with letter from you as applicant authorizing the application;

- Alternatively you may call the SASSA office to request a home visit;
- Your application form will be completed in the presence of an officer from SASSA;
- When your application is completed you will be given a receipt;
- Keep this receipt - it is your only proof of application;
- You do not have to pay any money to apply;
- If your application is not approved by SASSA, you must be informed in writing as to why your application was unsuccessful;
- You have the right to request SASSA to reconsider its decision, if you are unhappy with the decision made. If the reconsidered decision is still unfavourable, you have the right to appeal to the Minister of Social Development. The request for SASSA to reconsider its decision must be made within 90 days of you being informed of the outcome of your application.

## Date Of Award Of Grants

If your grant is approved, you will be paid from the date on which you applied, unless you have applied for a foster child grant. Foster child grants are paid from the date of court placement.

## If Your Application For A Grant Is Unsuccessful

You must be informed in writing of the reasons for the refusal of the grant application, as well as your right to request the decision to be reconsidered within 90 days of notification.

## Methods Of Payment

Once your grant is approved, you will be

issued with a SASSA payment card. This card is used to access your grant money. If you wish to use alternative methods of payment such as

- Banks including Postbank, or
- Institutions, you must contact your nearest SASSA office

Please note that the SASSA card is the only official social grant payment card

**Note:** If you are unable to collect the grant yourself you may nominate a procurator to collect it on your behalf.

## Suspension Of Grants

The following may result in the suspension of a grant:

- changes in circumstances (financial and / or medical);
- outcome of a review;
- failure to co-operate when a grant is reviewed;
- committing a fraudulent activity or misrepresentation
- Where grant was approved in error

## Restoration Of Grants

An application must be made for restoration of a grant within 90 days of the suspension.

## Main Reasons For Lapsing Of Grants

- death;
- admission to a State Institution;
- if the grant is not claimed for 3 consecutive months;
- when the period of temporary disability has lapsed;
- you are absent from the Republic; for a period of longer than 90 days
- If you cease to be a refugee.
- If the child for whom the grant is received turns 18





## Reviews

You must declare any income at the time of application. This will form the basis on which SASSA will decide whether your grant must be reviewed. You will be notified 3 months in advance of the date of the review or the date on which the life certificate is due.

## Life Certificates

If you do not collect your own grant with a biometric validation (fingerprint), you will be asked to provide life status confirmation (proof of life once per year. You will be informed in advance of the requirements.

## Social Relief Of Distress

Social relief of distress is the temporary provision of assistance intended for persons in such dire need that they are unable to meet their or their families' most basic needs. Social Relief of Distress is paid to South African citizens; permanent residents or refugees, who have insufficient means are resident in South Africa and meet one or

more of the following criteria:

- the applicant is awaiting payment of an approved social grant;
- the breadwinner of that household has been found medically unfit to undertake remunerative work for a period of less than 6 months;
- the bread winner of the household is deceased and application is made within three months of the date of death;
- the bread winner of that household person's family has been admitted to a private institution for a period of at least one month
- the applicant has been affected by a disaster as defined in the Disaster Management Act or the Fund Raising Act, 1978
- refusal of the application for social relief of distress will cause undue hardships.

## Period Of Social Relief Of Distress

Social Relief of Distress is issued monthly for a maximum period of 3 months. An extension for a further 3 months may be granted in exceptional cases.

**Note:** No person who is in receipt of a social grant may receive the grant and social relief of distress simultaneously. Any person who received both social relief and a grant at the same time must repay the value of the social relief of distress received. This will be recovered from any social grant payment, including an arrear payment. However, where the person who is in receipt of a social grant received social relief of distress as a result of a disaster, that amount will not be recovered.

## Responsibility of the Beneficiaries

It is the responsibility of beneficiaries to keep SASSA informed of changes in their

circumstances and means, and to respond to any correspondence received.

### Fraud

SASSA exercises zero tolerance to fraudulent activities

### What Is A Means Test

In South Africa Social Assistance is subject to means testing which implies that SASSA evaluates the income and assets of the person applying for social assistance in order to

determine whether the person's means are below a stipulated amount. This means test is a way of determining whether a person qualifies to receive a grant as grants are indeed meant for those who have insufficient means to support themselves. The means test varies from one grant type to another.

**Note:** Grants for older persons, war veterans and disabled are paid on a sliding scale that is, the more private income you have, the smaller the government pension you will qualify for.

