



DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN SERVICES

Minnesota Supplemental Aid and Minnesota Supplemental Aid Housing Assistance

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Housing and Support Services Division

Minnesota Supplemental Aid (MSA)

- Monthly cash supplement to SSI payment
- 94,000+ Minnesotans ages 18-65 receive SSI
- Around 31,000 people/month receive MSA
- Costs about \$37 million annually (all state funds)
- MN is obligated by a 'maintenance of effort' agreement with SSA to fund MSA

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

SSI is a federal cash assistance benefit for people who:

- Are elderly (over 65), blind, or disabled, and
- Have limited income and resources

Important: SSI is an entitlement program, while RSDI (aka SSDI) is insurance

2021 SSI benefit amounts (Federal Benefit Rate or FBR):

- \$794/month for an individual
- \$1,191/month for a couple
- Some people get both SSI and RSDI

MSA Monthly Benefit Amounts

Individuals	\$81
Couples	\$111
Facility residents (receiving \$30 SSI)	\$75

Additional \$ for special needs

Applying for MSA

- 46 states have an SSI supplement program.
- In some states, supplements are included in the SSI payment.
- In MN, people don't automatically get MSA when approved for SSI (unless they're already receiving GA).
- Apply for MSA using the [Combined Application Form](#) or [ApplyMN](#)



Combined Application Form

Apply online at: www.applymn.dhs.mn.gov

Do not use this application to apply for health care coverage. The application date or the day your SNAP (food) or cash benefits can start is the date the agency gets your application. We can set your application date if we have your name, address and signature on page 1. For your application to be complete, answer all questions on the application.

Tell someone if you need help filling out this application. Be sure to sign and date the application on pages 1 and 9.

CASE NUMBER

PERSON 1 APPLICANT'S LEGAL NAME (last/first/middle)		OTHER NAMES YOU USE (maiden name, nickname, etc.)	BIRTH DATE (mm/dd/yy)	GENDER <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> F
ADDRESS WHERE YOU LIVE (If you do not have an address, write "homeless.")				APT. NUMBER
CITY	COUNTY	STATE	ZIP CODE	
MAILING ADDRESS (If different from address where you live)				
PHONE NUMBER WHERE YOU CAN BE REACHED (include area code)		DO YOU LIVE ON A RESERVATION?		
Home: _____ Other: _____		<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No If yes, which one? _____		
DO YOU NEED AN INTERPRETER? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	WHAT IS YOUR PREFERRED SPOKEN LANGUAGE?	WHAT IS YOUR PREFERRED WRITTEN LANGUAGE?		
MARITAL STATUS*	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	MOST RECENTLY MOVED TO MINNESOTA (mm/dd/yy)		
		Date: _____	From: _____	
U.S. CITIZEN OR U.S. NATIONAL? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	ETHNICITY (optional) Hispanic? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	RACE (optional)*	LAST SCHOOL GRADE COMPLETED	
WHAT PROGRAM(S) ARE YOU APPLYING FOR? <input type="checkbox"/> SNAP (food) <input type="checkbox"/> Cash programs <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Assistance** <input type="checkbox"/> None				

* See MARITAL and RACE codes on the top of page 2.

** Before applying for Emergency Assistance, check with your agency regarding funding and specific eligibility criteria.

Do you need help right away? Questions 1-4 below will help us decide if you can get help with food right away.

- How much income (cash or checks) did or will your household get **this month**? \$ _____
- How much does your household (including children) have in **cash, checking or savings**? \$ _____
- How much does your household pay for **rent/mortgage per month**? \$ _____
What **utilities** do you pay? Heat Air conditioning Electricity Phone None
- Yes No Is anyone in your household a **migrant or seasonal farm worker**?
- Yes No Has anyone in your household ever received cash assistance, commodities or SNAP benefits before?
If yes, When? _____ Where? _____ What? _____
- Yes No Is anyone in your household pregnant? If yes, Who? _____

Agency use:		MEMB, MEMI, TYPE, PROG, IMIG, SPON	
Eligible for expedited SNAP? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Intends to reside in MN? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		
Same-day interview offered? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No Declined? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Has sponsor? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		
Next-day interview offered? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No Declined? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Immigration status _____		
_____ children _____ adults	Verification: <input type="checkbox"/> requested <input type="checkbox"/> attached		

I have looked over my answers and believe they are all true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT OR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE	DATE	AGENCY SIGNATURE	DATE RECEIVED
_____	_____	_____	_____

CAF Question 24

Other information (Answer questions below.)

