



Public Benefits

Job & Family Services Public Benefit Programs

Food Stamps



What is it? A program that gives individuals and families a debit card to buy food. Everyone that buys and eats meals together is in the food stamp household. Each month, the household's food stamp benefits are put onto the household's food stamp card.



Am I eligible? The household's monthly income cannot be more than 130% of the federal poverty limit. If you have income over the limit, you may still qualify if someone in your household is elderly or disabled. There is no requirement that the household have children.

To receive food stamps, adults between the ages of **18 and 50 who are** physically and mentally able to work must work, be in job training, or a combination of these up to 80 hours each month. If there are no children in the household, your food stamps will stop if you do not meet this requirement more than three months in a 36-month period. Exceptions can be made if you show a good reason.



Emergency situations: You may be eligible to receive food stamps within a few days of turning in an application if you meet certain income and resource requirements.

Ohio Works First (OWF)



What is it? OWF is a cash benefit to help meet financial needs of children and parents. You must meet with a caseworker and sign a self sufficiency contract that explains any work and other requirements you need to complete each month. The contract also explains your rights. It is important that you read and understand this agreement.



Am I eligible? OWF benefits are available for families with children who have no income or whose income is below 50% of the federal poverty level.



Exceptions:

- Children living with guardians other than their parents may be eligible for child-only OWF benefits. The 36-month time limit does not apply to child-only benefits.
- Women who are at least six months pregnant may be eligible for individual assistance.



Time limits: After getting OWF benefits for 36 months, they will stop. However, you may still be able to get additional months if you qualify for a hardship or good cause extension. You will need to apply for an extension and list all of the barriers you are facing that make it difficult for you to work.

Prevention, Retention, and Contingency (PRC) Program



What is it? A one-time cash benefit for families in an emergency situation. Some examples include:

- Rent or mortgage payments, security deposits
- Property taxes and home repairs
- Emergency shelter or temporary housing
- Bus passes (if necessary for work, school, training, or job search)
- Driver's license reinstatement (if necessary for work)
- Utility payments
- Car repairs (if necessary for work)



Am I eligible? PRC is available for families with a minor child in the household, but may also be available for an individual who is pregnant or who is a non-custodial parent of a minor child. Normally, a household can only get PRC once in a 12-month period.

Title XX Child Care



What is it? Program offering lower cost child care services

Am I eligible? Eligible families must have income below 130 percent of the federal poverty level when they first apply. Once enrolled, the income limit increases to 300 percent of the federal poverty level. To be eligible, a parent must be working, attending school or a training program, or participating in a work program through the County Job and Family Services office. Also, families with income above 100 percent of the federal poverty level must pay a co-payment to the child care provider, which varies by income.



Exception: Homeless families, including those living in shelters, can receive child care without meeting these requirements

Medicaid



What is it? Medicaid provides health insurance to individuals with low income, children, pregnant women, older adults and individuals with disabilities. Most eligible individuals will be enrolled in Medicaid managed care plans. These include CareSource, Molina, and others. If eligible for Medicaid, individuals with disabilities and chronic conditions may also qualify for care in their homes rather than in long-term care facilities, hospitals, or intermediate care facilities.



Am I eligible? Eligible individuals must meet financial requirements, which vary depending on the type of Medicaid program. If found eligible, most people with Medicaid can get medical care at no cost. However, disabled individuals who are working may have monthly premiums for services.

Some examples of financial requirements:

- Uninsured children in families with income up to 206% of the federal poverty level
- Insured children in families with income up to 156% of the federal poverty level
- Pregnant women in families with income up to 200% of the federal poverty level
- Families with income up to 90% of the federal poverty level
- Low-income individuals with income up to 138% of the federal poverty level
- Disabled working individuals with income up to 250% of the federal poverty level

Immigrant Eligibility for Benefits

 Undocumented immigrants are not generally eligible for benefits (except emergency Medicaid). However, Refugees, Asylees, and Legal Permanent Residents may be eligible for benefits. Also, children born in the United States are citizens, so their parents' immigration status does not stop them from being eligible.

 Only those applying for benefits for themselves need to provide their social security numbers. When a parent applies ONLY for his or her children, the parent does not need to provide a social security number. NEVER provide a false social security number to the Department of Job and Family Services. As long as you do not provide a false social security number, there is no reason the Department of Job and Family Services should contact immigration officials.

 Immigrants who do not qualify for Medicaid can have emergency medical bills paid under the Alien Emergency Medical Assistance (AEMA) program. The bill must have been for treating an emergency medical condition, including labor and delivery.

