

11.3 General Eligibility Criteria of Applicants

Those persons eligible for assistance in Linn County shall include the following:

1. Applicants applying for Needy Assistance:

- a. Who lawfully reside in Linn County
 - i. The General Assistance Office reserves the right to ask the applicant for further clarification including a piece of mail indicating the individual in fact has and is residing in Linn County.
- b. Who are 18 years old or are an emancipated minor at the time application for assistance is made.
- c. Whose household has monthly countable income of less than an amount established by the resolution of the Linn County Board of Supervisors.
 - i. **Resolution:** Pursuant to 11.3 (1) (c), monthly countable income for eligible applying households shall be at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. FY13 Federal Poverty Guideline is \$931 for a single person, \$1261 for a married couple. Please note General Assistance policy does not expand to household sizes exceeding the guidelines involving a single person or married couple.
 - ii. **Resolution:** An eligible applying household meeting the criteria established in 11.3(1) may receive two (2) times in a twelve (12) month period. Needy applicants are eligible for two months assistance during a twelve month period for up to a total of five years or ten months of assistance which can be non-consecutive. Once an applicant has accessed five years of assistance or ten months assistance (whichever comes first) the applicant would only be eligible for one month of assistance per twelve months thereafter.

Five Year Example: Kelly received two months of assistance 2001, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2012 making Kelly eligible for only one month of assistance should she apply again in the future.

Ten Month Example: Bobby received only one month of assistance each year from 2000 to 2010 (11 months total) and has reapplied in 2012 receiving one month's assistance. Bobby has returned to the General Assistance Office seeking a second month of assistance. Bobby is denied a second month during the twelve month time period as a result of having received ten months of "needy" assistance over the course of the previous years outlined.
- d. Whose household has non-exempt resources of less than an amount established by resolution of the Linn County Board of Supervisors.

- e. Who have made application for and complied with all requirements of all other assistance programs for which the applying household may be eligible.
- f. Who can document a good faith job search effort prior to application for assistance and who agree to register with those employment and/or job training agencies which are determined by the director to be appropriate.

2. Applicants applying for Ongoing Assistance:

- a. Who lawfully reside in Linn County
 - i. The General Assistance Office reserves the right to ask the applicant for further clarification including a piece of mail indicating the individual in fact has and is residing in Linn County.
- b. Who are 18 years old or older or are emancipated minor at the time application for assistance is made.
- c. Who have a disability as documented by a licensed medical practitioner and who provide a written release of medical information to the General Assistance Office. Applicants specifically will need to provide the General Assistance Office an Incapacity Report.
 - i. **Resolution:** For Individuals who are suffering from a short term medical issue and are able to provide the General Assistance Office an incapacity report: An eligible applying household meeting the criteria established in 11.3(2) may receive assistance for the duration of the applicant's disability or up to six consecutive months, whichever is less, unless an exception is approved by the director. Applicants qualifying under this resolution would follow the resolution covered in 1(c) after the incapacity report expires.
 - i. Applicants who would suffer from a short term medical issue on more than one occasion would be eligible for assistance in accordance with the resolution language stated above. An applicant would only qualify for short term disability assistance utilizing the incapacity report three times life-time. Applicants would be reviewed in terms of "needy" eligibility guidelines thereafter.
 - ii. **Resolution: For Individuals who applied for Social Security Disability Benefits:** Upon dismissal of an application for SSDI or SSI benefits for failure to diligently pursue the application, assistance under 11.3(2) shall terminate. Should an applicant applying for Social Security Income be denied benefits at the administrative law judge level they would be eligible for an immediate two months of assistance immediately following the month the decision was made provided they continue to meet "needy" applicant guidelines. Should the applicant apply for General Assistance in future years they would be eligible for "needy"

assistance provided they meet the eligibility criteria for “needy” applicants at the time of the application.

iii. Should an applicant need to reapply for Social Security Income as a result of a long term disability the applicant would not be eligible for ongoing assistance from the General Assistance Office until five years has elapse their last administrative law judge decision.

d. Whose household has no earned income and unearned income of less than an amount established by resolution of the Linn County Board of Supervisors.

i. **Resolution:** Pursuant to 11.3(2)(d) unearned income for eligible applying households shall not exceed \$150.

e. Whose household has non-exempt resources of less than an amount established by resolution of the Linn County Boards of Supervisors.

i. **Resolution:** Pursuant to 11.3(2)(e), eligible applying households shall have a non-exempt resource limit of \$500.