



WYOMING DEPARTMENT *of*
Family Services

Wyoming Department of Family Services Assistance Division Program Summaries

August 2016



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

This document summarizes a number of assistance programs offered by the Department of Family Services (DFS) as well as a subset of other assistance programs offered in Wyoming. A brief overview of each program is provided in addition to program statistics and income limits. These income limits have been incorporated into three charts, each depicting a different household composition. These charts serve to educate the Wyoming Joint Labor Health and Human Services Committee on the value of benefits offered through each assistance program and the maximum amount of income clients receiving these benefits can make.

This information is being presented in order to illustrate the “fiscal cliff effect”, or the paradox for low-wage workers in which low-income families may qualify for “work support” benefits (SNAP, POWER, Medicaid, child care assistance) that help cover the cost of basic necessities; however, as earnings increase, families begin to lose these benefits resulting in a loss of household resources and thus creating a disincentive for them to improve their financial situation.

Background

The assistance programs offered through DFS are intended to play the role of a temporary safety net while clients work to gain self-sufficiency. The goal is to connect people with time-limited resources that promote healthy, safe, self-sufficient families so they can contribute to their communities.

While there are clients who are motivated to become independent of government assistance, once wages begin to increase clients often face a decrease in discretionary income due to a decrease or loss of benefits. For example, a single parent with two children making \$7.25 per hour would receive \$2,370.90 in benefits each month and after expenses would have \$306.90 remaining. If this client is offered a promotion making \$13 per hour the client’s benefits would decrease to \$1015.12 each month and after expenses the client would have \$-59.98 in discretionary income. This scenario helps to highlight why clients may be discouraged from gaining full self-sufficiency as the drastic decrease or elimination of work supports does not allow for a graduated transition off of benefits.



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Options

While DFS continues to promote self-sufficiency for its clients, there are a number of options that can be explored to lessen the impact an increase in pay has on the resources available to clients. The following options will be presented (please see Chart 1):

1. Expansion of simplified reporting to all DFS assistance programs;
2. Incentivize Employment and Training programs (E&T) for all DFS assistance programs;
3. Require budgeting classes for all clients receiving assistance; and
4. Provide cash incentives to clients who obtain and maintain self-sufficiency.

Conclusion

The information provided depicts the staggered income limits for DFS assistance programs which serve to lessen the fiscal cliff effect in Wyoming. Still, for many clients the transition off of benefits can be intimidating and frightening. By focusing on supports outside of traditional benefits clients will be better equipped and prepared to navigate their newfound financial independence.



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PURPOSE OF THE CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM

Child Care Subsidy is a financial assistance program for families with children which aims to:

- A. Ensure the safety of children while left in care when their caretaker is at work, school or employment training.
- B. Provide assistance to low income families who need child care assistance because of work, attending an educational program or an employment training program.
- C. Encourage the client to continue his/her work, education or employment training activity and move toward self-support and self-sufficiency by requiring a parental contribution for services as income increases.
- D. Increase the client's knowledge of quality child care and ability to make informed decisions concerning child care by providing consumer education materials.
- E. Promote parental choice by allowing clients to make their own decisions on the child care that best suits their family's needs.

The Child Care Subsidy Program is funded with state and federal dollars through the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG). In order to receive federal funds there is a state match and a maintenance of effort (MOE) requirement.



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CHILD CARE STATISTICS FOR FFY 2015

CHILD CARE: FFY 2015				
Month	Total Benefits Paid	Total Families	Total Children	Average Benefit Per Child
Oct-14	\$977,293	2,027	3,955	\$241.47
Nov-14	\$1,078,833	2,063	4,006	\$269.30
Dec-14	\$1,049,513	2,042	3,930	\$267.05
Jan-15	\$814,211	1,817	3,621	\$224.86
Feb-15	\$874,926	1,819	3,571	\$245.01
Mar-15	\$1,034,499	1,878	3,653	\$283.19
Apr-15	\$921,744	1,881	3,692	\$249.66
May-15	\$896,450	1,858	3,622	\$247.50
Jun-15	\$1,094,208	1,923	3,811	\$287.12
Jul-15	\$981,350	1,783	3,627	\$270.57
Aug-15	\$1,053,354	1,808	3,710	\$283.92
Sep-15	\$1,051,480	1,842	3,784	\$277.88
TOTAL	\$11,827,861	22,741	44,982	\$262.29



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Child Care Income Guidelines