Medicare Premium Assistance Programs

 **What are these?** If you are low-income and eligible for Medicare, Medicaid may pay for your Medicare premiums and co-payments. There are four different programs: QMB, SLMB, QI-1, and QDWI.

 **Am I eligible?** To qualify for a Medicare Premium Assistance Program, you must be enrolled in Medicare Part A (or Part B for QMB applicants) and have limited income and resources. QDWI applicants must meet additional requirements. The family's size and income level are used to determine an individual's eligibility.

Medicare Premium Assistance Program	Income Limits	Benefit
Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB)	up to 100% of FPL	Medicare Part A premiums, Medicare Part B premiums, deductibles, coinsurance, and co-payments
Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB)	101-120% of FPL	Medicare Part B premiums
Qualified Individual (QI-1)	121-135% of FPL	Medicare Part B premiums
Qualified Disabled and Working Individuals (QDWI)	under 200% of FPL	Medicare Part A premiums

Applying for Job & Family Services Benefits

(Food Stamps, OWF, PRC, Child Care, Medicaid, Immigrant Benefits, Medicare Premium Assistance Programs)



Complete an Application

There are three ways to get an application:

1. **Visit your local Job and Family Services' Opportunity Center** to fill out an application and turn it in at the same time. If you live in Franklin County, you can also apply by calling 1-844-640-6446.
2. **The Benefit Bank** – There are hundreds of benefit bank sites across the state that can help you fill out an application. At each site, counselors will help you understand what you are eligible for and assist you in completing an application. To learn more about the Benefit Bank and to find the closest provider, call 800-648-1176. You can also go to the following website: <https://secure.thebenefitbank.org/ums?task=locator>.
3. **Find an application online at** <http://www.odjfs.state.oh.us/forms/num/JFS%2007200/pdf/> or apply online at <https://ssp.benefits.ohio.gov/>.

Once you complete the application, you can turn it in by:

- Mail to: FCDJFS 1721 Northland Park Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43229
- Fax to: 614-233-2398
- Submit it online
- Take it directly to an Opportunity Center

If you need help with an application, your local Opportunity Center should provide you with someone to help. Interpreters and individuals to help those with hearing or vision impairments will be made available.

How to apply for Medicare, SSI, SSDI, or Unemployment is explained in later sections of this brochure

Franklin County Opportunity Centers

<p>East Opportunity Center 1055 Mount Vernon Avenue Columbus, OH 43203</p> <p>Tel: 614.233.2000 or 614.212.1993 or 614.233.2899</p>	<p>Zip Codes Served: 43068, 43109, 43110, 43125, 43147, 43203, 43205, 43206, 43209, 43213, 43217, 43232, 43227</p>
<p>Northland Park Opportunity Center 1721 Northland Park Avenue Columbus, OH 43229</p> <p>Tel: 614.233.2000 or 614.212.1993 or 614.233.2899</p>	<p>Zip Codes Served: 43002, 43004, 43054, 43081, 43082, 43085, 43201, 43202, 43210, 43211, 43212, 43214, 43215, 43216, 43219, 43220, 43221, 43224, 43226, 43229, 43230, 43231, 43234, 43235, 43236, 43240, 43272</p>
<p>West Community Opportunity Center 314 North Wilson Road Columbus, OH 43204</p> <p>Tel: 614.233.2000 or 614.212.1993 or 614.233.2899</p>	<p>Zip Codes Served: 43017, 43026, 43016, 43065, 43119, 43123, 43126, 43137, 43140, 43146, 43204, 43207, 43222, 43223, 43228</p>

Things to Remember

- 1) If you are not sure whether you are eligible or if you are told that you are not eligible—you still have a right to apply and receive a written notice of the decision within a required timeframe.
- 2) After turning in the application, you will receive a checklist with additional information you will need to turn in. When you turn in this information, make sure you keep a receipt or other proof that you did turn it in.
- 3) Never mail an original document. Always have the county make a copy of any document that you turn in and be sure that you keep the original.
- 4) If an individual is a victim of domestic violence, eligibility and other requirements under public benefit programs may differ.
- 5) Applications must usually be processed within 30 days. Some exceptions require a shorter time period.
- 6) If you are denied a benefit or if you think the Department of Job and Family Services has done something wrong, you have a right to appeal. You can appeal by:
 - Mail: ODJFS Bureau of State Hearings, P.O. Box 182825, Columbus, OH 43218
 - Phone: (866) 635-3748
 - Fax: (614) 728-9574
 - Email: bsh@jfs.ohio.gov
 - Online: <http://jfs.ohio.gov/ols/bsh/State-Hearing--Request-Page.stm>

Unemployment Benefits



What is it? You may be eligible for unemployment compensation if you have lost your job. You must have earned enough income over enough weeks and you must meet one of the following:

- If you were fired, your employer did not have a just cause reason to fire you.
- If you quit, you had a just cause reason to quit.



