



**WESTERN CAPE
ASSOCIATION FOR
PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES**
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Sources

South African
Social Security Agency
(SASSA)

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adding
value
to
lives

Focus on... Disability grants

What is a disability grant?

If you have a physical or mental disability which makes you unfit to work, for a period of longer than six months, then you may apply for a disability grant from the State, to be used to cover basic living expenses.

You get a permanent disability grant if your disability will continue for more than a year and a temporary disability grant if your disability will continue for a continuous period of not less than six months and not more than twelve months. A permanent disability grant does not mean you will receive the grant for life, but just that it will continue for longer than 12 months.

How do you know if you qualify?

To qualify, you must:

- be a South African citizen or permanent resident or refugee and living in South Africa at the time of application
- be between 18 and 59 years if you are a female 18 and 60 years if you are male
- not be cared for in a state institution
- have a 13 - digit, bar - coded identity document (ID)
- not earn more than R47 400p.a. if you are single or R94 800p.a. if married
- your assets must not be worth more than R792 000 if you are single or R1 584 000 if you are married
- undergo a medical examination where a doctor appointed by the State will assess the degree of your disability
- bring along any previous medical records and reports, when you make the application and when the assessment is done.

The doctor will complete a medical report and will forward the report to South African Security Agency (SASSA). The report is valid for three months from the date you are assessed.

How much will you receive?

This is calculated on a sliding scale depending on any income received and total assets. The maximum grant from April 2013 is R1 260 per month.

How will you be paid?

A grant will be paid to you through one of the following methods:

- cash at a specific pay point on a particular day
- electronic deposit into your bank account, including Postbank (the bank may charge you for the service)
- institution not funded by the State – e.g. home for people with disabilities.

What you should do

Complete a disability grant application form at your nearest [South African Social Security Agency](#) (SASSA) office in the presence of a SASSA officer.

Submit the following:

- Your 13-digit bar-coded identity document (ID).
- If you don't have an ID, you must complete an affidavit on a standard SASSA format in the presence of a Commissioner of Oaths who is not a SASSA official
- a sworn statement signed by a reputable person (like a counsellor, traditional leader, social worker, minister of religion or school principal) who can verify your name and age
- the SASSA official will take your fingerprints.
- You will be referred to the Department of Home Affairs to apply for the ID even as your application is processed. If you don't get an ID, your grant will be suspended.
- a medical report and functional assessment report confirming your disability
- proof of marital status (if applicable)
- proof of residence
- proof of income, dividends (if any)
- proof of assets, including the municipal value of your property
- proof of private pension (if any)
- your three months bank statements
- refugee status permit and 13-digit refugee ID
- Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) ('blue book') or discharge certificate from your previous employer if you were employed
- a copy of the Will and the first and final liquidation and distribution accounts, if your spouse died within the last five years.

After submitting your application you will be given a receipt to keep as proof of application.

What if your application is not approved?

- The social security office will inform you in writing whether or not your application was successful.
- If your grant is not approved, the social security office will state the reasons why your application was unsuccessful and you can appeal to the Minister of Social Development in writing, explaining why you disagree.
- Appeals must be lodged within 90 days of receiving notification about the outcome of your application.

How long does it take?

- It may take up to three months to process your application.
- If your grant is approved, you will be paid from the day you applied.

How much does it cost?

The service is free.

Remember, your APD social worker will be more than willing to help you with this process.