Yes No 22. For recertifications only: Did **anyone** move in or out of your home in the past 12 months?

AGENCY USE: ADME, REMO

Confirmed response


VERIFICATION: requested attached

Yes No 23. For children under the age of 19, are **both** parents living in the home?

AGENCY USE: INFC/CSIA, ABPS

Confirmed response

VERIFICATION: requested attached

 24. For MSA recipients only: Does **anyone** in the household have any of the following expenses?

Yes No Representative Payee fees

Yes No Guardian or Conservator fees

Yes No Physician-prescribed special diet

Yes No High housing costs

AGENCY USE: DIET

Confirmed response

VERIFICATION: requested attached

To be eligible for MSA, a person must be:

- Over 18 (unless blind) and:
- Receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) **OR**
- Would receive SSI except for excess income (and elderly, blind, or disabled)

For **SSI recipients**: **\$2,000** SSA asset limit.

For **non-SSI recipients**: **\$10,000** asset limit. Count only:

- **Cash**
- **Bank Accounts**
- **Stocks and Bonds** (if no financial penalty)
- **Vehicles**. One vehicle is excluded for each person 16 or older in the assistance unit.

MSA Living Arrangements

- Some SSI recipients may not be eligible for MSA because DHS and SSA determine a person's "living arrangement" differently.
- Anyone eligible for a waiver, MSA Housing Assistance, or who is a "separate household" is considered "living alone" **even if they live with others.**

What's a Separate Household?

A separate household exists when a person:

1. is subject to an individual lease/rental agreement;
2. purchases, prepares and eats separately from others in the household; and
3. has exclusive use of part of the residence.

A person whose SSI has been reduced by one-third, based on living with others and not paying their fair share of room/board expenses, can't be considered a separate household.

MSA: Other Things

- MSA recipients are generally eligible for SNAP
- MSA is paid to an EBT card or bank account via direct deposit (use [DHS-3360](#))
- Can't get MSA & Housing Support at the same time*
- Recertification is required at least annually
- Monthly reporting required if working (non-SSI only)

**except when Housing Support pays for a crisis residential setting*

MSA Special Needs Programs

- Special Diets [CM 23.12](#)
- Guardian/Conservator Fees [CM 23.15](#)
- Representative Payee Fees [CM 23.21](#)
- Home Repairs [CM 23.06](#)
- Home Furnishings & Appliances [CM 23.09](#)
- Housing Assistance [CM 23.24](#)
- [DHS Combined Manual Home Page](#)

MSA Special Diet

- Must be prescribed by a licensed physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant
- New verification is required **at least annually**
- Special diets include only: anti-dumping, controlled protein, gluten free, high protein, high residue, hypoglycemic, ketogenic, lactose free, low cholesterol, and pregnancy/lactation.
- *SNAP benefits may be reduced by any increase in MSA, including special diet benefits.*

MSA Guardian/Conservator Fees

- Maximum fee is 5% of the client's income, up to \$100/month.
- Fee must be negotiated by the county or approved by a court.
- Not allowed if the guardian/conservator is a county employee.

MSA Representative Payee Fees

- Payment for representative payees services is allowed up to 10% of a client's gross income or \$25, whichever is LESS.
- The payee must be authorized by the Social Security Administration to collect a fee.
- SSA sets a maximum monthly rep payee fee, which is currently \$45/month.

MSA Home REPAIRS

- MSA recipients living in their own home can get help to repair the roof, foundation, wiring, heating system, or water/sewer system.
- The client must apply any assets they have toward the cost of the repair.
- The payment must be reasonable, considering the condition of the home, and documented by at least one estimate.
- Payment is made to the vendor making the repair.

