

What You Need To Know About the Essential Person Program

What is the Essential Person Program?

The Essential Person Program helps you stay in your home by contributing to the cost of having someone live with you to provide essential care.

Who is eligible?

People who are blind, have a disability, or are 65 or older AND

- meet the income guidelines;
- receive or have applied for SSI and/or SSDI benefits;
- have a person living with them (the “Essential Person”) who provides necessary help so they can live at home

What is an Essential Person?

An Essential Person is a caregiver who lives with the applicant and assists the applicant with services related to daily functioning.

Who can be the Essential Person?

- The Essential Person must live with the applicant(s).
- The Essential Person cannot be eligible for SSI/AABD or Reach Up.
- The Essential Person cannot receive payment for providing personal services to the applicant/recipient from the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living.

Whose income and resources count?

- Those of the aged, blind or disabled applicant; and
- Those of the applicant’s spouse; and/or
- Those of a non-spouse essential person

How does the Essential Person Program grant affect my 3SquaresVT benefits?

The entire Essential Person Program Grant counts as unearned income.

If the applicant gives the Essential Person any money for taking care of them, they can claim the costs as a medical expense deduction.

How can I find out more information?

Call the Economic Services Division Benefit Service Center at 1-800-479-6151.