

Department of Human Services (DHS)

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CASH ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**Family Independence Program (FIP)**

The main goal of FIP is to help families become self-supporting and independent.

FIP is temporary cash assistance for low-income families with minor children and pregnant women. FIP helps them pay for living expenses such as rent, heat, utilities, clothing, food and personal care items.

FIP applicants and recipients may be assigned to Jobs, Education and Training (JET) for assistance in finding a job or to develop needed job skills. Help with transportation, childcare and other needs related to employment and training may be provided.

FIP Eligibility Requirements

48-month lifetime limit:

You cannot receive FIP for more than 48 months in your lifetime unless you qualify for an extension or an exception. Months before October 2007 do not count. Months do not count if you are:

Deferred.*

Working and following your Family Self-Sufficiency Plan.*

Live in a county with a high unemployment rate.

* Follow Work Rules and Penalties.

Who is in the FIP group?

To qualify for FIP, children must be under the age of 18, or a high school student age 18-19.

The child's parents, stepparents, and siblings who live together normally make up the FIP group. A relative acting as a parent or legal guardians may be included in the group if the parent is not in the home.

A person can sometimes be eligible for FIP when there is no child in the group - such as a pregnant woman; or parents whose child is in foster care but is expected to return home within one year.

FIP Residency Requirements

A person must be a Michigan resident and intend to remain in Michigan and not be receiving cash assistance from another state.

Citizenship Requirements

A person must be a U.S. citizen or have an acceptable alien status to qualify for FIP.

Asset Limits

Assets are cash or any other personal or real property you own. The asset limit for FIP is \$3,000.

Assets such as your home, vehicles and personal belongings are not counted.

Countable Income

Most types of earned and unearned income are counted. Countable income is considered when determining the amount of FIP your family is eligible to receive.

State Disability Assistance

The State Disability Assistance (SDA) program provides cash assistance to disabled adults to help them pay for living expenses.

Supplemental Security Income

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a cash benefit to needy persons who are aged (at least 65), blind or disabled. It is a federal program administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA). States are allowed the option to supplement the federal benefit with state funds. In Michigan, SSI benefits include a basic federal benefit and an additional amount paid with State funds.

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

Eligibility for Child Support Services

Child Support services in Michigan are available to:

- Parents of minor children, when one parent does not live with the child
- Parents who pay court-ordered child support
- Persons who have physical custody of a minor child
- Persons who receive public assistance for a minor child living in their home. Except in certain specific cases, these individuals automatically receive child support services

Available Child Support Services

The following child support services are available in Michigan:

- Assistance with application for child support services

- Locating Parents
- Establishing Paternity
- Establishing court orders for support
- Establishing court orders for custody and parenting time
- Collecting and processing child support payments
- Modifying support court orders
- Enforcing court orders for support

Child Care

For many families, the cost of safe, quality child care is a major strain on the budget. DHS' Child Development and Care Program may provide payment for child care services for qualifying families when the parent, legal guardian or substitute parent is unavailable to provide the child care because of employment, education and/or because of a health/social condition for which treatment is being received.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

State Emergency Relief (SER)

The State Emergency Relief (SER) Program provides immediate help to individuals and families facing conditions of extreme hardship or for emergencies that threaten health and safety.

The SER program is primarily designed to maintain low-income households who are normally able to meet their needs but occasionally need help when unexpected emergency situations arise. The SER program is not an appropriate solution to ongoing or chronic financial difficulties.

HEALTH CARE COVERAGE

Health care coverage is available to individuals and families who meet certain eligibility requirements.

Contact the local Department of Human Services in your county to apply for these programs.

Health Care Coverage for Adults

Aged, Blind, Disabled Medicaid is available to persons who are aged, blind, or disabled. There are income and asset limits. If the income is over the income limit, persons may incur medical expenses that equal or exceed the excess income and still qualify for this program.

Caretaker Relative Medicaid is available to eligible parents and people who act as parents, caring for a dependent child. These people are called caretaker relatives. There is an income limit for this program.

