
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2021

Fiscal Services Division

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Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

State Supplementary Assistance

Description

The State Supplementary Assistance (SSA) program provides monthly payments to low-income elderly or disabled Iowans to help meet their basic needs, and reduces spending for Medicaid.

State Supplementary Assistance Coverage Categories

Iowa has seven SSA categories. Those categories include:

- **Blind Allowance:** Available to individuals who meet the Social Security Administration definition of blindness and either receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or meet all SSI requirements but exceed the income limit by up to \$22 per month. The benefit limit for the State assistance portion of the Blind Allowance is \$22 per month.
- **Dependent Persons Allowance:** Available to aged, blind, or disabled individuals who meet income and resource requirements and have a financially dependent relative living with them. The benefit limit for the Dependent Persons Allowance is \$398 per month.
- **Family Life Home Assistance:** Available to aged, blind, or disabled individuals to supplement payment for a licensed family life home. Licensed family life homes are private households offering a protective social living arrangement for one or two adults. The benefit limit for Family Life Home Assistance is \$142 per month.
- **In-Home Health-Related Care Assistance:** Available to aged, blind, or disabled individuals to help pay for personal health care services. Individuals must have physical or mental disabilities that require a nursing facility level of care, but not enough income to pay for such care. The benefit limit for In-Home Health-Related Care Assistance is \$480 per month.
- **Mandatory Allowance:** Available to recipients who converted to the SSI program from the former State assistance programs when the SSI program began in 1974. The average benefit for the Mandatory Allowance category is just over \$185 per month.
- **Residential Care Facility Assistance:** Available to help pay for care in a residential care facility (RCF) for aged, blind, or disabled individuals who are unable to care for themselves because of illness, disease, or physical infirmity. Individuals must have resources or monthly income less than the cost of monthly care. The benefit limit for Residential Care Facility Assistance is \$1,072 per month.

More Information

DHS State SSA: dhs.iowa.gov/ime/members/medicaid-a-to-z/state-supplementary-assistance
LSA Staff Contact: Jess Benson (515.281.4611) jess.benson@legis.iowa.gov

- Supplement for Medicare and Medicaid Eligibles: Available for individuals who are aged, blind, or disabled, are eligible for Medicare Part B and Medicaid, and meet income and resource guidelines. This category allows the State to access federal funds for payment of Medicare Part B premiums. The benefit for this group is \$1 per month.

Funding

This program is 100.0% State-funded, and although there are federal maintenance of effort requirements related to the Medicaid program, the SSA program receives no federal support.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [249](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [441—50](#), [441—51](#), [441—52](#), [441—54](#), and [441—177](#)

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