



Republic of the Marshall Islands
Jepilpilin Ke Ejukaan

RMI SOCIAL SUPPORT SCHEME REGULATIONS 2025

Index

Regulation	Page
PART I - PRELIMINARY	3
§1. Short Title.	3
§2. Defintions.	3
§3. Purpose.	4
PART II - GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE SCHEME	4
§4. Governance of the Scheme	4
§5. Administration of the Scheme.....	4
§6. Roles and Responsibilities.....	4
PART III – ELIGIBILITY AND REGISTRATION	5
§7. Eligibility Criteria.....	5
§8. Registration Process.....	6
§9. Approval and provision of the Scheme.....	7
PART IV – BENEFIT DISBURSEMENT	7
§10. Initial Benefit Amount.....	7
§11. Payment Method.....	7
§12. Adjustments to benefit levels after pilot phase.....	7
§13. Discontinuation, Revocation and Reinstatement of the Benefit.....	7
PART V – FINANCIAL MANAGMENT	8
§14. Annual Appropriation and Funding.....	8

§15.	Administrative Costs.....	8
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PART VI – MONITORING, REPORTING AND AUDIT	8
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§16.	Monitoring.....	8
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§17.	Reporting.....	8
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§18.	Annual Audit.....	8
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PART VI – MISCELLANEOUS	9
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§19.	Regulation.....	9
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§20.	Amendments and Adjustments.....	9
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§21.	Effective Date.....	9
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RMI Social Support Scheme Act 2023

RMI SOCIAL SUPPORT SCHEME REGULATIONS 2025

Coming into Operation:

October 1, 2025

The Marshall Islands Social Security Administration makes the following Regulations under section 213 of the RMI Social Support Scheme Act 2023.

PART I - PRELIMINARY

§1. Short Title.

These Regulations are cited as the RMI Social Support Scheme Regulations 2025.

§2. Defintions.

In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) “disabled” or “disability” has the same meaning as defined under the Rights of Persons with Disability Act of 2015;
- (b) “MISSA” means the Marshall Islands Social Security Administration;
- (c) “RMI” means the Republic of the Marshall Islands;
- (d) “Social Support Scheme” means the RMI Social Support Scheme established under this Chapter;

§3. Purpose.

The purposes of these Regulations are to provide for the procedures and criteria for the effective implementation of the primary purpose of the RMI Social Support Scheme Act of 2023.

PART II - GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE SCHEME**§4. Governance of the Scheme**

- (1) The Board of Directors of MISSA shall serve as the Board for the Scheme.
- (2) The Board shall:
 - (a) Approves standard operating procedures, rules and forms;
 - (b) Reviews and approves the operational budget for administrative costs;
 - (c) Oversees annual audits and ensures financial accountability;
 - (d) Advises the Cabinet on necessary amendments and policy adjustments;
 - (e) Review and approve periodic reports to the Cabinet and Nitijela.

§5. Administration of the Scheme.

- (1) MISSA shall serve as the Administrator for the scheme from fiscal years 2026 to 2028 unless it is extended by amendments to this Chapter.
- (2) MISSA shall engage its claims and finance departments to administer and monitor the scheme.

§6. Roles and Responsibilities.

- (1) MISSA shall:
 - (a) develop standard operational procedures, rules and forms for the scheme;

- (b) establish rules and procedures necessary to assure timely payment of the scheme;
 - (c) recruit technical consultants, medical advisors, officers, and employees, as it deems necessary;
 - (d) disburse from appropriate funds such expenditures as it deems necessary based on a duly approved budget;
 - (e) receive services from staff and managers of MISSA as applicable and when required;
 - (f) Prepares periodic reports for Board's approval to the Cabinet and Nitijela.
- (2) MISSA may:
- (a) conduct studies and experiments to determine if the scheme should be mainstreamed and to incorporate it in the Social Security Act of 1990 through amendments; and,
 - (b) obtain information from actuarial studies and claims data relevant to the Republic to inform Cabinet and Nitijela on appropriate steps to consider before pursuing the incorporation and integration of the scheme as one of MISSA's permanent program.

PART III – ELIGIBILITY AND REGISTRATION

§7. Eligibility Criteria.

