

Supplemental Aid to the Blind/Blind Pension

By Kristin Gentry

SAB/What you need to apply

- Must be a citizen and age 18 or older
- Must apply for SSI
- Meet the resource maximums 7/1/2021 \$5035 (single) \$10,070 (couple)
- Cannot have parents or a sighted spouse who is able to provide reasonable support; IM-2B
- Cannot solicit alms or be an inmate of a public institution
- Meet the vision requirements of 5/200 or worse
- Documents required for SAB include the IM-2B form above along with authorization to get medical records and/or schedule an exam. MO-650
- Other documents may be required or signed to allow for authorization to retrieve information needed to determine eligibility.

BP/What you need to apply

- Must be a citizen and age 18 or older of good moral character (IM-2A)
- Must be a resident of MO for 1+ year or became blind in MO and not left
- Meet the resource maximum \$29,999 (total property counts)
- Cannot have a sighted spouse whose income is equal to or exceeds 500% of the FPL (federal poverty level)
- Cannot obtain, maintain, or renew a driver license in any state or territory
 - Applicants must surrender a license within 60 days of approval
- Cannot solicit alms or be an inmate of a public institution
- Meet the vision requirements of 5/200 or worse
- Documents required for BP include the IM-2A form above along with authorization to get medical records and/or schedule an exam. MO-650
- Other documents may be required or signed to allow for authorization to retrieve information needed to determine eligibility.

How to apply for SAB/BP

- Online through mydss.mo.gov
- Paper IM-1SSL
- Office in person with a BPS or drop off at the local office
- Customers fill out the streamlined application IM-1SSL or if already active on MHN the IM-1MAC (short form)
 - To determine eligibility we verify income and resources and gather other documents to determine visual eligibility. Medical documents are routed through our medical review team who gather what is needed before submitting to the state doctor for the visual determination.

Automatic exclusions for SAB/BP

- SAB automatic exclusions
 - Receiving SSI of \$750 or more, income ineligible
 - Having other income that exceeds the maximum allowed
 - Resources exceeding the maximum allowed for a single or couple case
 - Transferring property with the intent to become eligible
- BP automatic exclusions
 - Resources over \$29,999
 - Transferring property with the intent to become eligible
 - Sighted spouse with income that exceeds the maximum
- For either program not cooperating with determining eligibility

Steps after you apply for SAB/BP

- A Benefit Program Technician will attempt to contact to clarify any information although an interview is not required.
 - A request for verification goes out with a 10 day turnaround
- The BPT will attempt to gather any information that they have access to prior to requesting from the customer.
 - Customers must provide verification needed to determine eligibility.
- MoHealthNet for Aged, Blind and Disabled applications have a 90 day timeframe to process if all information is received. For SAB/BP we cannot make a visual decision until we have a response from the state doctor. We can and will make a MHN decision if we have all applicable information available to do so.

SAB/BP Decisions

- Once we have determined eligibility for MHN or SAB/BP a letter will be sent out to the customer.
- Customers receive MHN along with a cash benefit with a visual approval.
 - If approved visually this letter will also state your eligibility for cash benefits.
 - Checks go out on the supplemental payroll and are issued within 7-10 days.
 - Customers can sign up for direct deposit for future check issuances.

SAB/BP Continuation of Benefits

- Visual approvals are good for 5 years unless the state doctor waives any future exams.
 - Customers must notify us if vision improves.
 - Notices are sent out 2 months ahead of time for visual reviews.
- Annually we are required to re-determine financial and resource eligibility.
 - A review form is mailed to customers and returned noting any changes or updates to eligibility.

Questions?

Program Contact Information

- DSS/FSD SAB/BP Unit
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- mydss.mo.gov