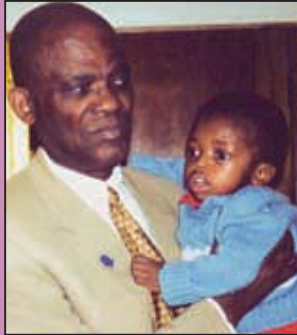


## Message from the Minister of Social Development



This booklet on children's grants will go a long way to help the poorest of the poor to know their constitutional rights around social security. More importantly, it will make sure that millions of children living in poor communities and families, particularly orphans, children with disabilities and children under seven years can access their rights. These include getting Foster Care Grants, Care Dependency Grants and Child Support Grants.

This booklet will also help to fight poverty, and to build a caring society and a better life for all, especially children. This will then strengthen our efforts to build a South Africa fit for children.

I therefore urge all Public Servants, Non-Governmental Organisations, Faith-Based Organisations, Business, Labour, individuals and communities to work together to make sure that this booklet is distributed throughout the length and breadth of our land. It should be translated into languages that all people will understand. Let us all make sure that this call is turned into a reality – Children First/Abantwana Kuqala/ Stel Kinders Eerste/ Beang Bana Pele!

I thank Soul City, ACCESS and officials of the Department who have made sure that this pamphlet is produced.

**Let us all lend a hand to push back the frontiers of poverty!**

Dr Zola Skweyiya (MP)  
Minister of Social Development

**For more information on how to get grants, phone these toll free numbers:  
Department of Social Development Helpline 0800 601 011  
Circles of Support Information Hotline 0860 222 777**

This booklet was developed with expert input from Soul City, Black Sash, The Children's Institute, The Children's Rights Centre, ACCESS and the Department of Social Development.  
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HEARTBEAT  
OF THE NATION

# SOUL CITY+

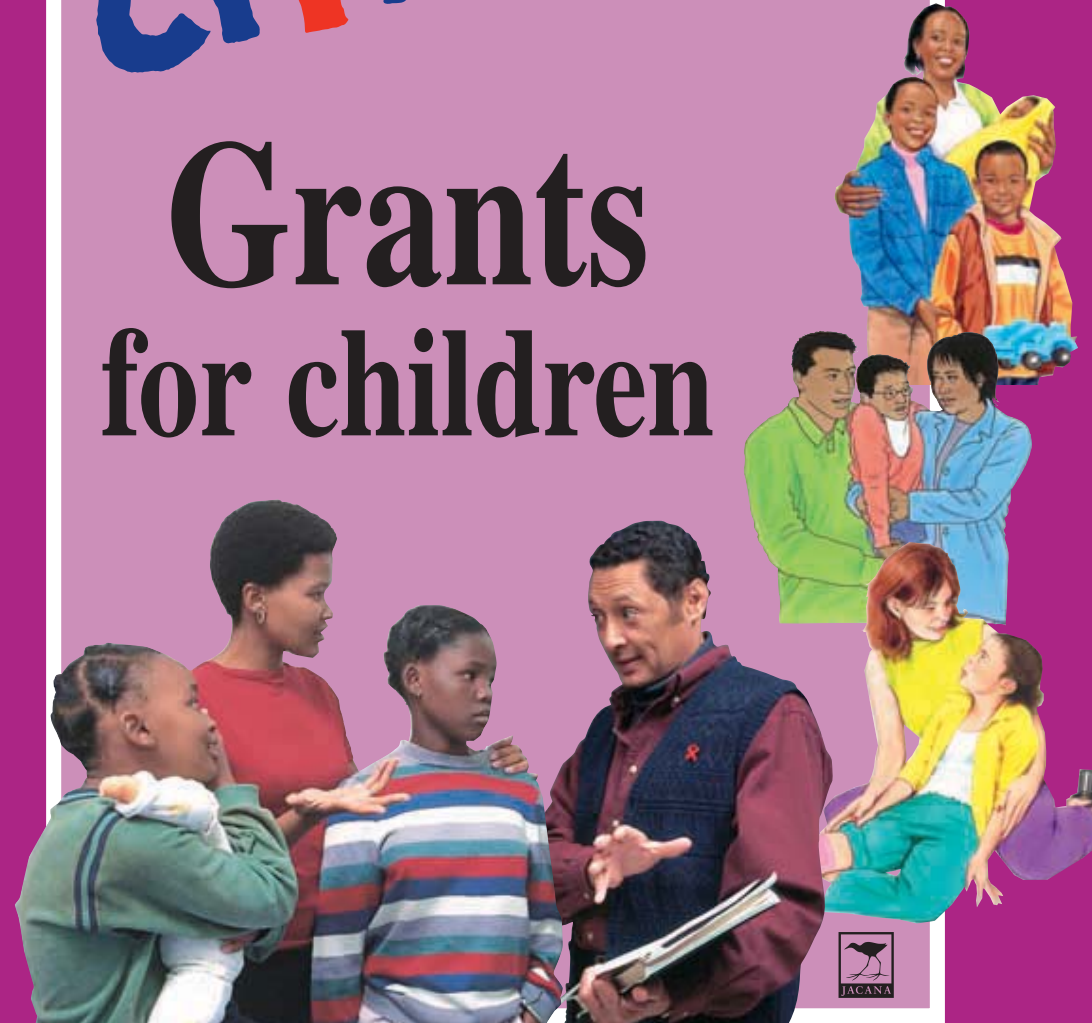
In partnership with:



