

Continuous Welfare Benefit (BPC)

Thematic areas	Social assistance; income guarantee.
Summary	Social Assistance Benefit, non-contributory, targeted at people aged 65 or over, and persons of any age with disabilities who can prove that they have no means of supporting themselves or being supported by their families.
General objective	Ensure personal autonomy of the target audience by means of cash transfers and provision of services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Guarantee one monthly salary for elderly people and for people of any age with disabilities who can prove that they have no means of supporting themselves or being supported by their families; » Guarantee provision of basic needs through access to social and other policies;
Specific objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Assist elderly people and those with disabilities to overcome social vulnerabilities and assure them personal autonomy; » Integrate the BPC beneficiary into the life of the community; » Address the problems caused by poverty, and work toward building a free, fair and supportive society by guaranteeing social rights.
Year launched	1996.
Key stakeholders	Ministry of Social Development and Fight against Hunger (MDS) - National Social Assistance Secretariat (SNAS)
Other stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Social Assistance Reference Centers (CRAS), as components of the municipal social assistance network; » National Social Security Institute (INSS); » Banking system.

Management and implementation

The Social Assistance Reference Center (CRAS) is the first stop for people applying for the BPC. Potential beneficiaries are identified, given information and referred to the Social Assistance services, or to benefits provided under other public policies.

Requests for the BPC benefit are handled by an agency of the National Social Security Institute (INSS) which is responsible for operating the BPC. This agency is charged with: receiving applications; awarding, stopping and suspending the BPC; performing medical and social evaluations; conducting benefit reviews; making BPC rules available for inspection; promoting operator training; updating the registry; performing calculations, generating credits and overseeing payments.

Two other actions related to the BPC executed by the Union in partnership with the States, the Federal District and the municipalities are:

- » The Tracking and Monitoring Program of School Access and Attendance for BPC Disabled Beneficiaries;
- » The BPC Employment Program, which seeks to promote access by BPC beneficiaries with disabilities to gain access to vocational qualifications and to the labor market.

Target audience

The BPC is intended for people aged 65 or over and people with disabilities of any age with long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments who can provide evidence that they lack the means to provide for their own maintenance or be maintained by their families.

Selection criteria for target audience

- » Elderly person: proof of age (65 or over) and proof of per capita income of less than 1/4 (one quarter) of the current minimum salary.
- » Person with disability: proof of long term impairment via a medical and social evaluation, and proof of per capita income of less than 1/4 (one quarter) of the current minimum salary.

Coverage

National.

Funding sources

Federal Budget funds linked to the Social Security budget and allocated to the National Social Assistance Fund.

Supplementary information

More information can be obtained at: <http://www.mds.gov.br/assistenciasocial/beneficiosassistenciais/bpc> (only in Portuguese), or by calling either 135 at the INSS Customer Service Center or 0800 707 2003 at the MDS Customer Service Center, by sending queries to e-mail numbers ouvidoria@mds.gov.br and bpc@mds.gov.br, or by accessing the data sheet, available at WWP website (<https://wwwp.org.br/>).