

### One-Time Needy Program:

- Applicant is only eligible for assistance once (1) within a Fiscal Year with the amount of assistance not to exceed \$500.00. Repayment of any prior assistance or good faith effort in repayment is required for future consideration.
- General Assistance is an agency of last resort

### Requirements of the One-Time Needy Program:

1. Household income must be at or below the 100% Federal Poverty guideline.
2. Must have a plan in place to ensure future bills will be paid by the applicant or another source.
3. If the need exceeds \$500.00 then the applicant will need to bring in verification that the remaining amount has been paid or payment arrangement with landlord.
4. If seeking utility assistance, the number of community volunteer hours is determined by the total amount of the bill divided by 10.
5. Proof of monthly household income.
6. If need is due to atypical expenses or situation (illness, accident, robbery) then proof will be required, i.e. doctor's note, police report.
7. Apply for any other assistance programs that the applicant may be eligible for.
8. Repayment plan for assistance provided must be established

### Interim Disability Program:

- Medications up to \$200.00 per month.
- Rental/utility assistance up to \$700.00 per month for a person who has no income or resources in household.
- All household members must qualify for program.
- Personal and household resources must be valued below guidelines.
- Must be unable to work as deemed by their doctor due to a mental or physical illness.
- Must apply for Social Security prior to approval.
- Must have zero income/resources in household

### Funeral Assistance:

- Eligible for indigent person who pass away in Pottawattamie County
- Maximum assistance paid to funeral home is \$400.00

This brochure is not an exhaustive description of the program policies and regulations. Detailed information can be examined in the General Assistance Manual. For further information on qualification please contact the General Assistance office at 328-5867.

**The General Assistance Program is to be considered the agency of last resort. All callers will be directed to contact other assistance agencies prior to funding consideration.**

Revised: June 2023

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## POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY

### GENERAL ASSISTANCE

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### *Rental and Utility Assistance*

### *Back-To-Work Program*

### *One-Time Needy Program*

### *Interim Disability Program*

### *Funeral Assistance*



### **Pottawattamie County General Assistance**

227 S 6<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 128  
Council Bluffs, IA 51501  
Phone (712) 328-5867  
Fax (712) 328-5668

What General Assistance provides assistance for:

- Current Rent (according to maximum amount guidelines)
- Utility bill: gas, electric, water, fuel oil
- Propane tank (minimum fill only)
- Medications (up to \$200 in a one (1) month period)
- Funeral Assistance (Pottawattamie County resident who is indigent)

General Assistance does *NOT* provide assistance for:

- Utility deposits
- Mortgage
- Reconnect or disconnect charges
- Telephone service
- Cable television
- Late payment fees
- Past rent
- Rent paid to relatives
- Over the counter medications, narcotics or other addictive medications
- Car payments
- Appliances and other misc. items

**Apply online: Pottawattamie County Website under Community Services**

**Call 712-328-5867**

Stipulations for ALL General Assistance Programs:

1. All other community agencies or benefit program (Medicaid) have been accessed for assistance – General Assistance programs are to be last resort.
2. Sign a contract which states that the recipient understands the requirement and expectation of the program, including repayment for funding provided.
3. Minors are not eligible unless they are emancipated. Applicants must be lawfully permanent residents.
4. Applicant must apply for and comply with all Federal, State and Local program that they are eligible for. Noncompliance or denial of any program is grounds for non-approval. Applicants must be drug and alcohol free to qualify.

**Currently there are funds for deposit and/or 1<sup>st</sup> month. Requirements for this program vary from typical guidelines as it is through a grant from the Pottawattamie County Housing Trust Fund.**

**Back-To-Work Program:**

- Program contingent upon availability of funds
- Assistance for up to three (3) consecutive months not to exceed \$500.00 for a one month period.
- Assistance will not be approved until after successfully completing the month's requirements.
- Program is not meant to supplement income.

Requirements of the Back-to-Work Program:

1. Household must be at or below the 100% Federal Poverty Guidelines
2. Apply at Vocational Rehabilitation or Workforce Development.
3. Must actively seek employment by filling out at least 8 employment applications in one month.
4. Attend financial/budgeting class/job fair.
5. Must engage in forty (40) hours of community volunteer hours in one month for rental assistance.
6. If seeking utility assistance, the number of community volunteer hours is determined by the total amount of the bill divided by 10.
7. Comply with treatment recommended by either a physician or GA specialist (i.e. AA meetings, mental health counseling, etc.)
8. If the need exceeds \$500.00 then the applicant will need to bring in verification that the remaining portion has been paid or statement of payment agreement with landlord.