

SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAM FACT SHEET

In addition to Disaster Food Stamp Benefits, You May Be Eligible For These Other Types Of Assistance. You Must Apply Separately For These Programs.

Work First: Work First is about helping families achieve self-sufficiency, helping adults support themselves and provide for their children. Work first promotes personal responsibility and employment and provides employment services, other supportive services, and a monthly check to families with children under age 18. The family will be referred to child support to help get additional financial support for the children. At application, a family must meet an income test and is allowed \$3,000 in resources in order to receive assistance. Countable income (after deductions) must be less than the needs standard. Certain counties (electing) may set different guidelines.

Needs Standard By Number in the Family Unit

Family Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Need Standard	\$362	\$472	\$544	\$594	\$648	\$698	\$746	\$772	\$812	\$860

Work First Benefit Diversion: Benefit Diversion is an alternative to Work First Family Assistance for families. A family that qualifies for and chooses Benefit Diversion is provided:

- A one-time cash payment of up to 3 months of Work First Family Assistance benefits. **Cash payments stop after this one check;**
- Up to 3 months of Medicaid and Food Stamp benefits; child care if needed; **and**
- Child support services and referrals to other community and agency services.

While Benefit Diversion is not appropriate for all families, it provides immediate help to families who are employed, soon-to-be-employed, between jobs, or who anticipate receiving financial assistance in the near future, whether or not related to employment, that will help meet their needs. This financial assistance may

include child support, an inheritance, insurance settlement, etc. Benefit Diversion is to help families who need one-time temporary assistance. **Families must meet the same income test as Work first recipients on the day they apply for Benefit Diversion.**

Food Stamps: After the application period for disaster food stamps has ended, your county will resume taking applications for the regular Food Stamp Program. If you want to continue getting food stamps, you will have to apply. The chart below shows the income limits for the regular Food Stamp Program. There are additional reporting and verification requirements for resources.

Maximum Monthly Income For Food Stamps-Effective October 1, 2003

Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Maximum Gross Income	\$1037	\$1,390	\$1,744	\$2,097	\$2,450	\$2,803	\$3,156	\$3,509
Maximum Net Income	\$798	\$1,070	\$1,341	\$1,613	\$1,885	\$2,156	\$2,428	\$2,700

Crisis Intervention Program (CIP): This program is for households in a heating or cooling-related emergency that have income less than 110% of the poverty level. Eligible households get up to \$300 in assistance to buy fuel or to pay the light or gas bill.

Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP): This program pays a check once a year to eligible low-income households to help with their heating bills. Families must have countable income during the month of October equal to or less than 110% of the federal poverty level. Applications for LIEAP will be taken the first 2 weeks of November.

110% of Federal Poverty Level for 2003

Family Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Monthly Income	\$813	\$1,095	\$1,377	\$1,660	\$1,942	\$2,224	\$2,507	\$2,789	\$3,071

Emergency Assistance: Emergency Assistance is available to low-income families facing short-term, unexpected expenses. Families must have a child(ren) under the age of 18, gross family income below 200% of poverty (Your county may set a lower income limit.), and meet the citizenship requirements of the Work First Program. Emergency Assistance may help you make payments for rent and utilities or to purchase food to feed and house you family.

Medical Assistance: The Medicaid Program helps families or individuals with medical bills such as doctor fees, prescription drugs, hospital charges, and nursing home care. Persons who get Supplemental security Income (SSI), Work First Family Assistance, or State/County Special Assistance (SA), also get Medicaid. SSI recipients do not have to apply at the county department of social services to get Medicaid. There are several different types of Medicaid. All have income limits, and some have resource limits. Your caseworker will explain these to you.

- Aged adults (65 and older)
- Disabled or blind persons
- Families with children through age 20. The parent can receive Medicaid if only one parent is in the home and the child is under age 19. Both parents can receive Medicaid if both are in the home, but one of the parents is out of work or has an illness or injury.
- Children through age 20 who live with both parents or other adults.
- Individuals through age 20 who live apart from their parents or other adults
- Children under the age one whose parents' income is equal to or less than 133% of the poverty level. This level is higher than for children ages six and over. There is no resource limit.
- Children from age six through age 18 whose parents' income is equal to or less than 100% of the poverty level. There is no resource limit.
- Pregnant women, with or without other children. The income limit is 185% of the poverty level. There is no resource limit.

Persons who are eligible will get a Medicaid card each month. Medicaid can also cover medical bills from the three months before the month you apply.

Assistance for Medicare Beneficiaries: Persons with Medicare coverage may be eligible for limited assistance with cost associated with Medicare. Medicare beneficiaries with income up to 100% of the poverty level may be

eligible for payment of Medicare premiums, co-payments, and deductibles. Medicare beneficiaries with income between 100% and 135% of the poverty level may qualify to have their Medicare Part B premium paid.

N.C. Health Choice for Children: Children under age 20 who are not eligible for Medicaid, who do not have other health insurance, and whose family's income is not more than 200% of the poverty level may be eligible for a special medical insurance coverage called "NC HEALTH CHOICE FOR CHILDREN."

This insurance covers a wide range of medical care; including doctor's care, hospitalization, prescription medicine, and dental & eye care. If the family's income is more than 75% of the poverty level, the family may be charged an annual enrollment fee of not more than \$100 and co-payments for services received.

200% of Federal Poverty Level as of 04/01/06

Family Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Monthly Income	\$1,634	\$2,200	\$2,767	\$3,334	\$3,900	\$4,467	\$5,034	\$5,600