

General Assistance

An important function of township government is to provide General Assistance to residents who are going through a financial hardship. General Assistance is designed to be a safety net after all other resources have been exhausted. A client must meet the following criteria:

- Reside in Taylorville Township
 - Qualify according to specific financial, income and asset guidelines
 - *Not be eligible* for other government welfare programs such as TANF/SSI/AABD/RRA
 - *Not be eligible* for Veterans' Assistance
 - Be unemployed and willing to search for a job
- OR
- Be in the process of applying for disability benefits and have medical documentation

TO APPLY FOR ASSISTANCE, pick up an application at the Office of General Assistance, via email or 1620 W Spesser Street Taylorville, IL during office hours: Monday-Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Once a client's eligibility for General Assistance is confirmed, vouchers are available up to the grant amount to help pay for rent, food, utilities, personal items and/or household supplies. The application process from start to finish can take up to 30 days and continued eligibility must be re-determined every 30 days.

Emergency Assistance for Residents of Taylorville Township:

The Office of General Assistance began offering Emergency Assistance to residents of the Taylorville Township, as of April 1, 2023. The purpose of Emergency Assistance (EA) is to help alleviate a life-threatening situation or help pay for an expense that would help a resident obtain or maintain employment. ***Emergency Assistance is a one-time grant up to \$1,000 in a 24-month period. All qualifying adults on an application automatically become ineligible to receive EA again for at least 24 months. There is a maximum lifetime limit of \$1,500 in EA.*** The types of situations that may be eligible include 5-day notice or eviction notice, utility shut-off (Ameren or Water). Emergency Assistance is NOT available for food, medication, gas cards, car repairs, furnace or water heater repairs and security deposits.

Adults who receive any amount of SSI or TANF (cash assistance) will not qualify for EA. Anyone that has exhausted their TANF benefit is not eligible for EA assistance.

Adults with minor children in the home must have some source of income (employment, child support, unemployment, etc.) AND apply for TANF, bring us paperwork from your first TANF appointment showing denial for income or TANF pending status. Any sanctions or non-cooperation automatically makes you ineligible for EA.

Catastrophic Fire Assistance, as part of the Emergency Assistance Program:

A person or family MAY qualify for Catastrophic Fire Assistance in the event of a fire where there is no renter's/homeowner's insurance and the premises are no longer habitable as determined by the Fire Department. This is only available to individuals who do not qualify for General Assistance. Catastrophic Fire Assistance is designated for help with a security deposit and/or 1 month's rent at a registered rental. The maximum grant amount is 1,000.00. Catastrophic Fire Assistance can only be granted once in a 24-month period and applies to all occupants of the home.