MSA Home Furnishings and Appliances

- MSA recipients can get help to buy/repair an item no more than once in a 3-year period (unless repairing or replacing an item due to damage, loss, normal wear and tear, or theft).
- Amounts allowed are based on 1996 AFDC standards. For example: twin bed (\$72), washer (\$93), couch (\$74)

MSA Housing Assistance Eligibility

Must be eligible for MSA, under 65 when you apply, with housing costs more than 40% of monthly income, **and either:**

- Relocating from institution (hospital, nursing facility, RTC, ICF-DD or IRTS) **or**
- Eligible for PCA services **or**
- Waiver recipient in own home/apartment **or**
- Transitioning from Housing Support program

MSA Housing Assistance - Example

\$794	SSI benefit
\$81	MSA benefit
+\$392	MSA Housing Assistance
<hr/>	
\$473	Total MSA benefit
\$1,267	Total monthly income

Remember: Increased MSA benefits may reduce SNAP benefits.



Moving from Housing Support to MSA Housing Assistance

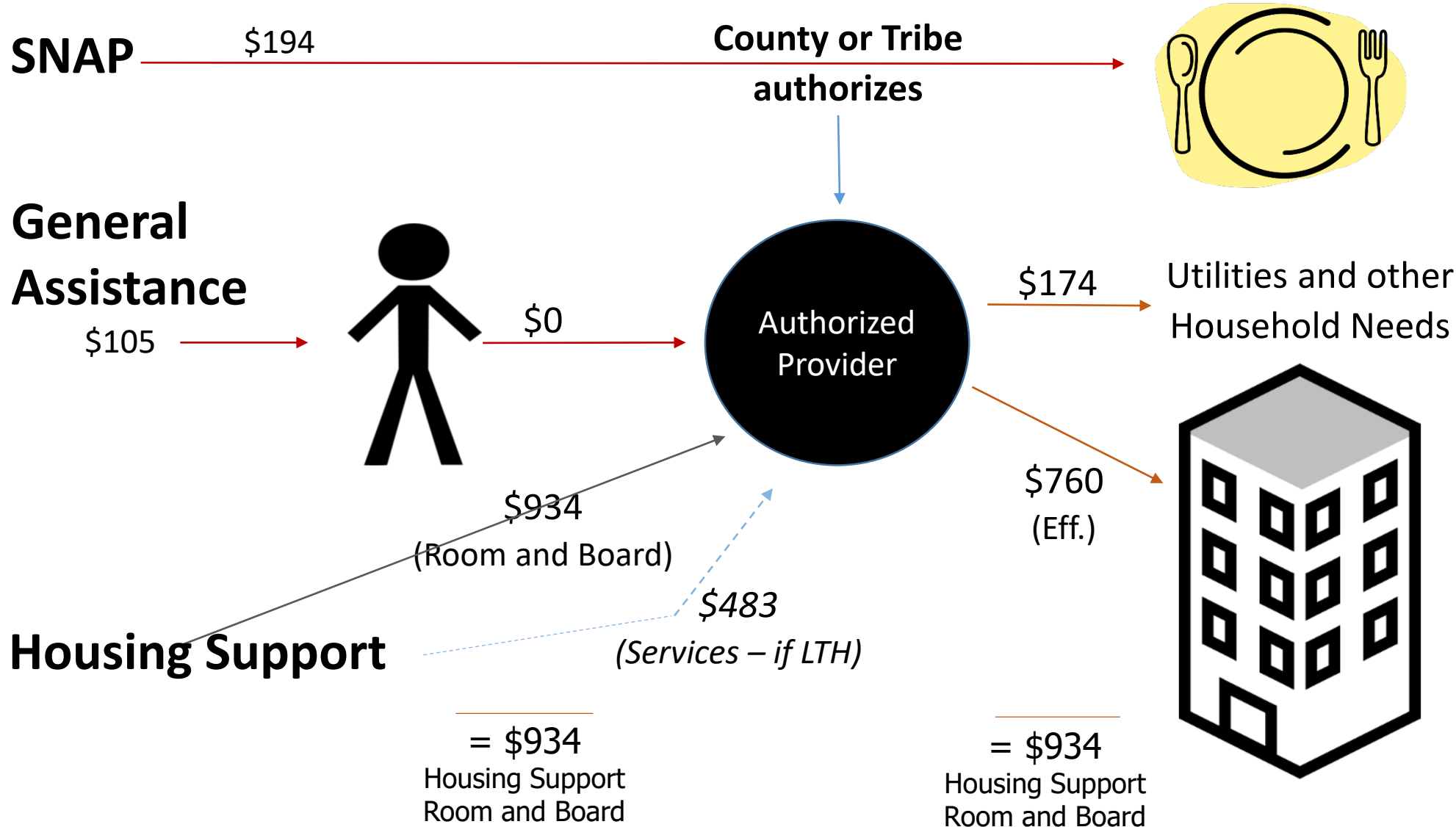
Housing Support

- 100% state-funded income support to pay for housing expenses, and sometimes additional services
 - Always
 - Room and Board, up to **\$934** per month (20,000 people)
 - Starting **7/1/2020**
 - Sometimes
 - Supplemental Services, **\$482.84**, *or higher if approved by legislature* (5,800 people)

What will a person gain by using Housing Support?

- A provider that makes sure you have 3 nutritious meals a day, a bed, clothing, storage, linens, laundry supplies, lavatory supplies, and housekeeping
- Supplemental services to help you with stable housing, employment, or health needs
 - These services aren't available **unless** a person has Long Term Homeless status OR is working with a provider who has an open service bed.

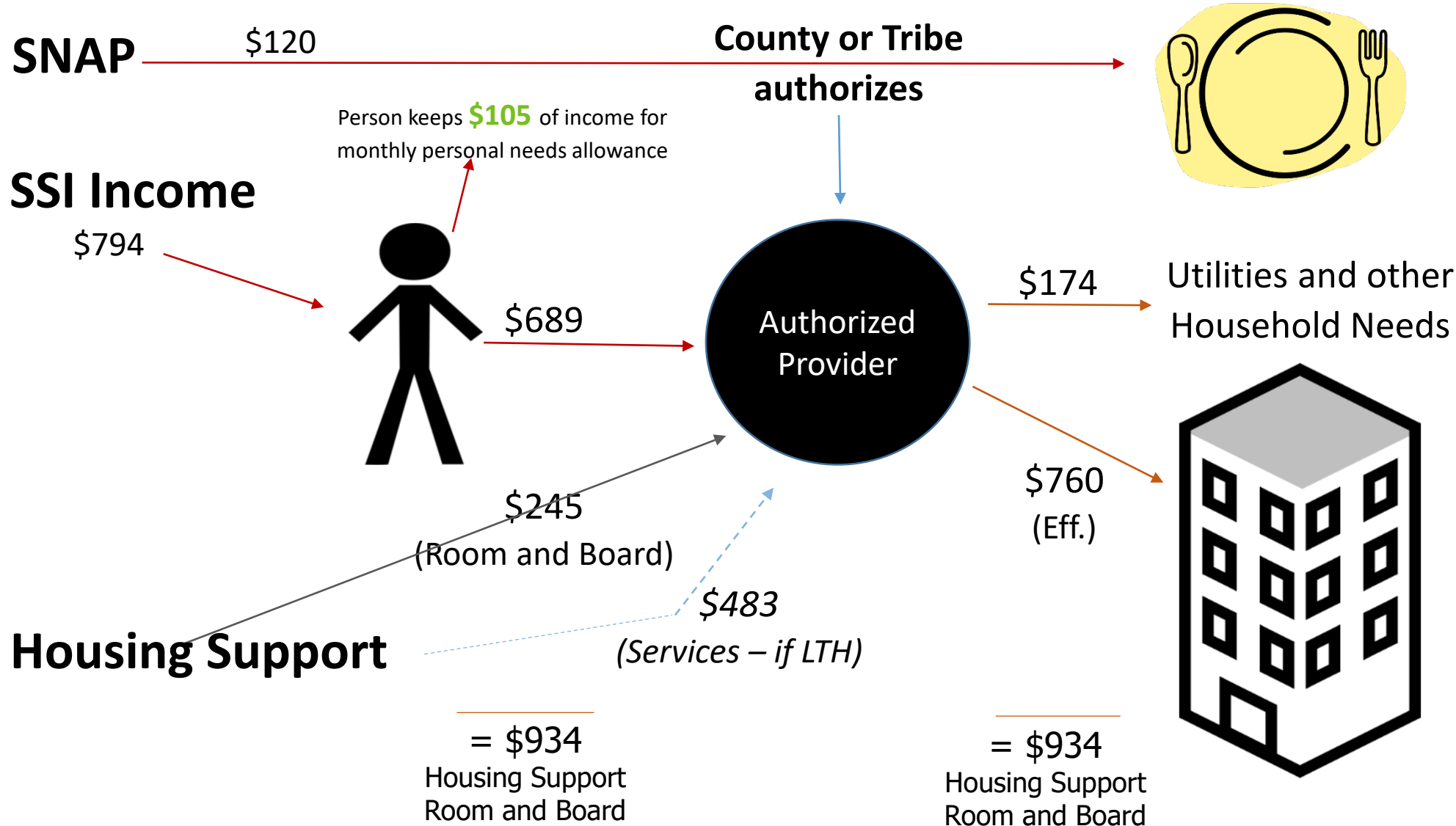
Housing Support Community Setting – No Income



