



You can apply to the government for social grants or social relief – an amount of money paid regularly to people who fall within certain categories of vulnerability. There are various different types of social assistance, each with their own requirements that you must meet. Social grants are paid by the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA).

Constitution – Section 27(1)(c) says that everyone has the right to have access to social assistance where they are unable to support themselves and their dependents. Section 27 rights in the Constitution apply to everyone, including refugees and asylum seekers.

Social Assistance Act – provides that refugees can access social grants; however, they must qualify for that grant and possess a valid refugee permit.

Social assistance and SASSA grants are available only to refugees and not asylum seekers.

ACCESS TO SOCIAL ASSISTANCE



WHAT ARE THE TYPES OF SOCIAL ASSISTANCE?

You can find SASSA's 2024/2025 booklet here, or scan the QR code, which will provide information on all the different types of grants available and the requirements you must meet to access them:



SCAN QR CODE

Importantly, refugees can access the following grants: Old Age Pension Grant, Disability Grant, Child Support Grant and the Social Relief of Distress (SRD) Grant.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR A SASSA GRANT?

You can apply for a SASSA grant online or in person. Applying for a SASSA grant is free.

In-person:

1. Go to the nearest SASSA office. To find a list of the offices go to sassagrants.co.za and click on 'Contact SASSA'. If you are unable to go yourself (because you are old, sick or injured) you can send a family member or friend. They need to bring a letter from you authorising the application.
2. Complete the application form at the SASSA office in the presence of a SASSA officer.
3. You will be given a dated stamped receipt with the name of the SASSA officer who helped with your application. You need to keep this receipt as proof of your application.

Online:

1. Make sure you have a cell phone and an email address as these are important for registration and communication. Visit SASSA's website



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and go through the registration process. You will need to provide personal details like ID number, name, address and cell phone number.

2. Once you've registered and logged in, click on "apply for a grant", select the grant you want to apply for and complete the application form.
3. The site will generate an affidavit once you've completed the online application. Print this affidavit out and have it signed by a commissioner of oaths. Print, sign and submit the Bank Payment Form with your affidavit.
4. You will then need to upload certain supporting documents in PDF format, depending on the grant you are applying for.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN

In addition to the above, there are specific grants for children. Constitution – section 28(1) says that every child has the right to basic nutrition, shelter, basic health care services and social services.

The state provides four types of grants applicable to children:

- Child Support Grant – Poor children under the age of 18
- Child Support Top-Up – For poor orphans living with relatives
- Care Dependency Grant – For children with severe disabilities
- Foster Care Grant – For children in foster and alternative care, usually because of abuse and neglect

If you don't have an ID or your child's birth certificate, SASSA will ask you to provide one of the following:

- Child's Road to Health Clinic Card
- Child's Baptismal Certificate
- Letter from a reputable person that knows the applicant and the child, such as a school principal traditional leader, councillor, social worker or religious minister
- Child's latest school term report or proof of school attendance
- Proof of application to Home Affairs for the ID or birth certificate
- A copy of your refugee permit (only for IDs!)



Contact information:

OTHER ORGANISATIONS YOU CAN CONTACT FOR ASSISTANCE:

Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town

43 – 47 Commercial Street, Cape Town, 8001
T: +27 21 465 6433
E: info@scalabrini.org.za

Legal Resources Centre

Block D, Ground Floor, Aintree Office Park,
cnr Doncaster & Loch Roads; Kenilworth,
Cape Town, 7708
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E: info@lrc.org.za

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