

## **General Assistance Benefit Advocate: What is a Benefit Advocate?**

General Assistance (GA) Participants are required to apply for Supplemental Security/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) and Social Security Disability (RSDI) if the disability will continue for 1 year (12 months) or longer.

Applying for SSI/RSDI can be a complicated process that is difficult to navigate. For individuals who are homeless or who are struggling to survive with little or no support, navigating the application process is daunting. Accessing SSI/RSDI is often a critical first step in establishing self-sufficiency for someone who is permanently disabled.

**The Benefit Advocate** provides personalized assistance in applying for SSI/RSDI to General Assistance participants who are incapacitated or disabled for 12 months or more. The goal is to increase the likelihood of a participant being approved by assisting them in the application process.

To provide this assistance, specially trained Benefit Advocates meet with the participant, gathering essential information needed for the application process. This ensures that the participant will continue to receive General Assistance while the SSI/RSDI application is pending.

Once an SSI/RSDI claim is approved, the participant will benefit from a reliable, secure source of income. (SSI or RSDI).