

## EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE –

Provides emergency aid to meet the needs of families with children who have unforeseen and unavoidable emergencies (fires, medical situations, etc).

Some examples of emergency assistance:

- Food
- Shelter costs
- Clothing
- Utilities
- Personal expenses

**OTHER SERVICES –** Our staff makes referrals for assistance with:

- Child Care
- Child Support
- Housing
- Heating/Utility Assistance
- Telephone Assistance
- Medicaid Travel-related Costs
- Voter Registration
- Supplemental Security Income
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Employment Services
- Head Start
- Montana Legal Services
- Social Services (chemical dependency, mental health)
- WIC
- Family Violence Services
- Community Health Care Clinics

## Please Note

The Montana safety net programs of the Department of Public Health and Human Services may be able to help you and your family.

All sources of household income and in some instances, resources, may be considered for eligibility purposes.

More detailed descriptions and income standards for the SNAP, TANF, and Medicaid programs and many other safety net programs are available on the DPHHS website at [www.dphhs.mt.gov](http://www.dphhs.mt.gov) or by calling your nearest office.

Every household's situation is unique so contact your nearest OPA if you want to apply.

Regional Human Resource Development Councils also have assistance programs.

Complete contact information is included in this mailing.

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Citizen's Advocate Office

1-406-444-3468

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## Safety Net Programs



“Improving and Protecting the Health, Well-Being and Self-Reliance of all Montanans”

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Department of Public Health and Human Services

This is a brief description of the programs and services available through your local Office of Public Assistance. Contact the nearest office for more information.

**SNAP** – The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly the food stamp program) provides benefits through an electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card to help you buy food to supplement your monthly food budget.

Q: What can be purchased with SNAP benefits?

A: You may use the SNAP EBTcard to buy food items, food-producing plants and seeds to grow food. Benefits can't be used to buy alcohol, hot prepared foods, non-food items, pet food, paper products, or tobacco.

Q: Can I get SNAP benefits right away?

A: If you have little or no money, your application is given priority, and you should receive SNAP benefits within a week. In addition, you will receive information on food banks in your community.

Q: Can I receive SNAP without receiving any other safety net assistance?

A: Yes.

**MEDICAID** – Provides help paying medical costs for:

- Children and Families
- Pregnant Women
- Disabled Individuals
- Elderly Individuals

You may qualify for these services even if you have other health coverage.

Q: What medical services are covered?

A: Medical services may include doctor visits, prescriptions, hospitalization, nursing home care, home health care, dental and visual services for some, and help with medical-related travel costs.

Q: What do I have to pay?

A: Some Medicaid programs require you to contribute to the costs of your care and some do not. Whether you will be required to contribute to the costs depends on your personal circumstances.

Q: What if I have other health coverage such as Medicare or private health insurance?

A: You may qualify for assistance with your health insurance or Medicare premium payment, as well as medical services not covered by your policy.

Q: What happens if I have a large monthly income?

A: Your co-payment may be larger or you may be expected to pay for a portion of the medical costs before Medicaid can help.

Q: What if I have children who don't qualify for any of the Medicaid programs?

A: Applications for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) are available in our offices and on-line. Referrals are made to other programs as appropriate.

**TANF CASH ASSISTANCE** – Provides a monthly cash benefit for households with children (and could include grandparents and other relatives caring for the children).

Q: How long can I receive cash assistance benefits?

A: Cash assistance is limited to sixty (60) months in a lifetime. Some exceptions may apply.

Q: Am I required to do anything to receive cash benefits?

A: Parents or other relatives whose needs are included on the cash grant or are considered work eligible will need to participate in work-related activities.

### **TANF EMPLOYMENT SUPPORTS**

Provides services to help family members find and keep jobs and may include employment case management, job retention/coaching, transportation assistance, job-related expenses, housing assistance, or employment relocation costs.