



Texas Benefit Guide

| Benefit | Description | Household Eligibility | Financial Eligibility | Immigration Eligibility |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| TANF- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families | Helps families pay for food, clothing, housing, utilities, furniture, transportation, telephone, laundry, necessary household equipment, medical supplies not paid for by Medicaid, and other basic needs. | A household is composed of a group of individuals living together related by blood, marriage, or adoption. A dependent child must be included in the group and relatives must assist in the day-to-day care for the child. | Applicants must meet Budgetary Needs Test and Recognizable Needs Test. Applicants must not have over \$1,000 in assets after deductions. All group members' income is counted. | Undocumented immigrant not eligible. |
| SNAP- Food Stamps | Helps families with low incomes and resources buy the food they need for good health | A household is composed of all members, related or nonrelated, that assist in preparing and/or purchasing food in a home. All household members' income and asset information is required. | Applicant's gross income must be at or below 130% Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Applicants resources must be below \$2,000 or \$3,000 if over 60 years of age. | Undocumented immigrant not eligible. US citizen children eligible, regardless of parent's status. |
| WIC- (Women, Infant, and Children Program) | Serves to safeguard the health of women, infants, & children up to age 5 who are at nutritional risk by providing information on healthy eating, referrals to health care, and the necessary foods for proper development (e.g., milk, baby formula, cheese, eggs). | Pregnant women, women who are breastfeeding a baby under 1 year of age, women who have had a baby in the past 6 months, and parents of children under the age of 5 are all considered eligible households. | Applicants must be at or below 185%FPL and be at nutritional risk. | Eligible |



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| School Lunch | Provides nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free lunches to children. | Household means a group of related or nonrelated individuals, who are not residents of an institution or boarding house, but who are living as one economic unit. A child in the foster care system is considered a household of one. | Reduced Meals- applicants must be at or below 185% Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Free Meals- applicants must be at or below 130% FPL. If receiving TANF or Food Stamps, the child is automatically eligible. | Eligible |
| Head Start & Early Start | Provides comprehensive educational, health, nutritional, and social services for children from birth to age 5. | Family is defined by those supported by income of parent/guardian of the applying child and related by blood, marriage, or law. Head Start serves children 3 - 5 years of age. Early Start serves children 6wks - 3 yrs of age. | Applicants must be at or below 100% FPL. | Eligible |
| Child Care | Provides support service for parents who work, attend school, or are participating in job training and have children under the age of 13. | Single parent household with parent working &/or job training 25 hrs/wk Two -parent household with both parents working at least 50 hours a week combined. | Texas: Income cannot exceed 85% state median income. Monthly income limit for family of 3: \$3,888 Dallas County: 185% FPL Family of 3 monthly income; \$2,856 | Undocumented immigrant not eligible. |



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| Medicaid | Offers free health care (e.g., check-ups, dental care) to uninsured families, children, the disabled and other qualifying individuals. | Each individual applying must meet specified income limits. Some members of a family may qualify while others may not, depending on income &/or medical needs. | 0-1 yrs of age 185% FPL 1-5 yrs of age 133% FPL 6-19 yrs of age 100% FPL Parents 26% FPL Pregnant Women 185% FPL Aged/Disable Single 75% FPL Aged/Disabled Couple 83% FPL | Undocumented immigrant not eligible. US citizen children eligible, regardless of parent's status. |
| CHIP- (Children's Health Insurance Program) | Offers free or low-cost health insurance for children through their 18th year of age who are uninsured but not eligible for Medicaid. | Each child must be 18 yrs of age or younger. | At or below 200% FPL | Undocumented immigrant not eligible. US citizen children eligible, regardless of parent's status. |
| Utility Assistance -CEAP (Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program) | Assists families with meeting their immediate energy needs and to encourage consumers to control energy costs for years to come through energy education. | Utility bills must be in the applicant's name. | Applicants must be at or below 200% FPL; income guidelines vary based on program funding levels. | Eligible |



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| EITC- (Earned Income Tax Credit) | Provides a tax credit for working individuals and families who earn low incomes so hard workers can keep more of what they earn. | Applicant must have Earned Income. Applicant &/or spouse must have lived in US more than half a year. Applicant &/or spouse must be at least 25 yrs of age and under 65 yrs of age. Applicant cannot be married and file separately Meet income limits as defined by IRS. | Earned income limits and Adjusted Gross Income limits change yearly. | Undocumented immigrant not eligible. Social Security Number is required for all family members. |
| CTC- (Child Tax Credit) | Provides a tax credit for individuals with dependent children under the age 17. | Taxpayer must have a child that: is under the age of 17, is a dependent on taxpayers tax return, must not provide more than half of own needs, is a US citizen, US national, or a US legal alien that lived with taxpayer for at least half of tax year. | Reduced credits begin when AIG is at: \$110,000 for married taxpayers filing joint returns \$55,000 for married taxpayers filing separate returns \$75,000 for all other taxpayers | Undocumented immigrants can be eligible with ITIN (Individual Tax Identification Number). Children must be U.S. citizens or residents. |
| CCTC- (Child & Dependent Care Tax Credit) | Provides a tax credit for working individuals who pay someone to care for a child or dependent while they work or look for work. | Applicant must have Earned Income. Care paid for must be for applicant to work or look for work. Qualifying children are 12 | In 2009, applicants able to use up to \$3,000 of expenses for one qualifying child and up to \$6,000 for two or more qualifying | Undocumented immigrants can be eligible with ITIN (Individual Tax Identification Number). Children must be U.S. |



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| SSI -(Supplemental Security Income) | Provides assistance to those who are disabled and meet federal guidelines to be considered low-income. | Applicant must be disabled or blind; and the disability must be expected to last at least 12 months or until death. Disability is defined as "unable to partake in gainful employment". | Unearned income cannot exceed \$694/month for an individual and \$1,031 for a couple. An individual earned income cannot exceed \$1,433/month and a couple cannot exceed \$2,107/month. | Undocumented immigrant not eligible. |
| SSDI- (Social Security Disability Insurance) | Provides assistance to individuals who are disabled and paid into the social security system through their employment checks. | Individuals must have earned enough 'credits' during their work lifetime and be considered disabled as defined by the federal government. Disability is defined as "unable to partake in gainful employment". | Applicants earning over \$1,000/month generally do not qualify as disabled. | Undocumented immigrant not eligible. |



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