- Housing Support providers must ensure every recipient has:
- food preparation and service for three nutritional meals a day on site
 - a bed
 - clothing storage
 - linens/bedding
 - laundry supplies or service
 - housekeeping
 - lavatory supplies or service
 - maintenance and operation of the building and grounds

Housing Support

Community Setting – SSI Income

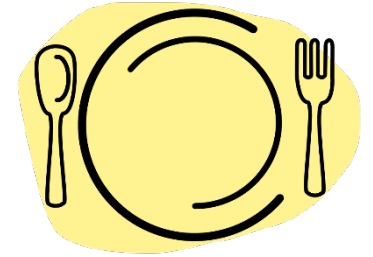


- Housing Support providers must ensure every recipient has:
- food preparation and service for three nutritional meals a day on site
 - a bed
 - clothing storage
 - linens/bedding
 - laundry supplies or service
 - housekeeping
 - lavatory supplies or service
 - maintenance and operation of the building and grounds

MSA – Housing Assistance

Federal

SNAP



\$794
SSI



\$81
MSA

\$392

Housing Assistance
(Special Needs
Payment)

\$1267

Self directed to
personal
expenses



State

Moving from Housing Support to MSA Housing Assistance

SSI recipients can transition from Housing Support to MSA Housing Assistance.

What does this mean?

- An eligible person can use Housing Support to get into housing, and then transition to MSA Housing Assistance to increase income and pay for housing.

What will it cost me?

- SSI recipients pay \$679 toward housing costs when using Housing Support
- Once a person transitions onto MSA Housing Assistance, residents pay all of their own housing costs.

Moving from Housing Support to MSA Housing Assistance

How long do I have to be on Housing Support before I can use MSA Housing Assistance instead?

- Every situation is different, but you can apply for MSA Housing Assistance soon after moving into a Housing Support unit.

Who is not eligible?

- You can only get MSA Housing Assistance if you pay more than 40% of your income on housing costs.
- People who have Housing Support, other rental assistance, or public housing are not eligible because they pay less than 40% of their income on housing.

What changes once a person transitions from Housing Support to MSA Housing Assistance?

Talking points to help a person understand service and benefit changes:	
More money in your pocket	If approved for MSA Housing Assistance, your income will increase from \$794 to \$1,267. The amount of MSA you receive will depend on your income source (SSI vs RSDI).
More choices	With more money, you could live alone instead of with a roommate, live in a 1 bedroom instead of a studio, or in a neighborhood that was too expensive before.
More independence and responsibility	You control your own finances and pay for your own housing expenses. You lose the support of a provider paying these bills for you, so consider how you will manage this responsibility.
No more Housing Support Supplemental Services	You'll need to work with your service provider to address ongoing service needs, if you have them. Housing Stabilization might be one option.

A person I support wants to transition from Housing Support to MSA Housing Assistance. What should I know?

- Plan ahead so there is no gap in funding. The County needs AT LEAST one full month to turn Housing Support off and MSA Housing Assistance on.
- Talk with the client's financial worker. Provide all verifications showing the client is eligible, up front.
- Will you continue to provide services? Is this client on a waiver or eligible for Housing Stabilization Services? Coordinate this carefully.
- Can this client manage their finances appropriately, or will they need help? Stress the importance of budgeting.
- Communicate with the landlord so there are no surprises about changes in the way rent is paid, or by whom.
- Is this person moving from a Housing Support facility (like a board and lodge) or are they "transitioning in place" (like in an long-term homelessness supportive housing program)? How much independent living experience does the client have?