Department of  
Social Development



# Grants for children



This Community Development Project is brought to you in the interests of a healthy nation by:

**DFID** Department for  
International  
Development  
British development co-operation



# What is a children's grant?

Difficult words have been underlined>.  
They are translated into Zulu, Xhosa, Sotho and Afrikaans on the side of the page.



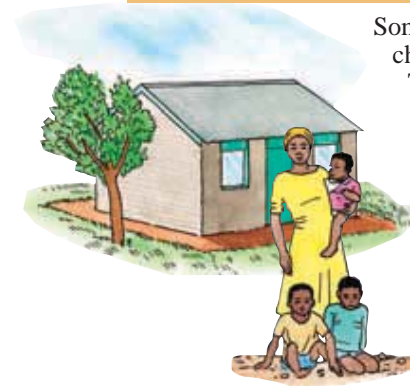
The Department of Social Development gives three kinds of grants for children:

- The Child Support Grant
- The Care Dependency Grant
- The Foster Care Grant

Read about these grants on pages 2 and 3.



Short-term relief for people who need help NOW!



Some families cannot wait for the money from the children's grants. They are in a crisis situation. They need help now. This may be because:

- The grant money hasn't come through yet.
- They are still applying for a grant.
- They don't qualify for a grant.

If this happens, you may be able to get help for 3 to 6 months from the government. You can get Social Relief of Distress. Read pages 8 and 9.

- crisis**
- ubukayi
  - imeko emandundu
  - qaka
  - krisis

## Government grants for children

The constitution says that government needs to look after people who cannot look after themselves, especially children.

A grant is money that is given by the government. It helps people who are caring for children if they are unable to support them on their own.



## Where can I apply for a grant?

You can apply for the children's grants at the government welfare offices or Department of Social Development offices. Read pages 4 and 5 to see what other documents you need to bring with you when you apply.



## Community Information

You can get help to apply for these grants from church welfare organisations, community organisations and advice offices.

# Children's grants

## The Child Support Grant

This grant is given to any South African citizen who takes care of a child or children under the age of 7 years. These children must also be South African citizens.

To be able to apply for the Child Support Grant:

- You must not receive any other income for the children.
- You and your husband must have a combined monthly income of less than R800 if you live in an urban area.
- You and your husband must have a combined monthly income of less than R1 100 if you live in a rural area or an informal settlement.

If the child is not your own, you need to make an affidavit at a police station. This is to prove that you have permission from the parents to take care of the child.

## The Care Dependency Grant

This grant is paid to people who care for children who have severe disabilities and need special care. They can be parents, foster parents or people who have been made caregivers by the court. When you apply, you need to have a medical report saying what is wrong with the child. The grant is given to children who are between 1 and 18 years of age.

Talk to a social worker or doctor from a public hospital about this.

Poor children with HIV and AIDS or other sicknesses can also get this grant.



**citizen**

- isakhamuzi
- ummi
- moahi
- burger

**affidavit**

- incwadi efungelwe
- incwadi yesifungo
- polelo e ikanetsweng
- beëdiegde verklaring

**severe**

- abakhu-bazeke kakhulu
- kanga-ngoko/obukhulu
- ba holofetseng hampe haholo
- swaar/ernstig

**foster parents**

- umnakekeli
- umkhulisi
- motswadi ya sa o tswalang
- pleegouers

**medical report**

- isitifikedisi kadokotela
- isiqinisekiso sonyango/ isatifiketi sonyango
- lengolo la ngaka
- mediese verslag

## The Foster Care Grant

This grant is given to the caregiver of a child who is not the caregiver's own child by birth. This person is called a foster parent. Anyone who looks after a child who is not their own can apply to become a legal foster parent. You and the child do not have to be South African citizens to qualify for this grant.