					Transitional Child Care	
	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6
	100% FPL	125% FPL	150% FPL	175% FPL	200% FPL	225%FPL
Hourly Parental Obligation	.00/hour/child	.11/hour/child	.22/hour/child	.80/hour/child	1.17/hour/child	1.71/hour/child
Assistance Unit Size						
1	\$0 - 990	\$991 - 1238	\$1239 - 1485	\$1486 - 1733	\$1734 - 1980	\$1981 - 2228
2	\$0 - 1335	\$1336 - 1669	\$1670 - 2003	\$2004 - 2336	\$2337 - 2670	\$2671 - 3004
3	\$0 - 1680	\$1681 - 2100	\$2101 - 2520	\$2521 - 2940	\$2941 - 3360	\$3361 - 3780
4	\$0 - 2025	\$2026 - 2531	\$2532 - 3038	\$3039 - 3544	\$3545 - 4050	\$4051 - 4556
5	\$0 - 2370	\$2371 - 2963	\$2964 - 3555	\$3556 - 4148	\$4149 - 4740	\$4741 - 5333
6	\$0 - 2715	\$2716 - 3394	\$3395 - 4073	\$4074 - 4751	\$4752 - 5430	\$5431 - 6109
7	\$0 - 3061	\$3062 - 3826	\$3827 - 4591	\$4592 - 5356	\$5357 - 6122	\$6123 - 6887
8	\$0 - 3408	\$3409 - 4259	\$4260 - 5111	\$5112 - 5963	\$5964 - 6815	\$6816 - 7667



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PURPOSE OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

- A. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps, is benefits provided to states by the federal government for issuance to eligible low-income assistance units to spend through the normal channels of trade on food and food items.
- B. SNAP is designed to promote the general welfare and safeguard the health and well being of the nation's population by raising the levels of nutrition among low-income households.
- C. SNAP offers nutrition assistance to millions of eligible, low-income individuals and families and provides economic benefits to communities. SNAP is the largest program in the domestic hunger safety net. Wyoming works with the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), nutrition educators, and neighborhood and faith-based organizations to ensure that those eligible for nutrition assistance can make informed decisions about applying for the program and can access benefits.
- D. SNAP benefits are 100% federally funded, while state administration of the SNAP program is split 50/50.
- E. FNS is the federal governing agency for the SNAP program and is responsible for determining income limits, eligibility criteria and all other SNAP regulation. Since SNAP is federally regulated, states cannot deviate from the regulations set by FNS.
- F. Households can use SNAP benefits to buy foods for the household to eat, such as:
 - 1. Breads and cereals;
 - 2. Fruits and vegetables;
 - 3. Meats, fish and poultry;
 - 4. Dairy products; and
 - 5. Seeds and plants which produce food for the household to eat.
- G. 7 % of Wyoming SNAP recipients are elderly, meaning they are 60 years old or older.
- H. 11% of Wyoming SNAP recipients are disabled.
- I. 5% of Wyoming SNAP recipients are elderly and disabled.



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SNAP STATISTICS FOR FFY 2015

SNAP Numbers: FFY 2015				
Month	Total Benefits Paid	Total Households	Total Recipients	Average Benefit Per Household
Oct-14	\$3,941,953	14,051	32,789	\$281
Nov-14	\$3,883,458	13,897	32,493	\$279
Dec-14	\$3,883,495	13,939	32,468	\$279
Jan-15	\$3,830,941	13,900	32,351	\$276
Feb-15	\$3,883,537	13,820	32,419	\$281
Mar-15	\$3,971,859	14,017	32,888	\$283
Apr-15	\$3,899,592	13,827	32,604	\$282
May-15	\$3,869,416	13,723	32,535	\$282
Jun-15	\$3,935,274	13,888	32,968	\$283
Jul-15	\$4,081,175	14,352	34,087	\$284
Aug-15	\$3,783,342	13,449	31,714	\$281
Sep-15	\$3,814,125	13,549	31,950	\$282
TOTAL	\$46,778,167	166,412	391,266	\$281.08



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SNAP INCOME LIMITS

The maximum allowable gross and net income standards for determining eligibility of assistance units and the maximum allotments authorized appear below.