Scenario 1



- Katie lives at a board and lodge (Housing Support group setting) for women and receives special services.
- She works 20 hours per week and gets SSI. She wants her own apartment.
- Katie learns about MSA Housing Assistance from her financial worker.
- She applies for MSA Housing Assistance and receives help from board and lodge staff to find an apartment.
- Katie moves into her apartment and has more money in her pocket!

Scenario 2

- Mark and his son live in an apartment where Mark holds the lease.
- He receives supports designed for people who have experienced long-term homelessness (Housing Support community-based setting).
- Mark is on SSI and no longer wants the supportive services offered by the program but needs some help to pay his housing costs.
- His housing case manager helps him apply for MSA Housing Assistance.
- Mark can “transition in place” and stay in his own apartment, receiving more money each month to ensure he and his son remain stably housed.



Scenario 3



- Pat is struggling with long-term homelessness and severe mental illness. He has no income and is on Medical Assistance.
- He enters a homeless shelter after discharge from the emergency room. After 90 days, he moves from a homeless shelter to a board and lodge (Housing Support setting).
- After a medication change and the addition of more supports, like an ARMHS worker, Pat's mental health stabilizes. Pat is also connected with a targeted case manager, who helps him apply for SSI.
- After a 18 months, the board and lodge's environment is causing Pat a lot of stress, and he wants his own apartment. After his SSI starts, Pat realizes most of his SSI check goes to the board and lodge provider. Combined with his increasing stress at the board and lodge, Pat wants to move.
- Pat's targeted case manager helps him enroll in Housing Stabilization Services. Pat works with a Housing Stabilization Services provider to move into (and maintain) his own place. The Housing Stabilization Services provider also helps him apply for MSA Housing Assistance.



How to Find More Information



Stay informed during the pandemic.

See COVID-19 resources for people with disabilities



Chat with us. Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 5 pm.



Call 1-866-333-2466. Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 5 pm.



Email us. Emails are answered Monday to Friday.

Housing Benefits 101

The Hub | DB101 | HB101 Contact Us: 1-866-333-2466 Chat Email

Housing Benefits 101

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MSA Housing Assistance

updated January 8, 2021 Add to favorites

Minnesota Supplemental Aid (MSA) Housing Assistance is a benefit that helps people with disabilities afford their housing. It gives an additional \$392 per month to people on MSA who spend more than 40% of their income on housing.

If you are on MSA, you should ask your county worker if you qualify for MSA Housing Assistance. There are many people on MSA who would qualify for MSA Housing Assistance if they applied.

Important: Starting July 1, 2020, if you get MSA Housing Assistance, you get more. The new amount is \$392 per month, which is more than twice as high as the old level! Every year, this amount will be adjusted on July 1st, to be half of Supplemental Security Income's Federal Benefit Rate (FBR).

Who Can Get It
You can only get MSA Housing Assistance if you qualify for MSA. To qualify for MSA, you must both:

- Have a [disability](#), be [blind](#), or be age 65 or older, and
- Either get [Supplemental Security Income \(SSI\)](#) or not get an SSI payment only because you have [countable income](#) that is too high for SSI.
 - If you do not get SSI, you must still have a [disability](#), [low income](#) and [low assets](#), but your income may be slightly above SSI's income limit.

See Disability Benefits 101 for [more details about MSA eligibility](#).

