

Policy Clarifications
Cash Assistance – General Assistance
PCG-19362-106

Submitted: 5/1/19

Agency: CAOs

Subject: **General Assistance (GA) for individuals in Assisted Living Facilities and Personal Care Boarding Homes**

Question: We know that an individual in a Long-Term Care facility is not eligible for GA Cash, which was reinforced by TR 19288. We also read Cash Handbook chapter 192 to indicate that individuals in a Personal Care Boarding Home are considered to be in an institution and therefore not eligible for cash assistance, GA or otherwise. One area that is not clear is whether an individual in an Assisted Living facility is also considered to be in an institution and ineligible for cash assistance.

(1) Could you please provide guidance on residents of Assisted Living facilities related to cash assistance eligibility?

(2) Can you confirm whether our reading of policy related to residents of Personal Care Boarding Homes related to cash assistance eligibility is correct?

Response By: Division of Health Services

Date: 5/2/19

1. An Assisted Living facility is not considered an institution.
2. While Personal Care Boarding Homes meet the definition of an institution in CAH 192.2, 55 Pa. Code § 161.23 advises that the individual is eligible for GA if the person is free to make financial arrangements with the institution and to leave at any time.