This grant is given to children who are under 18 years of age. It can be extended to 21 years of age if the child is still at school.

If you want to apply to legally foster a child you should be able to prove that:

- the child's parents are dead, or
- the child's parents are alive, but they are not able to care for their child.

Once you have applied to foster a child, a social worker will check everything you have said. The social worker will write a report that will go to the children's court. The court will then decide whether or not the child should go into foster care. If the court decides that this should happen, you will be given a court order. This will allow you to foster the child.

When you apply for a Foster Care Grant, you must also have the court order that shows that you are a legal foster parent.



**extended**

- ukunweba
- ukwandisa
- atolosetswa
- verleng

For more information about these grants, phone the Department of Social Development Helpline: 0800 601 011 or the Circles of Support Information Hotline: 0860 222 777

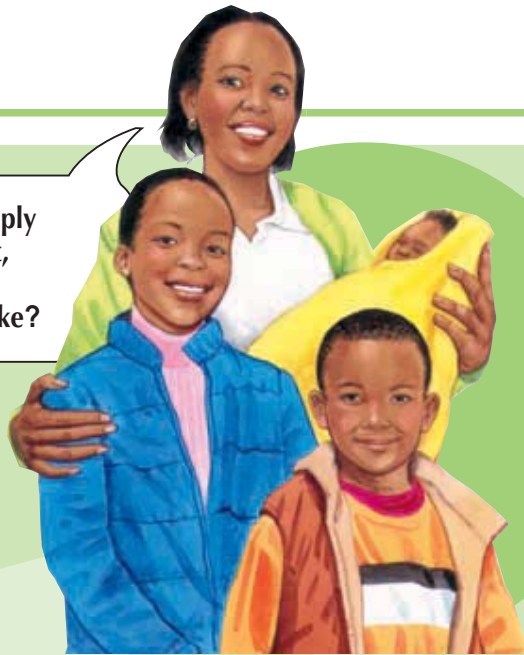
# Children's grants



## Proof of your income

- If you are employed, you need to get a salary slip or a letter from your employer to say how much you earn.
- If you are unemployed, you need to make an affidavit to prove you don't have an income.

When I apply for a grant, what do I need to take?



## A death certificate if one or both of the child's parents are dead

If you need to get a death certificate:

- Get a notification from the doctor or health worker who last treated the person. This is a piece of paper saying that the person has died.
- Take this notification to the Home Affairs office. They will then write out a death certificate.
- You will need to take the parent's death certificate as proof that you are now responsible for the children.



## A birth certificate for the child you are applying for (This must have a 13-digit identity number).

If a child in your care doesn't have one, there are two things you can do:

- Ask for a maternity certificate at the hospital or clinic where the child was born.
- Take the maternity certificate and your own identity document to Home Affairs. Then you can apply for the child's birth certificate at Home Affairs.



## A bar-coded South African identity document

If you don't have an identity document (ID):

- Take your birth certificate and two passport photographs to your nearest Home Affairs office.

## Your marriage certificate or divorce order

If you don't have these, you can apply for them from Home Affairs. You must take your own identity document with you.



**notification**

- isaziso
- iphepha lokwazisa
- tsebiso
- skriftelike mededeling

**responsible**

- ukubheka
- unoxanduva
- ikarabelang
- ver-antwoordelik

# Things to think about

## Do I need to pay anything?

### applications

- izicelo
- izicelo
- dikopo
- aansoeke

No

### Children's grant applications

There is no charge for applying for any of the grants. It is against the law for anyone to ask you to pay money to get your grant. If someone asks you to pay, then you can report this person to the police or the Department of Social Development.

No

### Other documents

You do not have to pay for new birth certificates, new identity documents or death certificates.

Yes

If you lose your document and apply for another one, then the charge in 2002 is:

- Birth certificate – R6
- Identity document – R12
- Death certificate – R6
- Marriage certificate – R6



### receipt

- ilesidi
- irisithi
- rasiti
- kwitansie

Remember

- When you pay to apply for these documents, ask for a receipt. The receipt must show the amount you paid, the date you paid, the office where you paid and the name of the government department to whom you paid this money. Receipts must be printed by a computer. They must not be handwritten.
- Take two ID photographs with you.

## Things to remember when you get your grant

All grants are paid monthly. The amounts for 2002 are:

- CSG – R130
- Foster Care Grant – R450
- Care Dependency Grant – R620



- You can choose to get paid through the bank, the post office or at the welfare office. You can also collect your money in cash from a pay point. Find out where the nearest one is when you apply for the grant. Count your money to check you have the right amount. If something is wrong, complain immediately.



