Social Assistance

Overview
A Social Assistance may be awarded to a Head of Household who may:

- be incapable of working due to medical reasons; or
- cannot engage in employment due to having care and custody of children, and is legally or de facto separated; or
- be married, in a civil union; cohabiting or caring for the spouse who may be critically ill. In this case the application is subject to approval by a Medical Board, appointed in accordance to the Social Security Act (Cap. 318).

What you’ll get
A Social Assistance is paid every 4 weeks in advance.

If the Head of Household is living on his own, Social Assistance will be awarded in his own right. However, if the household is formed of other family members, the Head of Household will be awarded Social Assistance which will include entitlement for other eligible family members forming part of that household.

In the case where the Head of Household was in receipt of Unemployment Assistance and is now registering under Part 2 (after being struck off from registering under Part 1 of the Employment Register and has lodged an appeal with National Employment Authority), the spouse may be eligible to receive Social Assistance Board. The award of Social Assistance Board is subject to approval by a Board appointed in accordance to the Social Security Act (Cap. 318).

The Social Assistance rate may increase by the additional applicable rate for an additional household member. On the other hand, if a household member leaves, the rate may be deducted accordingly.

In case of an applicant living in a rented property, €1.16 per week is added to the Social Assistance applicable rate, being Rent Allowance.

Any change in circumstance, such as change of address; additional child; changes in household composition; medical board decision; death; court procedures, is to be reported immediately to the Department of Social Security.

Beneficiaries who are over 23 years of age and who enter University or MCAST will continue to receive the same assistance as long as the stipend and other ancillary benefits received do not exceed the difference between the Social Assistance and the National Minimum Wage. In case it exceeds, only the amount exceeding the National Minimum Wage will be deducted from the Social Assistance.

Please click here for a Schedule of Benefits Rates.
Eligibility
General eligibility criteria:

- The applicant is the Head of Household
- The applicant is not in employment and cannot register for work under Part 1 of the Unemployment Register
- The applicant must satisfy the Capital Means Test. Capital resources for a couple must not exceed €23,300 and €14,000 for a single person
- If a couple is in receipt of an Age Pension and the spouse is/becomes entitled to a Severe Disability Assistance, the Age Pension eligibility will be calculated on the income of the household excluding the entitlement received as Severe Disability Assistance by the spouse
- Any income deriving from Rents; Bank Interest from Capital, Stocks and Shares; Alimony / Child Maintenance and any other Income derived; must not exceed the maximum Social Assistance rate as per household

Documentation required
General documentation:

- Copy of ID Card
- Water and Electricity bill
- Bank Statements (local and foreign bank accounts)
- Relative documents re value of any Stocks/Shares/Bonds and the income derived thereof
- Market value of any vacant property in Malta and/or abroad (not being House of Residence and/or Summer Residence)
- Copy of rent receipt/rent agreement if house of residence is rented
- Copy of rent agreement if rent is derived from other properties
- Copy of driving licences of head of household and spouse/partner
- Separation/divorce documents if the case
- Copy of payslip of spouse/partner if in employment

How to apply
Fill in and submit the application online.