Assistance Unit (AU) Size	165% Poverty Maximum Gross Monthly Income Elderly/Disabled	Maximum Gross Monthly Income 130% of Poverty	Maximum Net Monthly Income 100% of Poverty	Maximum Benefit Allotment
1	\$1619	\$1276	\$ 981	\$ 194
2	2191	1726	1328	357
3	2763	2177	1675	511
4	3335	2628	2021	649
5	3907	3078	2368	771
6	4479	3529	2715	925
7	5051	3980	3061	1022
8	5623	4430	3408	1169
9	6195	4881	3755	1315
10	6767	5332	4102	1461
Each Additional Member	+\$572	+\$451	+\$347	+\$146



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**PURPOSE OF THE PERSONAL OPPORTUNITIES WITH EMPLOYMENT
RESPONSIBILITIES (POWER) PROGRAM**

- A. Personal Opportunities With Employment Responsibilities (POWER) is a time limited Pay-After-Performance program which assures families with a dependent child(ren) are working on a plan to become self-sufficient.
- B. POWER is Wyoming's cash assistance program. It provides intensive employment and training case management services to unemployed and under employed Wyoming families with a dependent child(ren). Self-sufficiency through employment or other resources such as child support is the primary program goal and will contribute to the decreased dependency on all government assistance.
- C. POWER performance payments are used to purchase or make available:
 - 1. Shelter;
 - 2. Apparel and upkeep;
 - 3. Utilities, telephone;
 - 4. Personal needs;
 - 5. Home furnishings maintenance;
 - 6. Miscellaneous medical;
 - 7. Travel costs;
 - 8. Housekeeping supplies; and
 - 9. Reading and education.
- D. The program is funded with state and federal dollars through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant established under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996 (P.L. 104-193), as amended by the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act and the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.
- E. In order to receive federal funds, states must also spend some of their own dollars on programs for needy families. This state-spending requirement is known as the "maintenance of effort" (MOE) requirement. The MOE is 75% of historic state expenditures. The historic state expenditure means expenditures by the State for FFY 1994. 75% of Wyoming's FFY 1994 spending is \$10,434,961.00.



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POWER STATISTICS FOR FFY 2015

Month	Total Benefits Paid	Total Households	Adults	Kids	Total Recipients	Average Benefit Per Household
Oct-14	\$ 165,547.00	367	149	577	726	\$ 451.08
Nov-14	\$ 165,381.00	365	152	595	747	\$ 453.10
Dec-14	\$ 163,302.00	382	149	577	726	\$ 427.49
Jan-15	\$ 163,999.00	365	154	596	750	\$ 449.31
Feb-15	\$ 164,871.00	380	158	604	762	\$ 433.87
Mar-15	\$ 170,435.00	374	164	605	769	\$ 455.71
Apr-15	\$ 164,779.00	391	160	580	740	\$ 421.43
May-15	\$ 161,472.00	374	172	597	769	\$ 431.74
Jun-15	\$ 162,564.00	374	152	587	739	\$ 434.66
Jul-15	\$ 159,867.00	357	154	572	726	\$ 447.81
Aug-15	\$ 161,206.00	356	156	581	737	\$ 452.83
Sep-15	\$ 170,284.00	410	156	595	751	\$ 415.33
TOTAL	\$ 1,973,707.00	4495	1876	7066	8942	\$439.53

POWER Income Limits

Assistance Unit (AU) Size	Shelter Supplied Maximum Benefit	Shelter Included Maximum Benefit
1	\$219	\$374
2	\$394	\$618
3	\$453	\$657
4	\$453	\$657
5	\$512	\$697
6	\$512	\$697
7	\$570	\$737
8	\$570	\$737
9	\$570	\$737
10	\$570	\$737
11	\$570	\$737
12	\$570	\$737



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POWER Allotment Example

For a household size of three (single parent with two children), the maximum benefit allowed is \$657. The amount provided is based on income. Below is an example of how the POWER benefit would be calculated:

\$800.00 (gross income)
- \$600 (POWER disregard)

\$200 (net gross income)

\$657 (maximum POWER allotment)
-\$200 (net gross)

\$457 (benefit payment)



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PURPOSE OF THE LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIEAP)

