**General Assistance (GA**) **Program**

 **Fact Sheet**

1. **What is the General Assistance (GA) program?**

The General Assistance Program provides limited state-funded cash assistance to adults without dependent children who are determined disabled and who are not eligible for assistance under a federally matched cash assistance program, such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

General Assistance also provides limited state-funded cash assistance to children residing in the homes of unrelated adult caretakers who are not eligible for assistance under a federally matched cash assistance program, such as TANF.

1. **Funding**

This program is state funded. HSD is reimbursed through the Interim Authorization Reimbursement (IAR) process with federal funds for GA recipients who are approved for retroactive SSI benefits.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SFY** | **GA Funding** | **GA Program Costs** | **IAR Recoupments** |
| **2013 YTD\*** | $ 9,921,376 | $9,220,800 | $2,889,961 |
| **2012** | $ 9,862,215 | $9,850,873 | $2,779,871 |
| **2011**  | $10,413,678 | $9,478,494 | $2,605,223 |
| **2010** | $ 9,891,500 | $9,354,843 | $2,855,850 |
| **2009** | $ 7,891,000 | $9,018,474 | $2,450,550 |
| **2008** | $ 8,491,500 | $8,482,105 | $2,990,871 |

\*As of November 2013, GA funding for SFY 11and SFY 12 includes funding retained from IAR recoupments.

1. **GA Program Participants Totals (monthly average)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SFY** | **Caseload** | **Participants** | **Adults** | **Children** |
| **2013 YTD\*** | 2,904 | 3,132 | 2,922 | 210 |
| **2012**  | 2,816 | 3,055 | 2,835 | 220 |
| **2011**  | 2,825 | 3,057 | 2,847 | 210 |
| **2010** | 2,343 | 2,515 | 2,344 | 171 |
| **2009** | 1,975 | 2,133 | 1,956 | 177 |
| **2008** | 1,940 | 2,112 | 1,935 | 177 |

\*As of November 2013.

1. **Participant Eligibility**
* Reside in New Mexico
* Citizenship or Qualified Legal Immigrant Status
* Social Security Number
* Low Income and Resources
* Income
* The benefit group’s countable gross earned and unearned income cannot equal or exceed 85% of the federal poverty guideline for the size of the benefit group. Any countable net income of the benefit group cannot equal or exceed the standard of need for the size of the benefit group.
* Resources
	+ $1,500 or less in liquid resources, such as a bank account
	+ $2,000 or less in non-liquid resources, such as real property

## **Cash Assistance Standards**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Household Size | 85% FPGPoverty Gross Limit for Cash | General AssistanceStandard of Need |
| 1 | $ 814 | $245 |
| 2 | $1,099 | $329 |
| 3 | $1,384 | $412 |
| 4 | $1,669 | $496 |
| 5 | $1,953 | $580 |
| 6 | $2,238 | $664 |
| 7 | $2,523 | $748 |
| 8 | $2,808 | $849 |
| For each additional member add:  |
|   | +$285 | +$ 84 |
| **Deductions:*** Dependent Care:

For Dependent under age 2 = $200For Dependent 2 and over = $175 **Work Incentive*** Earned Income Disregard

Single Person = $125 and ½ remainderTwo Person = $225 and ½ remainder |

* + Special Program Requirements
		- A determination of disability by the Incapacity Review Unit as supported by medical/mental health records and reports.
		- Dependent needy child or children living in the home of a caretaker or caretakers who are not related within the 5th degree or relationship. The child must be ineligible for NMW (TANF).
1. **Contact Information:**

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