

NEST Application FAQs



How do I apply? You can fill out an application by [clicking on this link](#) or following the QR Code.

Can anyone apply? Anyone can begin the application, but there are eligibility requirements to participate in the pilot. The application will begin by walking you through eligibility criteria to determine if you qualify to apply. If you are eligible, then continue to fill out your contact information so we can contact you if you are selected to participate in the pilot project!

How are the 15 participants picked? All eligible applications that are received will be included in an anonymized (your name and identifying information will be hidden), random lottery by a third party to select 15 people who will be offered the opportunity to participate in the NEST Pilot Project. If you are one of the 15 people selected, you will be contacted by phone by NEST staff to notify you that you were selected. You will be contacted by phone unless you select to additionally be contacted by email and/or text on your application form.

What if an applicant does not respond to NEST after they are selected and called? NEST has a detailed notification policy which will be followed to contact applicants who have been randomly selected to join NEST multiple times over 5 business days. Notifications will be made by phone call and a voicemail will be left if we do not reach you (this assumes the applicant has voicemail set up on their phone with space for new messages). Applicants have the option of choosing to be contacted by text message and/or email in addition to phone calls on the application form. If you have selected these options you will also receive text and/or email notifications along with phone calls.

If NEST is unable to reach you by phone and does not hear back within 7 days from the applicant, then the applicant will be considered as having declined to participate in NEST and the spot will be offered to the next randomly selected applicant. We hope this will not happen, please be sure to watch for calls from NEST and respond in a timely manner so you can join this exciting opportunity if selected!

What happens if I am selected? What information will I have to share? Applicants who are selected will be contacted by NEST to set up a time to talk about the Pilot project, answer any questions you might have, and confirm your eligibility for the pilot project. It is possible

that applicants may be receiving benefits through programs such as SNAP, WIC, TANF, Medicaid, Medicare or others. You will have the option to participate in benefits counseling to see if these benefits might be affected by participating in NEST. If you decide to continue, then you will schedule an onboarding session with NEST's Relationship Manager. At the onboarding you will receive a debit card which will be credited with \$500 each month. That's it!

I heard there was research involved, do I have to be a part of that? NEST is partnering with the University of Pennsylvania's expert researchers through the Center for Guaranteed Income Research (CGIR). Participants will have the chance to share their contact information with CGIR to learn more about the research opportunity during onboarding.

There is no requirement for NEST participants to be involved in this research project. Those who are interested will be given the opportunity to share their story and experiences during NEST with the Research Team. Those stories and experiences will be the data that the community, NEST partners, policymakers and others can look at to understand the impacts NEST has on the community and on participants.

Can my spouse or partner apply too? As long as they meet all the eligibility requirements, then, yes, they can also apply!

If I fill out more than one application, will it increase my chance of being selected? No, duplicate applications will be deleted. All eligible applicants will have an equal opportunity to be selected during the randomized selection process. Please only fill out one application.

Who is my "dependent" for the eligibility requirements? For this application a dependent is someone under the age of 18 who relies on you for their care. This might be a child or a foster child. This could also be a grandchild who lives with you and relies on you for financial and physical care. There are many different child custody arrangements that a family may have, for this application a child should be living with you, in Grinnell, and you should be providing financial and physical care of the child *at least* 50% of the time.

Who is included in my "household" for the eligibility requirements? This includes the number of people residing at the same address who share income, bills and resources (groceries, car, etc) such as a spouse, partner, child, family member (Grandmother, parent, adult child, etc).

This does not include a roommate who shares the same address, but does not share their income, resources (groceries, car, etc), and expenses (You both may pay your own portion

of rent and utilities, but do not pool incomes toward shared expenses such as groceries, healthcare, dependent care, taxes, etc) with you and your household.

Do I have to have a bank account to apply? You do not have to have a banking account to apply. During onboarding participants will be registered for a debit card through our partner [Community Financial Resources](#) which will be loaded with \$500 each month during the pilot. These cards can be used anywhere you would use a visa card and at ATMS.