- A. LIEAP helps keep eligible families safe and healthy through initiatives that assist families with energy costs. The program provides federally funded assistance in managing costs associated with:
- Home energy bills (during the winter months)
 - Energy crisis (referred to as Special Situations)
 - Energy Crisis Prevention
 - Weatherization and energy-related minor home repairs
- B. The Federal LIHEAP statute stipulates that the highest LIEAP benefits should go to those households that are most vulnerable and most in need (lowest incomes). The mission of LIEAP is to assist low-income households in meeting their immediate home energy needs. Low-income families must pay a larger portion of total household income towards their energy bills. Thus, low-income households struggle with higher energy burdens. A primary goal of LIEAP is to reduce the energy burden for eligible low-income households. Energy burden is defined as the total annual household energy cost/bill divided by the total annual household income (i.e. \$2,500 energy bill/\$15,000 annual HH income = 16.66% energy burden).
- C. LIEAP benefits are seasonal and monthly benefits are not paid out 12 months of the year. The regular LIEAP benefit season begins November 1 each year and currently ends June 15 each year. The LIEAP benefit is paid directly to utility and heating fuel companies to be applied to the approved client's utility/fuel accounts. Clients must apply each year and are responsible for paying utility and fuel costs the remaining months of each year.
- D. In Wyoming, as of 2016, LIEAP is 100% federally funded.
- E. 40% of LIEAP recipients are elderly, meaning they are age 60 and older.
- F. 39% of LIEAP recipients are disabled.



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LIEAP STATISTICS FOR FFY 2015

Month	Total Benefits Paid	Total Households	Persons	Average Benefit Per Person
Oct-14	\$ 72,979.86	205	500	\$ 146
Nov-14	\$ 371,283.90	3,434	6,277	\$ 59
Dec-14	\$ 930,366.70	5,536	10,894	\$ 85
Jan-15	\$ 1,333,038.16	7,042	13,999	\$ 95
Feb-15	\$ 1,013,300.11	5,921	11,949	\$ 84
Mar-15	\$ 1,184,365.87	6,988	14,153	\$ 83
Apr-15	\$ 565,095.75	5,812	11,788	\$ 47
May-15	\$ 389,283.96	5,409	10,842	\$ 36
Jun-15	\$ 179,656.16	3,287	6,597	\$ 27
Jul-15	\$ 10,457.94	85	166	\$ 62
Aug-15	0	0	0	0
Sep-15	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	\$ 6,049,828.41	43,719*	87,165	\$ 72

* The unduplicated number of households receiving LIEAP benefits during the 2014 – 2015 program year was 9,533.



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PURPOSE OF THE WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (WAP)

- A. The purpose of the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) is to reduce energy costs for low-income families, particularly for the elderly, people with disabilities, and children, by improving the energy efficiency of their homes while ensuring client health and safety.
- B. The primary goals include:
 - Enabling low-income families to permanently reduce their energy bills by making their homes more energy efficient;
 - Improving the health and safety of low-income family homes;
 - Achieving savings-to-investment ratios of 1 or greater for every weatherization measure installed; and
 - Educating clients about consumption habits and overall home performance and health and safety conditions.
- C. The WAP benefit is a one-time-only benefit and eligible households are put on a waiting list as current need exceeds available funding. The main priority groups for WAP include elderly (age 60 and older), disabled, and children age 5 and under. Households with high energy costs and consumption are also prioritized.
- D. In Wyoming, as of 2016, WAP is 100% federally funded.



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WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM 2014-2015 QUARTERLY DATA

Quarter	Total Paid in Program Ops	Total Homes Weatherized	Total People Served	Average per Home	Average per Person
1	\$ 205,110	49	103	\$ 4,185.91	\$1,991.35
2	\$ 364,673	83	167	\$ 4,393.65	\$2,183.67
2	\$ 471,883	115	270	\$ 4,103.33	\$1,747.71
4	\$1,116,350	269	630	\$ 4,150.00	\$1,771.98

Note: A total of 516 homes were weatherized during this program year.



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LIEAP & WAP 2015-2016 INCOME GUIDELINES

- U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) sets LIEAP Income Guidelines yearly.
- States may choose to either use 150% of the FPL or 60% of state median household income (WY currently uses 60% of SMI).
- U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) sets WAP Income Guidelines yearly.
- States may use 200% of FPL or use LIEAP guidelines (WY currently uses LIEAP Guidelines).
- Income limits fluctuate on an annual basis for both programs and income limits are affected by the overall State economic situation (if state median household incomes decrease, then program income limits also decrease and vice versa).



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OTHER PROGRAMS

(Note: Programs B-F are administered by agencies external to DFS)

A. The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

- Purpose - The TEFAP program is a federal program that helps supplement the diets of low-income Americans, including elderly people, by providing them with emergency food and nutrition assistance at no cost.
- The TEFAP Program offers a significant return on investment in the form of food provided to Wyoming's citizens. For example, in 2015 the TEFAP program distributed over one million pounds of food to food banks across the state. State general funds contributed less than \$50,000 towards the management and distribution costs associated with the program. This means that for each dollar spent by Wyoming, over 20 pounds of food was made available to those in need.
- Eligibility – Recipients must reside in the geographic location served by the agency at the time of receiving assistance. The households must meet the same income guidelines as SNAP. Self-declaration by the household is sufficient for income verification. Recipients may be required to fill out a self-declaration eligibility form.

