

General Assistance for Children (GAC)

What is the General Assistance for Children (GAC)?

GAC provides financial help to those caring for *unrelated* children under the age of 18. GAC is available to caretakers of children who:

- ▣ Live with non-relatives
- ▣ Do not have enough financial support from parents or relatives
- ▣ Are ineligible for TANF only because their caretakers are not relatives

How does it work?

A monthly cash payment is given to a responsible adult in the household. Credit is placed onto a user's EBT card (similar to a debit or bank card). TANF rules determine the amount of a caretaker's benefit; however, the adult caretaker's income and assets are not considered. If a child's relative is in the child's home, the relative is considered the caretaker unless he/she is mentally or physically unable to be at least partly responsible for the child. If the child is already a parent and caretaker, he/she may receive TANF rather than GAC.

In order to be eligible for General Assistance for Children, the child's caretaker must show proof that the child's legally responsible relative has given the responsibility over to them. Proof may include, but is not limited to:

- ▣ Leases indicating that the child lives with the caretaker
- ▣ Medical records or school records with the caretaker's signature
- ▣ A sworn statement from teachers, social workers, medical staff, or other professionals involved in the family's life

Contact Information

DC Department of Human Services
Income Maintenance Administration
645 H Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002
Phone: (202) 698-3900
Fax: (202) 724-2041