

National Solidarity Fund for Autonomy (CNSA)

CNSA : what is it ?

The National Solidarity Fund for Autonomy is a French Social Security Agency, falling under the Ministry of Solidarity and Health. It is responsible for **providing financial support and funding support services in-kind for persons experiencing a loss of autonomy**, whether it be for reasons of infirmity, old-age and/or disability.

It has been created after the heat wave that occurred in 2003 in France, and in connection with the new disability bill, voted in 2005. These events highlighted the need for elderly and disabled people to benefit from better support services which require increased funding.

The CNSA has a tripartite mission in the field of long-term care:

- To provide funding towards the provision of services and benefits aimed at people experiencing a chronic loss of autonomy,
- To provide technical support and expertise to its implementing partners in the regions and departments,
- To ensure equality of treatment across the French territory, notably by monitoring the quality, accessibility, and coverage of LTC services and transfers provided across the country.

The CNSA's activity is ensured by around 120 workers, led by Virginie Magnant.

A Council, presided by Jean-René Lecerf, designs strategic orientations and votes on the budget. It is composed of associations representing elderly people and people with disabilities, unions, departmental councils, the State, and Social Security funds. Experts in the field of disability and old-age assist the Council in its discussions.

Since the 7th of August 2020, the CNSA has a **new role of managing the 5th branch of the Social Security**, dedicated to the promotion of autonomy. The CNSA will expand its financing scope, redesign data management, strengthen the support to its partners, and improve territorial governance. This reform aims to facilitate the user's journey, to improve their care, and to offer better support for professionals.

Its budget

In 2021, the CNSA had a budget of **31.6 billion of euro**. The funds come principally from **employer social contributions** but also from the “General Solidarity Contribution”, the “Solidarity and Autonomy Contribution” (2 billion of euros per year) and the “Additional Solidarity and Autonomy Contribution” (0.8 billion of euros per year), which are taxes also paid by employers.

Its actions

1. Provide funding towards the provision of services and aid aimed at elderly people and disabled people

The CNSA’s budget of 31.6 billion of euro is used to finance actions to mitigate the loss of autonomy resulting from old age or disability, and to prevent the loss of autonomy for elderly people.

The CNSA does not distribute money directly to elderly people and disabled people. It gives it **to administrations of territorial governance** (departmental councils and Regional Health Agency (ARS) which act as intermediates.

Subsequently, these administrations distribute the funds in the form of **grants to finance care establishments and services for elderly people and disabled people**, or in the form of **individual aid** like the Personalized Autonomy Allocation (APA) and the Disability Compensation Benefit (PCH).

The **APA** is an allowance for people over 60 to support expenses linked with their new loss of independence. The amount they receive is calculated on the basis of their disposable income and degree of dependence. The CNSA contributes up to 38% (2019) of territorial administrations’ expenses for APA.

The **PCH** is an allowance dedicated to people whose disability occurred below the age of 60. The amount awarded is determined by the level and nature of the assistance deemed necessary. The CNSA covers up to 29% (2019) of territorial administrations’ expenses for PCH. 298 400 people benefited from the PCH in 2019.

2. Ensure equality of treatment across the French territory

The CNSA works closely with the territorial administrations in charge of allocating individual aid to elderly people and disabled people:

- > **Departmental councils** which process ARS’s requests,
- > Departmental homes for people with disabilities (**MDPH**) which process requests for assistance with activities of daily living at home, at school or at work,
- > Regional Health Agencies (**ARS**) which provide funds to establishments and services for disabled people and elderly people experiencing a loss of autonomy.

The CNSA ensures that **these administrations process the requests equally and that they allocate public funds equitably across jurisdictions.**

To do so, the CNSA facilitates the exchanges of data between them. It also offers them different tools like research studies or best practice guides.

3. Support professionalization and modernization of services and establishments

The CNSA supports establishments and services for elderly people and disabled people by contributing with **subsidies for:**

- > Continuous **training** of professionals,
- > **Improving professional practices**, particularly for home care assistance,
- > **Modernizing care establishments** to improve the comfort of the people being cared for.

4. Subsidize research on disability and on old-age, as well as innovative projects

Gaining knowledge, through research and innovative projects, enables to better identify the needs of disabled people and elderly people. It also helps for designing solutions for the future of assistance to elderly people and disabled people.

The CNSA, for example, subsidizes projects of assistance for “family caregivers” caring for people experiencing a loss in autonomy.

5. Communicate on rights and aid available to mitigate the loss of autonomy

The CNSA communicates to elderly people, disabled people and their families on their rights and aid.

For elderly people and their family, the CNSA offers a **national information portal** at www.pour-les-personnes-agees.gouv.fr, on which there is, for example, a comparator of retirement homes’ prices.

The CNSA also leads **information campaigns on television and radio.**

A similar platform for disabled people is being designed in order to inform them on the available aid and to propose adapted services.







www.cnsa.fr

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 @CNSA_actu  CNSA

CNSA

66, avenue du Maine

75682 Paris cedex 14

Tél. : 01 53 91 28 00 – contact@cnsa.fr


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Caisse nationale de
solidarité pour l'autonomie