How do I apply? You can file a new application for unemployment compensation benefits or you can reopen an existing application either:

- On-line at <http://unemployment.Ohio.gov>, or
- By telephone at (877) OHIOJOB (644-6562) or TTY (614) 387-8408.

Table #1– Poverty Guidelines (subject to change each year)

This Table is a rough guide to determine income eligibility. If you are slightly over the income limit, you should still apply because there may be deductions that would make you income eligible.

Family Size	2019 Poverty Guidelines 100% FPL (Monthly income)	Healthy Families 90% FPL (Parents' Medicaid eligibility)	Food Stamps 130% FPL	Medicaid 138% FPL	Healthy Start 206% FPL (Children's Medicaid)	PRC 165% FPL
1	1,041	937	1,316	1,436	2,145	1,670
2	1,410	1,269	1,784	1,945	2,903	2,264
3	1,778	1,600	2,252	2,453	3,662	2,858
4	2,146	1,932	2,720	2,961	4,421	3,452
5	2,515	2,263	3,188	3,470	5,180	4,046
6	2,883	2,595	3,656	3,978	5,938	4,640
7	3,251	2,926	4,124	4,486	6,697	5,234
8	3,620	3,258	4,592	4,994	7,456	5,828

Social Security Benefit Programs

Medicare



What is it? Medicare is the federal health insurance program for people aged 65 and older, certain younger people with disabilities, and people with End-Stage Renal Disease. If you are eligible for Social Security benefits (including disability benefits), you may apply for Medicare. There are three basic parts to Medicare:

Medicare Part A covers inpatient hospital stays, care in a skilled nursing facility, hospice care, and some home health care. Part A also helps pay for durable medical equipment, such as a hospital bed or wheelchair.

Medicare Part B covers certain doctors' services, outpatient care, medical supplies, and preventive services. These include physical, occupational, and speech therapies, as well as durable medical equipment.

Medicare Part D helps individuals pay for prescription medications. Individuals pay a monthly premium and a low co-payment for each prescription filled.



For questions about Medicare or for help in selecting coverage, you can contact the Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIIP) at 1-800-686-1578.

Low Income Subsidy (LIS) (“Extra Help”)



What is it? The Low Income Subsidy (LIS) provides help in paying for the Medicare Part D monthly premium, annual deductible, coinsurance, and copayments. Also, individuals enrolled in the Extra Help program do not have a gap in prescription drug coverage (known as the Medicare "donut hole").

The LIS is available for individuals who have limited income and assets. Individuals who receive LIS automatically include those (1) enrolled in both Medicaid and Medicare, (2) receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and (3) who qualify for a Medicare Premium Assistance Program.

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)



What is SSDI? SSDI is monthly income for disabled individuals who have worked enough qualifying quarters to be eligible. The monthly benefit does not depend on income or resources.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)



What is SSI? SSI is monthly income for individuals with low income and resources who are disabled, blind, or age 65 or older.



If you return to work or if you have a change in income, resources, marital status, or living arrangements you need to contact your local Social Security office. If you do not, you may have an overpayment that will need to be paid back.

Applying for Federal Benefits (Medicare, LIS, SSDI, SSI)

How do I apply? To apply for Medicare, LIS, SSDI, or SSI, contact your local Social Security office. You can apply for benefits by telephone, in-person at your local Social Security office, or online (except for some SSI applications).

Legal Aid Services

This information is not legal advice; An attorney-client relationship does not exist between you and The Legal Aid Society of Columbus.

You may contact LASC if you have questions regarding a public benefits program or if you have any of the following problems during your benefits process:

- Your benefits have stopped and you do not think they should have.
- You have been denied benefits or your benefits have been reduced and you do not think they should have been.
- You have been sanctioned.
- There has been a delay in the processing of your application.
- You won your state hearing but have not yet been given benefits.

Need help? Contact us!

Columbus Office (Franklin and Madison County Residents)

Intake Phone Number: 614-241-2001
Toll Free: 1-888-246-4420
Fax Number: 614-224-4514
Address: 1108 City Park Ave.
Columbus, OH 43206

Marion Office (Marion, Delaware, Union, Morrow County Residents)

Intake Phone Number: 740-383-2161
Toll Free: 1-888-301-2411
Address: 150 Oak Street
Marion, OH 43302

Or Apply Online, at www.columbuslegalaid.org

The Legal Aid Society of Columbus does not discriminate against any person on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, national origin, disability, age, ancestry, or military status in admission, treatment, or participation in our programs, services and activities, or in our hiring and employment practices.