B. Social Security Benefits

- Purpose – To assure a minimum level of income to people who are aged, blind, or disabled and who have limited income and resources.
- Eligibility – The specific eligibility requirements for Social Security benefits vary depending on the type of benefits, the age of the person filing the claim, and if claiming as a dependent or survivor, the age of the worker. There is one general requirement that applies to all Social Security programs except for SSI (Supplemental Security Income) – The worker whom the benefit is to be paid must have worked in "covered employment" for a sufficient number of years. This means that the individual must have earned enough of what Social Security calls "work credits" by the time he or she claims retirement or disability benefits, or dies (usually a total of at least ten years of work). To receive Social Security retirement benefits, a person must be between the ages of 62 and 70.



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C. Unemployment Insurance Benefits

- Purpose – Unemployment insurance benefits provide temporary financial assistance to workers unemployed through no fault of their own that meet Wyoming's eligibility requirements.
- Eligibility – The individual must have worked in Wyoming during the past 12 to 18 months and have earned at least a minimum amount of wages as determined by the guidelines. An individual must also be available to work each week that s/he is collecting benefits. An individual must have minimum earnings of \$3,350 during a 1-year base period. If at any time a full-time job is obtained, the client is disqualified from the program.

D. Housing

- Purpose – To provide decent, safe, and sanitary housing to elderly, disabled and economically disadvantaged families who are unable to obtain housing through conventional means.
- Eligibility - The Cheyenne Housing Authority (CHA) looks at the following information to determine eligibility of the applicant household:
 - Citizenship – The CHA can only assist households who meet the eligible citizenship prescribed by regulations;
 - Criminal Background/Sex Offenders – The CHA may not assist registered sex offenders or households/individuals with a history of violent criminal or drug related behavior;
 - Previous tenancy in assisted housing – The CHA cannot assist tenants who owe money related to a previous tenancy in assisted housing; and
 - Income Eligibility – Eligibility for housing assistance is based on household income. The income limits are used to determine income eligibility and is based on gross income.
- Section 8 Housing Vouchers and Public Housing Assistance are provided through Housing Authorities such as Cheyenne Housing Authority and Casper Housing Authority, which are the two active low-income housing authorities in Wyoming. The funding for Section 8 Housing and Public Housing Assistance is through federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Section 8 Housing Vouchers provide rental assistance toward the payment of rent. Public Housing Assistance provides housing units to low-income families. These programs are not managed through DFS or any state agency. Both Housing programs are active in the statewide Continuum of Care that surrounds homelessness.

