



Where to go for help if you've stopped receiving unemployment benefits

More than 2.5 million people came to the Michigan Department of Human Services in fiscal year 2009 for help with food, cash, emergency and medical assistance. These programs can assist families losing unemployment benefits.

Food Assistance Program

You can apply for food assistance online. Food assistance supports the nutritional needs of low-income families and individuals. Benefits in May 2010 averaged \$132 for every individual in the program. There were more than 1.8 million people receiving benefits. For more about food assistance, visit www.michigan.gov/dhs-food.

People can apply for food benefits online at www.michigan.gov/mibridges.

State Emergency Relief

Certain emergency services can be provided through the State Emergency Relief program. If you're facing an energy shutoff notice or have already lost your electricity, a program from DHS might help. To apply for energy-related State Emergency Relief, you can go online and fill out an application at www.michigan.gov/mibridges. Other emergency benefits may be available for one-time emergencies. To learn more, go to www.michigan.gov/dhs-ser.

Family Independence Program

This provides temporary cash assistance for low-income families with minor children and pregnant women. It helps pay for living expenses such as rent, heat, utilities, clothing, food and personal care items. For information about the program, visit www.michigan.gov/dhs-cash.

Health Care Coverage

There are several medical assistance programs available including Medicaid, the state-federal health care coverage program for low-income families. For information on how to apply and what coverage may be available, please visit www.michigan.gov/dhs-medical.

An issue related to Medicaid is termination of the enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage rate at the end of this year. This is used to determine federal matching funds in the federal-state program for fiscal year 2011. The FY 2011 enhanced federal matching rate is 75.57 percent, meaning that for every \$100 the state spends, the federal government would match \$75.57 in the year beginning Oct. 1. With legislation authorizing the enhanced rate ending Dec. 31, the match rate would revert to 65.79 percent – meaning the federal government would only match \$65.79 for every \$100 the state spends. The state anticipates this would result in the loss of \$500 million in federal funds next year that could force reductions in medical services – such as drug, mental health or nursing home payments – or force the state to reduce funds for colleges or revenue sharing that local governments use to pay for police and fire protection.

Michigan Assistance and Referral Service

This interactive application available at www.michigan.gov/mars can help determine if a family qualifies for benefits. It will ask for information about family and household information and make a determination. This is not a guarantee of assistance; only a DHS specialist in a DHS office can determine final eligibility.

Helping Hand

Additional resources regarding family support, housing, jobs and training, and healthcare are also available at www.michigan.gov/helpinghand.