There shall be established criteria for the non-contributory scheme and for the disability scheme as follows:

- (1) To be eligible for the non-contributory scheme, a person must:
 - (a) be at least 60 years of age;
 - (b) be a RMI Citizen;
 - (c) be a resident of the RMI at least one (1) year concurrently prior to registration and benefitting from the scheme
 - (d) not a recipient of any MISSA retirement benefit or any other retirement or pension program in the RMI other than the Universal Basic Income, or benefitting from other retirement or pension program in other jurisdiction;

- (e) provided a live birth certificate;
 - (f) submitted a social security number;
 - (g) presented an identification (e.g. valid driver's license, national id or passport) to establish identity; and
 - (g) provided either savings or checking account (for direct remittance of the assistance).
- (2) To be eligible for the disability scheme, a person must:
- (a) submitted a medical report or assessment confirming his or her disability., either at birth or later stage in life;
 - (b) be a resident of the RMI at least one year (1) year concurrently prior to the registration and benefitting from the scheme. Other than for children, eligibility will commence upon certification by a medical physician; and
 - (c) not be a recipient of any MISSA retirement benefit or any other retirement or pension program in the RMI other than the Universal Basic Income, or benefiting from other retirement or pension program in other jurisdiction.
 - (e) provided a live birth certificate;
 - (f) submitted a social security number;
 - (g) presented an identification (e.g. valid driver's license, national id or passport) to establish identity; and
 - (g) provided either savings or checking account (for direct remittance of the assistance).

§8. Registration Process.

- (1) Applicants must provide proof of identity, age, and permanent residency status using a prescribed form to be provided under the Regulation.
- (2) Verification shall be conducted through cross-checking with existing MISSA records and other relevant databases including the nation-wide registration for the UBI.

§9. Approval and provision of the Scheme.

If enrolled and approved, as long as the scheme is appropriated funds by the Nitijela, MISSA shall provide the assistance to the eligible recipient until his/her death.

PART IV – BENEFIT DISBURSEMENT**§10. Initial Benefit Amount.**

Each eligible beneficiary shall receive a monthly benefit of \$100 during the three-year pilot phase.

§11. Payment Method.

- (1) Payments shall be made through direct deposit or designated payment centres.
- (2) Beneficiaries shall be required to update their records annually to MISSA.

§12. Adjustments to benefit levels after pilot phase.

- (1) Upon completion of the pilot phase, benefit levels shall be reviewed and may be adjusted based on inflation rates and fiscal considerations.
- (2) Adjustments may be proposed by the MISSA board and approved by the Cabinet.

§13. Discontinuation, Revocation and Reinstatement of the Benefit.

- (1) Except where the recipient is travelling abroad temporally on Government managed medical referral, the benefits will be discontinued if the recipient is absent from the RMI more than one month. The benefit will be reinstated upon the recipient's return to the RMI, and reporting to MISSA of his or her presence in the RMI and fill the form for reinstatement.
- (2) In case where the recipient had departed the RMI for aboard for at least six (6) months, and recipient has not returned to the RMI after six (6) months, MISSA may revoke or cease the benefit unless reported to have leaving the RMI for Government managed medical referral.

- (c) MISSA may consider reinstating the benefit if the recipient had returned to the RMI and underwent the reinstatement application process as practiced by MISSA in Section 142 of the Social Security Act 1990 for the payments to non-citizen recipients overseas.

PART V – FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

§14. Annual Appropriation and Funding.

- (1) An initial allocation of \$750,000 shall be provided for the Scheme each year starting in FY2026 through to FY2028.
- (2) Future funding shall be based on MISSA's recommendations and proposals to Cabinet and Nitijela for appropriations.

§15. Administrative Costs.

A portion of the scheme's annual budget shall be allocated for administrative expenses by MISSA, subject to approval by the MISSA board.

PART VI – MONITORING, REPORTING AND AUDIT

§16. Monitoring.

MISSA shall monitor benefit disbursement and prevent any duplication of benefits.

§17. Reporting

MISSA shall submit an annual report to the Cabinet and Nitijela detailing:

- (a) Beneficiary disbursement statistics;
- (b) Financial status of the scheme;
- (c) Implementation challenges and recommendations

§18. Annual Audit.

- (1) The scheme shall be subject to an annual audit as part of MISSA's financial oversight.

- (2) Audit results shall be published and presented to relevant to the Board, Cabinet and the Nitijela.

PART VI – MISCELLANEOUS

§19. Regulation.

MISSA shall promulgate regulations in accordance with the Administration Procedures Act.

§20. Amendments and Adjustments.

The scheme shall be reviewed after the pilot phase to determine necessary adjustments and amendments.

§21. Effective Date.

If approved, these Regulations come into operation on October 1, 2025.