

29 April 2020

Hi All

Extract from Speech by Minister of Social Development on the special Covid-19 Relief of Social Distress grant (R350pm for 6 months)

The grant will be available to:

- South African Citizens
- Permanent Residents
- Refugees registered on the Home Affairs system
- Who are resident within the borders of the Republic of South Africa;

Applicants must be:

- above the age of 18
- Unemployed
- Not receiving any income
- Not receiving any social grant
- Not receiving any unemployment insurance benefit and does not qualify to receive unemployment insurance benefits
- Not receiving a stipend from the National Student Financial Aid Scheme
- Not resident in a government funded or subsidised institution.

Prospective Applicants to provide the following *compulsory information* for processing of their applications:

- Identity Number/Department of Home permit
- Name and Surname as captured in the ID (and initials)
- Gender and Disability
- Banking details - Bank Name and Account Number
- Contact details - Cell phone number
- Proof of Residential Address

Application process (*not yet open*)

- an application may be lodged electronically
 - WhatsApp message to 0600 123 456 and select SASSA, or
 - E-mail to SRD@sassa.gov.za
- The Department is still finalising additional access channels and including SMS, self-help desks and online application process

People with no access to technology

- Volunteers will be trained to assist such applicants and will be provided with gadgets to capture details on behalf of applicants
- We have already received commitments to assist from various agencies and community groups
- Notification of application outcome will be provided in the same manner in which the application was made

Payment

- Mainly through bank accounts of the applicants and through cash send measures through banks
- The benefit/grant will be paid from the date of approval up to the end of October 2020, *provided the qualifying criteria listed continues to be met.*
 - so if applicants apply in June their payments will be from June and there will be **no backpay**

Go live date?

- Directions will be publicised on how this grant will be implemented
- The system will go live immediately when the regulations are published
- The Department envisages to start making payments by the 15th of May 2020
- Those who have applied during the trial run will be contacted to provide further information.

STAY SAFE AND KEEP OTHERS SAFE