E. Additional Medicaid program information is available upon request from the Wyoming Department of Health.

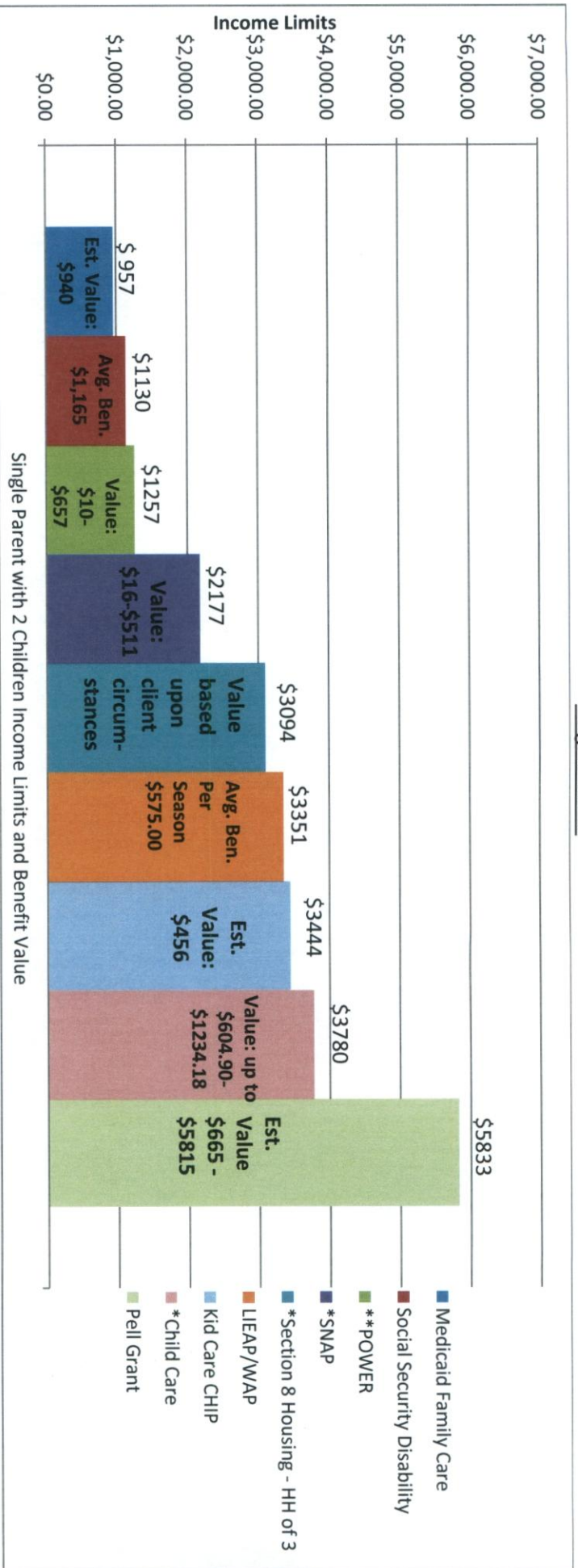


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F. Pell Grants

- Purpose – The Federal Pell Grant Program provides need-based grants to low-income undergraduate and certain post baccalaureate students to promote access to postsecondary education. Students may use their grants at any one of approximately 5,400 participating postsecondary institutions.
- Eligibility - Grant amounts are dependent on the student's expected family contribution (EFC); the cost of attendance (as determined by the institution); the student's enrollment status (full-time or part-time); and whether the student attends for a full academic year or less. The basic eligibility criteria for a Pell Grant include:
 - Financial need;
 - U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen;
 - Valid Social Security number;
 - Registration with Selective Service, if male;
 - Enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a regular student in an eligible degree or certificate program;
 - Maintain satisfactory academic progress in college or career school;
 - Qualified to obtain a college or career school education.

Chart #1
 Monthly Income Guidelines
 Single Parent with two (2) Children
 August 2016



- For the Medicaid Family Care program, the monthly income limit for a household of three with the 5% disregard for Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) programs is \$957. This could be a single parent with two children or a two parent household with one child. The household could have up to 132 hours of work at \$7.25 an hour.
- For Social Security, the income limit for an individual is \$1,130 per month.
- For the POWER program \$657 is the monthly adjusted gross income limit. A single parent is given a \$600 income disregard so the gross income limit is \$1,257. A single parent can work full-time (172 hours) at \$7.27 an hour before s/he is over the adjusted gross income limit.
- For SNAP a single parent can work full-time (172 hours) at \$12.66 before s/he is over the monthly gross income limit.
- For housing assistance a single parent can work full-time (172 hours) at \$17.99 before s/he is over the monthly gross income limit.
- For LIEAP/WAP a single parent can work full-time (172 hours) at \$19.48 before s/he is over the monthly gross income limit.
- For Kid Care CHIP, for a household of three, the monthly gross income limit is \$3,444. This amount includes the 5% disregard for Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) programs. For Kid Care CHIP one person could work full-time (172 hours) at \$20.02 an hour.
- For Child Care a single parent can work full-time (172 hours) at \$21.98 before s/he is over the monthly gross income limit.
- To be eligible for a Pell Grant, a single parent can work full time (172 hours) at \$33.91 before s/he is over the monthly adjusted gross income limit.

*Child support is counted as income for these programs.

** For POWER only, child support counts in the initial month if it was received prior to application dates. Once the parent applies for POWER, the state retains any future child support payments.

Chart #1
Monthly Income Guidelines
 Single Parent with two (2) Children
 August 2016

Program Countable Income

The following table indicates which assistance program benefits count as income when determining eligibility for other benefit programs.

	Social Security Disability	POWER	Pell Grant	Veterans Benefits	State Supp & SSI	Child Support
Medicaid Family Care	X (in certain circumstances)					
POWER	X			X (in certain circumstances)		X (for application month)
SNAP	X	X		X (VA Disability)	X	X
Section 8 Housing	X	X		X		X
LIEAP/WAP	X					
Kid Care CHIP	X (in certain circumstances)					
Child Care Subsidy		X	X	X	X	X
Pell Grant				X		X

Chart #1
Monthly Income Guidelines
Single Parent with two (2) Children
August 2016

Current Fiscal Cliff Prevention Processes

POWER - If a household goes off of POWER due to excess income, they have an option to participate in the TANF transitional program. If the family elects to participate, they can receive half of the monthly allotment they were receiving when they went off the benefit. The transition months count toward the sixty (60) month limit and the client continues to work with their case manager at the Department of Workforce Services in an Individual Responsibility Plan (IRP).

