



What happens if I get the Child Tax Credit and GA?

You can get both! But there are a few things you need to know:

The way you use your Child Tax Credit money can affect your eligibility for General Assistance (GA). GA will be **reduced** if:

- (1) You have unspent Child Tax Credit money when you apply for GA
- (2) You spent Child Tax Credit money on items or services that are not “basic needs”

The good news is, there are steps you can take to avoid your GA being reduced!

Step 1. Apply for the Child Tax Credit.

Step 2. Spend **all** your child tax credit money on basic needs **BEFORE** you next apply for GA.

- *Why? Your GA payments will be reduced by the amount of cash you have on hand or in the bank.*

Step 3. Only spend your child tax credit on items or services that qualify as “**basic needs.**”

- *Why? GA assistance will be reduced by the amount spent on non-essential items/services.*
- **What counts as a basic need? See page 2!**

Step 4. Keep **all** of your receipts for items or services purchased with Child Tax Credit money.

- *Why? You will need to provide the receipts in your GA application to prove that you spent the Child Tax Credit money on “basic needs.”*

For example: Someone who spends \$800 to purchase a cell phone, then applies to GA to pay \$1000 in rent would have their GA payment reduced by \$800 (the amount spent on an item that is not a basic need). GA would only pay \$200 in rent.

On the other hand, if they spent \$800 on canned goods, toiletries, and warm clothing, then no money would be subtracted from the GA payment. GA would pay the full \$1000 in rent.

What counts as a “Basic Need” for GA?

Basic Needs Include	Basic Needs Do NOT Include
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Food● Transportation● Rent● Heat, Electricity, Cooking Fuel, Water/ Sewer● Clothing● Household Supplies● Personal Care Needs● Medical Bills, Medication, & Dental Costs● Taxes● School Lunches● Diapers● Telephone (ONLY if necessary for work or health)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Internet● Cell Phone● Cable & Satellite TV● Cigarettes/ Alcohol● Credit Card Debt● Gifts Purchased● Pet Care Costs● Vacation Costs● Legal Fees & Court Fines● Restaurants● Movies● Toys & Games