Tweets by @HB101_MN

MSA Housing Assistance

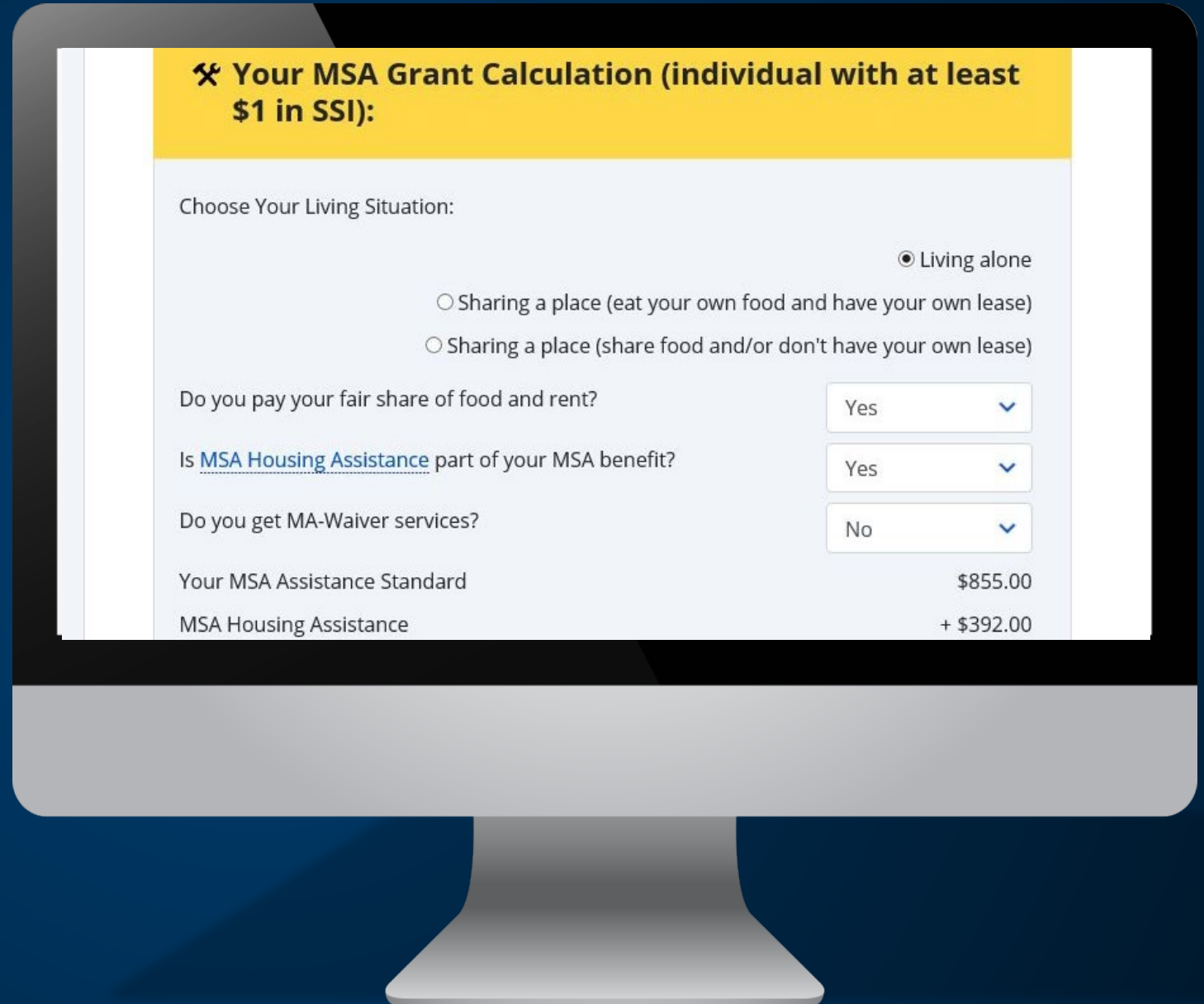
Watch later Share 1/1



The video thumbnail shows a cartoon character with brown hair and glasses, wearing a black blazer over a white shirt and black pants. He is pointing his right hand towards a large white sign with a black border. The sign has a large red checkmark and the text 'MSA \$81 per month' in bold black letters. A play button icon is centered over the sign. The background is a light blue with faint, abstract shapes.

Disability Benefits 101

- Try-it Tools
 - SSI and No SSI options available



✖ Your MSA Grant Calculation (individual with at least \$1 in SSI):

Choose Your Living Situation:

Living alone

Sharing a place (eat your own food and have your own lease)

Sharing a place (share food and/or don't have your own lease)

Do you pay your fair share of food and rent?

Is [MSA Housing Assistance](#) part of your MSA benefit?

Do you get MA-Waiver services?

Your MSA Assistance Standard	\$855.00
MSA Housing Assistance	+ \$392.00

Thank you!

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