

Combined Application Form

Important Information

Social Security numbers

You must provide a Social Security number (SSN) for each household member applying for benefits.* If you need a SSN we can help you apply for one. The State uses your SSN:

- To check identity, prevent duplicate participation and to make mass changes
- To determine eligibility and benefit levels for programs such as Food Support, family cash assistance, health care programs and the school lunch program
- For program reviews and audits to determine household eligibility, including fraud investigations
- To coordinate with other programs or state agencies to provide more effective and meaningful services to you.

If you are not a U.S. citizen and are applying for emergency health care coverage only, you do not have to provide an SSN.

* (Food Stamp Act of 1977 as amended by PL 97-98 and the Social Security Act of 1935 [section 1137] as amended by PL 98-369)

Family cap information

If you or someone else in your family has a child while getting cash assistance, your family might not get more cash for that child. If you have questions, talk to your worker.

Important information for non-citizen applicants

To get help from most public assistance programs, you must be in the United States (U.S.) legally. Members of your household who are not citizens and are applying for help must show proof of their immigration status. Give a copy of both sides of immigration cards or other documents that show immigration status for every household member who is not a U.S. citizen and is applying for help. (If you are applying only for emergency health care services, you do not need to give us information about your immigration status. Non-immigrant or undocumented people who are pregnant, under age 18, age 65 and older or people with disabilities, may also be eligible without providing immigration information.) You can apply and get help for eligible household members, even if your household includes other members who are not eligible because of immigration status.

For members of your household who apply and are eligible for help, your worker may do a computer match with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to confirm their immigration status.

Federal law allows the county agency to give information about your immigration status to the USCIS. We will only share information with the USCIS about people in your household who apply for help.

If you get cash or long-term care institutional benefits (e.g., nursing home care), it may affect changes to your immigration status. If you would like more information about this or would like to know what the county might tell or ask the USCIS, talk to your worker.

Immigration

All immigration information you give to us is private. We use it to see if you can get coverage. We only share it when the law allows it or requires it. In most cases, applying will not affect your immigration status. However, it may if you are applying to pay for long-term care services.

You do not have to give us your immigration information if you are:

- Applying only for emergency medical care
- Only helping someone else apply
- A non-immigrant or undocumented person who is pregnant
- Applying for your children or other household members, but not yourself.

Proof of citizenship or national status

(Required for health care programs)

Certain people applying for health care must give us proof that they are U.S. citizens or nationals.

You do not have to prove you are a U.S. citizen or national if you are eligible for Medicare, receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or receive Social Security payments because of a disability.

Non-disabled adults under age 65 without children and children receiving foster care or adoption assistance payments are not required to give us proof that they are U.S. citizens or nationals.

Proof can be one of the following:

- U.S. passport
- Certificate of Naturalization
- Certificate of U.S. Citizenship. If you do not have or cannot get these items, ask your worker for help right away.

Family/domestic violence

Domestic violence is what someone says or does over and over again to make you feel afraid or to control you. The following are some examples of domestic violence:

- Swearing or screaming at you
- Threatening to hurt you or others you care about
- Calling you names
- Not letting you leave your house
- Forcing you to have sex
- Stalking you
- Choking, grabbing, hitting, pushing or kicking you.

For more information on domestic violence, ask your worker for the Domestic Violence Information brochure (DHS-3477). **If domestic violence makes it hard for you to follow program rules, talk to your worker.** If you are in danger from domestic violence and need help, call the National Domestic Abuse hotline at (800) 799-7233 (TTY: (800) 787-3224) or Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women at (800) 289-6177.

Liens and estate claims

The state or county may try to recover the cost of medical services that Medical Assistance (MA) or General Assistance Medical Care (GAMC) paid for you. They do this by filing a claim against your estate or by filing a lien against your real property.

The State may file a claim against your estate if you received:

- GAMC at any age
- MA when you were over age 55
- MA when you were under 55 and lived in a long-term care facility (LTCF) for six months or more.

Liens can be set up against:

- Your life estate
- Real property that you own by yourself or
- Real property that you own with someone else. If you own property with another person, the lien is only against your share of it.

The State will not file a lien against your property if you are in a long-term care facility and will be returning home.

Before you die, the State can file a Notice of Potential Claim. The Notice must:

- List the real property you own
- Note if you have a life estate
- State if other people own any real property with you.

When you die, a lien is set up against your portion of the property that was listed in the Notice. Your interest in real property that is part of your estate may be used to pay that claim.

Note that this is a very general explanation of the rights that the state and counties have regarding claims and liens. You should talk to your lawyer or advisor if you have questions about how these laws apply to your property.

Denial or changes

The State may deny or change your cash assistance, Food Support and/or health care because of information you give on this form. The State may make changes without giving you 10 days advance notice. The State will send you written notice no later than the effective date of the change for cash assistance and health care or no later than the date you receive or would receive your food support benefits.

Interim aid programs

General Assistance (GA) and/or Group Residential Housing (GRH) are interim aid programs. In order to receive aid you must apply for other benefits for which you may be eligible, such as Social Security or Worker's Compensation. If you receive other aid for the same period of time that you received GA or GRH, you must repay the GA or GRH.

Food Support Nutrition Education Program

The University of Minnesota Extension Food Support Nutrition Education Program can help you with ideas to:

- Make quick and healthy meals for you and your family
- Save money at the grocery store
- Get your children to eat more fruits and vegetables.

Your local county extension service provides nutrition classes or home visits. Call (612) 625-8260 or visit www.extension.umn.edu for the contact person and programs in your county.

Minnesota's WorkForce centers

Minnesota's WorkForce centers are "one-stop shops" for all employment and training needs. Job seekers, employers, and those with special needs can visit any one of the WorkForce centers across the state. Call the office nearest you: (888) GET JOBS/(888) 438-5627.

Tax refund Information

Your worker can tell you where you can get free help to file your tax forms for this year and prior years. There are different types of tax refunds you may be able to get. For example, if you worked and had low income, you may qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). If you are a renter, you do not have to have worked to qualify for a renter's credit. **Getting a tax refund will not affect your eligibility for public assistance benefits.**