

Public Benefits in Delaware

Social Security Retirement Benefits

Social Security payments are cash payments to people who are elderly and in some cases their widow(er) or surviving children. To be eligible the individual must meet Social Security's minimum requirements of amount of time worked. To be eligible an individual must be at least 62 years of age.

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

SSDI is cash benefits available to individuals with disabilities and some family members if the individual worked long enough and paid enough Social Security taxes to be eligible. SSDI is operated by the Social Security Administration.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

SSI is monthly cash payments to low-income and low-asset people who are over 65, blind or have disabilities (including children). SSI is based on financial need; prior work history is irrelevant. SSI is operated by the Social Security Administration.

Food Supplement Program

Food Stamps is a no-cost program that helps low-income individuals and families buy food. It is operated by the Division of Social Services.

Medicare

Medicare is a public health insurance program for people over the age of 65, some individuals with disabilities under the age of 65, and people with End-Stage Renal Disease. Recipients may have to pay monthly premiums and co-payments.

Medicaid

Medicaid is a medical assistance program for eligible low-income families and eligible low-income elderly, blind, and/or people with disabilities (including children). Covered care may include doctors visits, hospital care, lab work, prescription medicine, transportation, shots and dental care for children, and mental health and substance abuse services.

Delaware Healthy Children Program (DHCP/SCHIP)

DHCP is a low cost health insurance program for Delaware's uninsured children. Children may qualify if they do not have comprehensive health insurance, are under the age of 19, reside in Delaware, are U.S. citizens or qualified non-citizens, are not dependents of a State employee, and meet the income eligibility (i.e. family income cannot exceed 200% of the Federal Poverty Level after certain income disregards are applied).

Delaware Prescription Assistance Program (DPAP)

DPAP provides up to \$3,000 per person annually for eligible elderly and / or individuals with disabilities without prescription coverage, whose incomes are below 200% of the poverty level or whose prescription costs exceed 40% of their income. DPAP covers medically necessary prescription medicines. Recipients must pay a co-payment.

Welfare - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

TANF provides cash assistance to families with minor children, women in their 9th month of pregnancy, and 18 year old high school students who will graduate before they are 19. Applicants must be financially eligible. In most cases TANF is temporary and is aimed at helping families achieve self-sufficiency. Most families cannot receive benefits for more than 36 cumulative months and must work for a certain number of hours. Some exceptions exist to the work requirement and time-limit, including exceptions that may apply when a member of the household has a disability.

General Assistance (GA)

GA is a cash assistance program funded by the State of Delaware. It is available to low-income families and individuals who do not qualify for federally funded programs such as TANF and SSI (some exceptions exist) and who meet the financial eligibility standard.

Refugee Assistance

Assistance is available to people in the U.S. who are unable or unwilling to return to their home country because of or fear-of persecution. Cash and medical assistance are limited to eight months after arrival in the U.S. Social services, employment, and English as a second language classes are also available. Refugees may be eligible for TANF.

Child Care Assistance

This program enables low-income caretakers to hold a job, pursue job training, meet a child's special needs, and, in some cases, protect a child from abuse. Working recipients may have to pay part of their child care expenses. This service is available for children from birth to 12 (older children with special needs may still be eligible for this service). Eligibility is based on need for service and income.

**For more information or assistance please contact Community Legal Aid Society, Inc.
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