

## Special Grants

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### What are Special Grants?

Special Grants are additional allowances to meet specific needs. They include:

- **Visitor Allowances**
- **Pregnancy Allowances**
- **Restaurant Allowances**
- **Camp Fees**

### What is a Visitor's Allowance?

A Visitor's Allowance is money given to you in your Temporary (cash) Assistance grant when you do not have custody of your child(ren) but your child(ren) visit in your home. You can get the allowance even if the person with legal custody gets Temporary (cash) Assistance for the child(ren). You can also get the allowance if your child is in foster care and you have visitation.

You can ask your Temporary (cash) Assistance case worker for the allowance. You will need the custody or visitation order and a statement verifying when the children visit you. If you have a Child Protection or Preventive Services worker you can ask them to help you get this proof.

The allowance is \$4 per day per child.

### What is a Pregnancy Allowance

A Pregnancy Allowance is additional cash added to your Temporary (cash) Assistance grant once you reach the fourth month of pregnancy. The allowance is \$50 per month. You can get the allowance by asking your Temporary (cash) Assistance case worker. You will need proof of your due date from a doctor; DSS does not have to give you a pregnancy allowance until you medically verify your pregnancy.

### What is a Restaurant Allowance?

A Restaurant Allowance is a cash grant provided to people who cannot prepare meals in either a homeless shelter placement that does not provide meals or in their own home because they do not have access to cooking facilities like a stove or refrigerator.

If you are placed in a homeless shelter by the Department of Social Services and the shelter does not provide meals (usually a motel), your Homeless Unit worker should give you a restaurant allowance, even if you get SNAP benefits.

If you are in your apartment, your home, or rooming house, you must get Temporary (cash) Assistance to qualify for a restaurant allowance. You are eligible for a restaurant allowance if you cannot access cooking facilities like a stove or refrigerator. Your landlord form or lease will tell your worker if you have access to a kitchen, so make sure your landlord filled it out correctly. If you have a kitchen but do not have a working stove or refrigerator, you can get a restaurant allowance while you wait for a replacement or a repair for the appliance.

The amount you get depends on how many meals you can eat at home and how many people are in your household.

### **What are Camp Fees?**

DSS will pay camp fees of up to \$400.00 for the year but not more than \$200.00 per week per child.

You need to speak with the camp directly. They will help you with the application process and are familiar with getting fees from DSS. Ask your worker for a list of camps.

### **What if DSS denies my application?**

If your application is denied you should get a written notice. You can call our office and we can review the notice with you. We may agree to take your case. You can call us at (716) 847-0650 and ask for the Health and Economic Security Unit. You also have the right to request a fair hearing if you disagree with the denial.

### **How do I request a Fair Hearing?**

You can request a Fair Hearing:

#### **By Phone:**

Statewide Toll-free 1-800-342-3334: Fair Hearing Requests & Inquiries

#### **By Mail:**

New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA)

Office of Administrative Hearings

P.O. Box 1930 Albany, New York 12201-1930

#### **By Fax**

Fax No. (518) 473-6735

#### **Online:**

Forms: <http://www.otda.state.nyus/oah.forms.asp>

## REQUEST FOR AN ADDITIONAL ALLOWANCE AND/OR OTHER HELP BY A TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT

Case Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

I am requesting the following Temporary Assistance allowance(s) for special need(s):

- Restaurant Allowance**  
because I cannot prepare meals at home.
- Pregnancy Allowance**
- Housing and Shelter Related Items**
  - Moving Expenses
  - Rent Security Deposit or Agreement
  - Brokers' or Finders' Fee
  - Storage of Furniture and Personal Belongings
  - Repair of Essential Household Items
  - Property Repairs
  - Back Rent
  - Back Mortgage and/or Taxes
  - Furniture and Other Household Items

Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

I am requesting other help:

- Child Care Assistance
  - I am working.
  - I am under 21 and wish to obtain a high school equivalency diploma.
  - I wish to attend approved occupational training.
  - I am sick and incapacitated and cannot care for my children.

Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

FOR WORKER'S USE ONLY

CLIENT SUBMITTED THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT REQUEST

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

CLIENT'S SIGNATURE  
 X

DATE

WORKER'S SIGNATURE  
 X

DATE