## Asset And Income Threshold

Asset threshold:	01 April 2016	01 October 2016	01 April 2017
<b>(Grants for older persons, disabled and war veterans only)</b>			
Single person	R 990 000	R 996 600	R 1 056 000
Married person	R 1 980 000	R 1 993 200	R 2 112 000
<b>Income threshold: (Annual amounts)</b>			
Single person	R 69 000	R 69 480	R 73 800
Married person	R138 000	R138 960	R147 600
<b>Child Support Grants:</b>			
Single person	R 42 000	R 43 000	R 45 600
Married person	R 84 000	R 86 400	R 91 200
<b>Care Dependency Grants:</b>			
Single person	R 180 000	R 181 200	R 192 200
Married person	R 360 000	R 362 400	R 384 000

## Amounts Of Grants As At 01 APRIL 2017

Grant Type	Amount payable 01 April 2016	Amount payable 01 October 2016	Amount payable 01 April 2017
Older Persons Grant (Old age pension)	R 1 500.00	R 1 510.00	R 1 600.00
Older Persons Grant (Old age pension): Beneficiary older than 75 years	R 1 520.00	R 1 530.00	R 1 620.00
Disability grant	R 1 500.00	R 1 510.00	R 1 600.00
War veterans' grant	R 1 520.00	R 1 530.00	R 1 620.00
Grant-in-aid	R 350.00	R 360.00	R 380.00
Child support grant	R 350.00	R 360.00	R 380.00
Foster child grant	R 890.00	R 890.00	R 920.00
Care-dependency grant	R 1 500.00	R 1 510.00	R 1 600.00

## Contact Details

### SASSA HEAD OFFICE

SASSA HOUSE  
501 Prodinsa Building  
Cnr Steve Biko and Pretorius  
Street  
Pretoria

Private Bag X55662  
Arcadia, Pretoria  
0083

Tel: 012 400 2000  
(Switchboard)  
Website: [www.sassa.gov.za](http://www.sassa.gov.za)

### EASTERN CAPE

SASSA Office  
BKB Building  
Cnr Fitzpatrick & Merino  
Road Quigney  
East London

Private Bag X9001  
Chiselhurst  
East London  
5200

Tel: 043 707 6300  
Fax: 043 707 6481

### CPS Call Centre

072 306 3471  
072 316 2050  
072 311 3028

### FREE STATE

African Life Building  
75 St. Andrews Street  
Bloemfontein

Private Bag X20553  
Bloemfontein  
9300

Tel: 051 410 8304/5  
Fax: 051 409 0862

### CPS Call centre

071 771 12 58  
072 286 7972  
082 259 8727

### GAUTENG

28 Harrison Street  
Johannesburg  
2000  
Private Bag X120  
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2107

Tel: 011 241 8300  
Fax: 011 241 8305

### CPS Call Centre

078 731 5908  
083 518 3152  
072 311 3028

### KWAZULU NATAL

1 Bank Street  
Pietermaritzburg  
3201

Private Bag X 9146  
Pietermaritzburg  
3201

Tel: 033 846 3300  
Fax: 033 846 9595

### CPS Call Centre

079 780 9040  
079 780 9040  
079 730 2499

### LIMPOPO

43 Landros Mare Street  
Polokwane  
0699

Private Bag X9677  
Polokwane  
0700

Tel: 015 291 7400  
Fax: 015 291 7996

### CPS Call Centre

072 201 3930  
072 204 3637  
072 208 9522

### MPUMALANGA

18 Ferreira Street  
Nelspruit

Private Bag X11230  
Nelspruit  
1200

Tel: 013 754 9380  
Fax: 013 754 9501

### CPS Call Centre

082 701 5493  
082 364 0614  
082 967 2264

### NORTH WEST

SASSA House  
University Drive  
Mmabatho  
2735

Private Bag X44  
Mmabatho

Tel: 018 389 4000

### CPS Call Centre

082 344 0493  
071 100 6483  
076 710 0862

### NORTHERN CAPE

95-97 Du Toit Span Road  
Kimberley  
8300

Private Bag X6011  
Kimberley  
8300

Tel: 053 802 4900  
Fax: 053 832 5225

### CPS Call Centre

076 030 9929  
076 662 1545  
072 186 8095  
071 416 6324

### WESTERN CAPE

Golden Acre  
Adderley Street  
Cape Town  
8001

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Cape Town  
8000

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Fax: 021 469 0260

### CPS Call Centre

072 268 4678  
072 456 7506  
072 453 7858

