

Auxiliary Grant (AG) Program

About the program

An auxiliary grant (AG) is a supplement to income for recipients of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and certain other aged, blind, or disabled individuals residing in a licensed assisted living facility or an approved adult foster care home.

This is assistance available from local departments of social services to ensure that recipients are able to maintain a standard of living that meets a basic level of need. The AG Program is a state (80 percent) and locally (20 percent) funded financial assistance program administered by VDSS. The maximum rate is determined by the Virginia General Assembly and is adjusted periodically.

Before being admitted to an assisted living facility or an adult foster care home, an individual must be assessed to determine eligibility and level of care. Assessments for assisted living facilities are performed by the local departments of social services or other agencies approved to perform assessments. Assessments for adult foster care are performed only by local departments of social services that offer adult foster care. During the assessments other service options, such as the provision of home- and community-based care services or nursing facility placement, are explored. The AG Program is specifically for individuals who reside in an assisted living facility licensed by the Virginia Department of Social Services' Division of Licensing Programs or in an adult foster care home approved by the local department of social services. Not all assisted living facilities accept AG recipients.

Individuals receiving an auxiliary grant also receive a personal allowance. The personal allowance is used by the resident for such things as clothing, medical co-payments, personal toiletries, tobacco products, sodas, snacks, over-the-counter and non-prescription medications, prescriptions not covered by Medicaid, dental care, eyeglasses, provision of a personal telephone and long-distance service, personal transportation, and activities outside of what is offered by the assisted living facility or adult foster care provider. Regulations do not allow the personal allowance to be used for required recreational activities, administration of accounts, debts owed the assisted living facility for basic services, or charges for laundry that exceed \$10 per month.

Eligibility

Before an individual can receive an AG, eligibility for the program must be determined by the local department of social services in the locality where the adult resides. To be eligible for in Virginia, an individual must meet all of the following:

- Be 65 or over or be blind or be disabled
- Reside in a licensed assisted living facility or approved adult foster care home
- Be a citizen of the United States or an alien who meets specified criteria
- Have a non-exempted (countable) income less than the total of the auxiliary grant rate approved for the assisted living facility plus the personal needs allowance.
- Have non-exempted resources less than \$2,000 for one person or \$3,000 for a couple
- Have been assessed and determined to need assisted living facility care or adult foster care placement

Coverage

- Room and Board

- Provision of a furnished room in a facility that meets applicable building and fire safety codes
- Housekeeping services based on the needs of the resident
- Meals and snacks, including extra portions and special diets
- Clean bed linens and towels as needed by the resident and at least once a week
- Maintenance and Care
 - Minimal assistance with personal hygiene, including bathing, dressing, oral hygiene, hair grooming and shampooing, care of clothing, shaving, care of toenails and fingernails, arranging for haircuts as needed, care of needs associated with menstruation or occasional bladder or bowel incontinence
 - Medication administration as required by licensing regulations, including insulin injections
 - Provision of generic personal toiletries, including soap and toilet paper
 - Minimal assistance with the following: care of personal possessions; care of personal funds if requested by the recipient and residence policy allows it; use of telephone; arranging transportation; obtaining necessary personal items and clothing; making and keeping appointments; and correspondence
 - Securing health care and transportation when needed for medical treatment
 - Providing social and recreational activities as required by licensing regulations
 - General supervision for safety