# Introduction

The Department of Social Welfare assists individuals or families who are living in poverty or on the verge of destitution to ease their financial burden temporarily or until they improve their financial situation and living conditions to become financially independent and self-sufficient. The purpose of the Social Welfare Assistance Schemes:

- As an income maintenance for the families to meet their basic living needs
- To encourage recipients to work and live independently
- To improve the quality of life for recipients for better living

## Eligibility for Assistance

- Citizens of Fiji and residing in the country
- Total Household income is less than $6,000 per annum
- Factors considered for the poor and needy
  - Number of children under applicant’s care
  - Health condition of head of family
  - Senior Citizens (65 yrs and above) without any means of support from children and relatives
  - Disabled persons who do not have any support whatsoever from family and relatives
  - Home conditions and basic needs

## Table of Schemes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Assistance</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Eligibility</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Family Assistance (FA)</td>
<td>To assist Senior Citizens (Elderly) and persons with severe disability (mental/physical) Heads of poor Households who suffer from severe chronic illness that impairs them from work and which affects their ability to provide for their families.</td>
<td>For Senior Citizens persons (65 yrs and above) Who are living on their own with no source of income (This excludes recipients of other State assistance such as After Care Fund, FNPF, Likewise Insurance)</td>
<td>$60 to $100 monthly</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Care &amp; Protection Allowance</td>
<td>To assist underprivileged needy children so that they continue living with their family and get the proper care and attention Nurture and strengthen the family institution so that parents/guardians can become independent and continue to provide proper care for the children.</td>
<td>Single mothers Deserted Spouses Widows Prisoner dependents Guardians who are looking after children who are not their own Assistance will only be given to the above categories if there are no means of income, no child maintenance and family living in the verge of destitution Children of the age of 17 and below and schooling.</td>
<td>$25 - $110 monthly</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Food Voucher Program</td>
<td>To assist poor families in providing them with basic food items to improve their nutritious needs and health.</td>
<td>Recipients of the Family Assistance and Care &amp; Protection Allowance Programs</td>
<td>$30 monthly</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Bus fare Concession</td>
<td>To assist senior Citizens and Disable persons in their traveling when using buses as their mode of transport.</td>
<td>Elderly, age 60 and above Permanent Disability (with supporting letter from Fiji National Council for Disabled Persons (FNCDP) and its affiliates)</td>
<td>50% concession</td>
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