- You will get a receipt when you apply for a grant. Do not lose it. It is proof of your application.



- Your first payment will be bigger than the one you will get monthly. This is because it is counted from the date that you handed in your application form. For example, if you waited 6 months after application, you should get 7 months money in your first payment.



- Check the date on your application forms to make sure that you get all the money you are owed. You should get backpay from the date of your application.



### backpay

- imali yokulinda
- intlawulo eyimbuyiselo
- tjhelete e yang morao
- terugwerkende betaling

- If you are applying for a Foster Care Grant, you should receive backpay for all the time that you have waited for the grant since you got the Court Order. The date of the Court Order is the date of your application for a Foster Care Grant.



- No organisation or business company is allowed to take out money from your grant unless you say they can. You must say this in writing. Remember you do not have to pay anyone for getting the grant.



Each year the government may decide if it will increase the amount of money for these grants. This usually happens between April and July. It is important that you check if there has been a yearly increase in your grant amounts.

# Short-term help

Sipho, we have money problems at home. I can't wait for the grant.



You can apply for emergency help. It is called Social Relief of Distress.

## Who can get Social Relief of Distress?

You can get Social Relief of Distress if you have no money to help yourself, and:

- You need help while you wait for the children's grants to be processed by government.
- Something very bad has happened like your house has burned down.
- You are sick for less than six months. You are not able to work during this time.
- You are unable to get maintenance from the child's other parent.
- The breadwinner in the family has just died.
- The breadwinner has been sent to prison for a short time (less than 6 months).

**processed**  
 ■ ukuhlola  
 ■ lungiswa  
 ■ sebetswe  
 ■ prosesseer

**maintenance**  
 ■ isondlo  
 ■ imali yesondlo  
 ■ tijelete ya thokomelo ya bana  
 ■ onderhoud

**breadwinner**  
 ■ inhloko eyondlayo  
 ■ umondli wosapho  
 ■ motho ya tising tijelete lapeng  
 ■ broodwenner

## What do I get?

The Social Relief of Distress may be given as a food parcel or a voucher to buy food. Some provinces give it as cash. It is only given for a short time. This is usually for up to three months, and sometimes for six months.

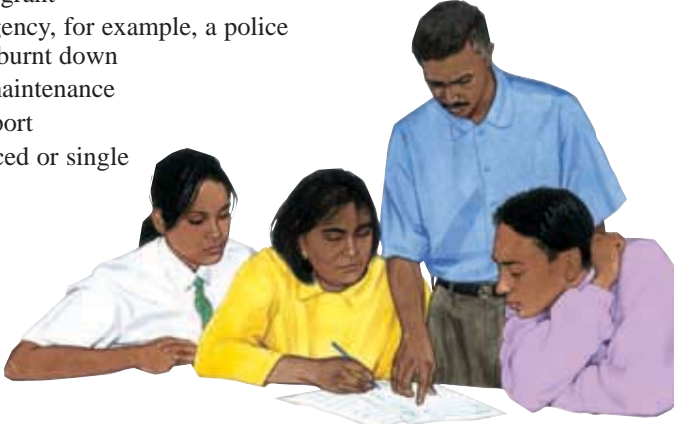


**food parcel**  
 ■ iphasela lokudla  
 ■ ipasela yokutya  
 ■ pakana ya dijo  
 ■ kospakkie

## How can you apply for the Social Relief of Distress?

- To apply for Social Relief of Distress you need identity documents for yourself and your own children – also for any other children you are taking care of. Read pages 4 and 5.
- If you don't have identity documents and birth certificates, then you need to find other proof of who you are. An affidavit from your local police station, chief, councillor or religious leader may be enough to prove this.
- You also need to prove that you have done these things:
  - you have applied for a grant
  - you have had an emergency, for example, a police report that your house burnt down
  - you have tried to get maintenance
  - you have no other support
  - you are married, divorced or single
  - you have no income
  - you have a short-term medical disability

Even if you don't have all the documents, the law will let you get your first month's food parcel, voucher or cash without the documents. You must take all the documents to the officer before the second month payment is due. If you do not, you may not get your second and third month food parcel, voucher or cash. It is important that you keep your receipt. If things don't change in your life after you have got the grant for 3 months, you can apply to have the grant extended for another 3 months.



**voucher**  
 ■ ivavusha  
 ■ ivawutsha  
 ■ voutjhara  
 ■ bewys