Medicaid is a medical assistance program providing financial coverage for a broad range of outpatient, inpatient, and residential services (long-term care services include nursing home, home health, and some residential facility services). A Medicaid-authorized service provider must provide direct services.

Medicare Savings Program (MSP) pays for certain Medicare costs. There is an asset limit. The income amount determines what is covered.

MIChoice This waiver program provides home and community based health care services for aged and disabled persons. The program's goal is to allow persons to remain at home to receive health services. If they did not receive such services, these persons would require nursing home care. The cost of care at home must be less than the cost of care in a nursing home. The waiver may provide other benefits to help the person remain at home. Contact the local Department of Human Services in your county to apply for this program.

Health Care Programs for Children

Healthy Kids is a Medicaid health care program for low-income children under age 19 and for Pregnant Women of any age. There is an income limit. There is no monthly premium for Healthy Kids.

MIChild is a health care program administered by the Department of Community Health. It is for the low income uninsured children of Michigan's working families. MIChild has an income limit which is higher than Healthy Kids. MIChild is for children who are under age 19. Families pay a monthly premium for MIChild insurance, regardless of the number of children insured. For more information and an application, contact MIChild at 1-888-988-6300 or visit the MIChild Information web site.

Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) is a program within the Department of Community Health that provides certain approved medical service coverage to some children and adults with special health care needs. Children must have a qualifying medical condition and be under 21 years of age. Persons 21 and older with cystic fibrosis or certain blood coagulating disorders may also qualify for services. For more information call the Family Phone Line at 1-800-359-3722 or visit the Children's Special Health Care web site.

Health Care Programs for Families

Many times the entire family may be eligible for health care benefits. Contact the local Department of Human Services in your county to apply for these programs.

Low Income Families (LIF) Medicaid is available to families under the Low Income Family (LIF) Program. There are income and asset limits. Families that receive cash assistance (Family Independence Program or FIP) are automatically eligible for this program.

Transitional Medical Assistance (TMA) is available to families that have received LIF in at least 3 of the last 6 months. The family is no longer LIF eligible because a parent has too much income from employment. TMA is available for up to 12 months and the family does not need to fill out a new application.

Transitional Medical Assistance Plus (TMA-Plus) assists working adults in achieving self-sufficiency by extending medical coverage for families unable to purchase health care coverage through their employment.

Health Care Programs for Pregnant Women

Healthy Kids for Pregnant Women - Medicaid is available to an eligible woman while she is pregnant, including the month her pregnancy ends and during the two calendar months following the month her pregnancy ends, regardless of the reason (for example: live birth, miscarriage). There is an income limit for this program. Contact the local Department of Human Services in your county to apply for this program.

Group 2 Pregnant Women - A woman who has income that exceeds the income limit for Healthy Kids for Pregnant Women, may be eligible for Medicaid under the Group 2 Pregnant Women program. If income is over the limit, persons may incur medical expenses that equal or exceed the excess income and still qualify for this program.

Maternity Outpatient Medical Services (MOMS) - The goal of the MOMS program is to provide immediate health coverage for pregnant women. It provides outpatient prenatal coverage only. The MOMS program is available to provide immediate prenatal care while a Medicaid application is pending.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Adult Protective Services

Phone: (800) 996-6228

The provision of adult protective services is mandated by Public Act 519 of 1982. This critical program requires extensive coordination with, and support from, mental health, public health and law enforcement agencies; the probate courts; aging network and community groups; as well as the general public.

Program staff investigates allegations of abuse, neglect or exploitation and provide protection to vulnerable adults. Policy requires that investigations will begin within 24 hours after the complaint is received.

To make a report, call the Adult Protective Services Hotline at 1-800-996-6228. To get further information about the Adult Protective Services Program, contact your local Department of Human Services office.

Children's Protective Services

Phone: (800) 716-2234

Children's Protective Services (CPS) is a program within the Department of Human Services (DHS) responsible for investigating allegations of child abuse and neglect. The Michigan Child Protection Law provides the framework for what CPS must do.