For example, a single parent household was receiving a \$400.00 POWER payment. They get a job and are over income for POWER. If they choose to participate in the transitional program, they can receive \$200.00 in POWER for an additional six months even though they are now over income for the program.

SNAP - Monthly allotments are based on a combination of income and expenses. As a client's income increases, their benefits decrease based on the formula below. This computation allows for a gradual decrease of SNAP benefits as income increases. The income limit at which clients fall off of benefits is based on household size and is determined by Food and Nutrition Services (FNS).

Benefit Computation	Example
Multiply net income by 30%... (Round up)	\$1,132 net monthly income x .3 = 339.60 (round up to \$340)
Subtract 30% of net income from the maximum allotment for the household size...	\$511 max. allotment for HH of 3 - \$340 (30% of net income) = \$171 SNAP allotment for a full month

Housing - There is a six month transition period once a client goes over the income limit for housing assistance. The client gets six months at their current rent rate and then they transition off of the assistance program.

LIEAP – LIEAP eligibility is determined once a year for the entire LIEAP season.

Chart #1
Monthly Income Guidelines
Single Parent with two (2) Children
August 2016

Current Fiscal Cliff Prevention Processes cont.

Child Care - There are six steps within the Child Care Subsidy program that allow for a gradual decrease of benefits and an increased client co-pay. Below is an example of how a client could move through the six Child Care Steps:

Step	Income	Parent Contribution
Step #1	\$0 - \$1680	Parent would pay \$0 out of pocket per hour per child
Step #2	\$1681 - \$2100	Parent would pay \$.11 per hour per child out of pocket
Step #3	\$2101 - \$2520	Parent would pay \$.22 per hour per child out of pocket
Step #4	\$2521 - \$2940	Parent would pay \$.80 per hour per child out of pocket
Step #5	\$2941 - \$3360	Parent would pay \$1.17 per hour per child out of pocket
Step #6	\$3361 - \$3780	Parent would pay \$1.71 per hour per child out of pocket

Options

The assistance programs within DFS are designed to slowly transition clients off of benefits and set them up for self-sufficiency success. The chart on Page 1 depicts the varying income limits allowed by each program and highlights the gradual reduction of benefits.

The options below could be explored in an attempt to provide clients the greatest opportunity to become independent of government assistance.

Option #1 – Expand Simplified Reporting to all DFS Assistance Programs

Currently SNAP utilizes a process called Simplified Reporting. Simplified Reporting allows for SNAP clients to only report changes in income once their income is above 130% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). This option allows for a client to increase their income and still receive the same amount of benefits during their current certification period. Simplified Reporting could be expanded to include POWER in order for those clients to receive similar advantages. The Child Care Subsidies program will utilize a similar simplified reporting structure beginning October 1, 2016.

Chart #1
Monthly Income Guidelines
Single Parent with two (2) Children
August 2016

Option #2 – Incentivize Employment and Training Programs for all DFS Assistance Programs

By encouraging clients to participate in an Employment and Training program they are more likely to become employed in an area where higher wage earnings are possible. While this does not directly alleviate the fiscal cliff issue, it does help to reduce dependence on government assistance. Additionally, clients who participate in an Employment and Training program could be provided an increase in benefits as a way to incentivize participation.

Option #3 – Require Budgeting Classes for all Clients Receiving Assistance

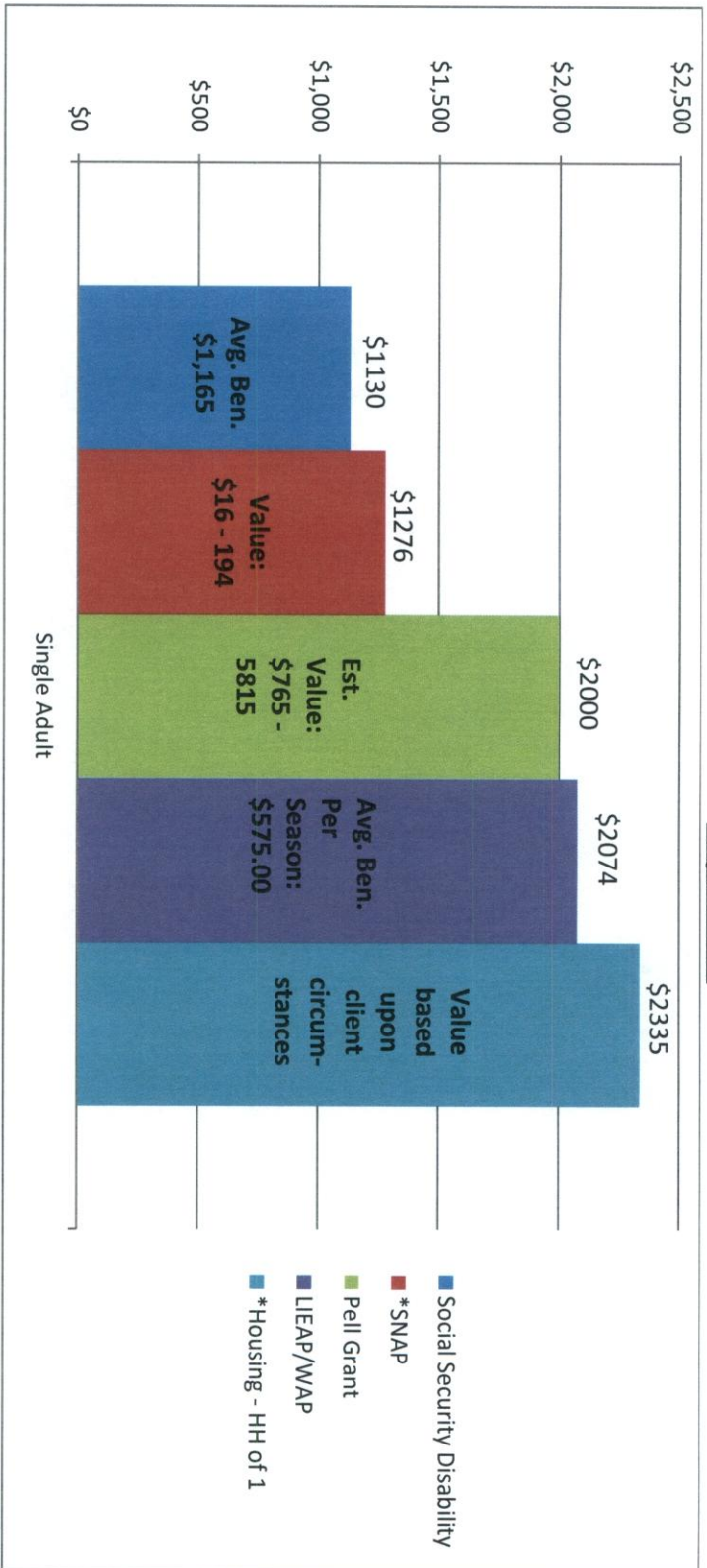
Currently SNAP Education (SNAP-Ed) is an optional program that SNAP clients can participate in to enhance their budgeting skills, especially in the area of food purchases. The SNAP-Ed program could be broadened to include additional budgeting areas and applied across all assistance programs. While this does not alleviate the fiscal cliff, it could equip clients with the tools they need to remain self-sufficient once employment is gained.

Option #4 - Provide cash incentives to clients who obtain and maintain self-sufficiency

This option is similar to Option #2 in that it promotes self-sufficiency through employment. Clients would be incentivized to gain self-sufficiency because they would have the opportunity to be awarded up to four (4) cash payments in a year's time if they gain self-sufficiency. Self-sufficiency for the purposes of this proposal would be defined as obtaining earned income which exceeds the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for SNAP. Clients participating in this program would be required to reach self-sufficiency within three (3) months of signing a self-sufficiency agreement. Below is an example of how this program would promote long-term self-sufficiency:

- 3 months post enrollment - If verification through paystubs shows that a client's wages exceed the FPL for their household size, they will receive a \$100 check.
*Once this income is reported, the change would be acted on and their benefits would end accordingly.
- 6 months post enrollment – If the client is still employed with verifiable income which exceeds the FPL for their household size, they will receive a \$150 check.
- 9 months post enrollment - If the client is still employed with verifiable income which exceeds the FPL for their household size, they will receive a \$200 check.
- 12 months post enrollment - If the client is still employed with verifiable income which exceeds the FPL for their household size, they will receive a \$250 check.

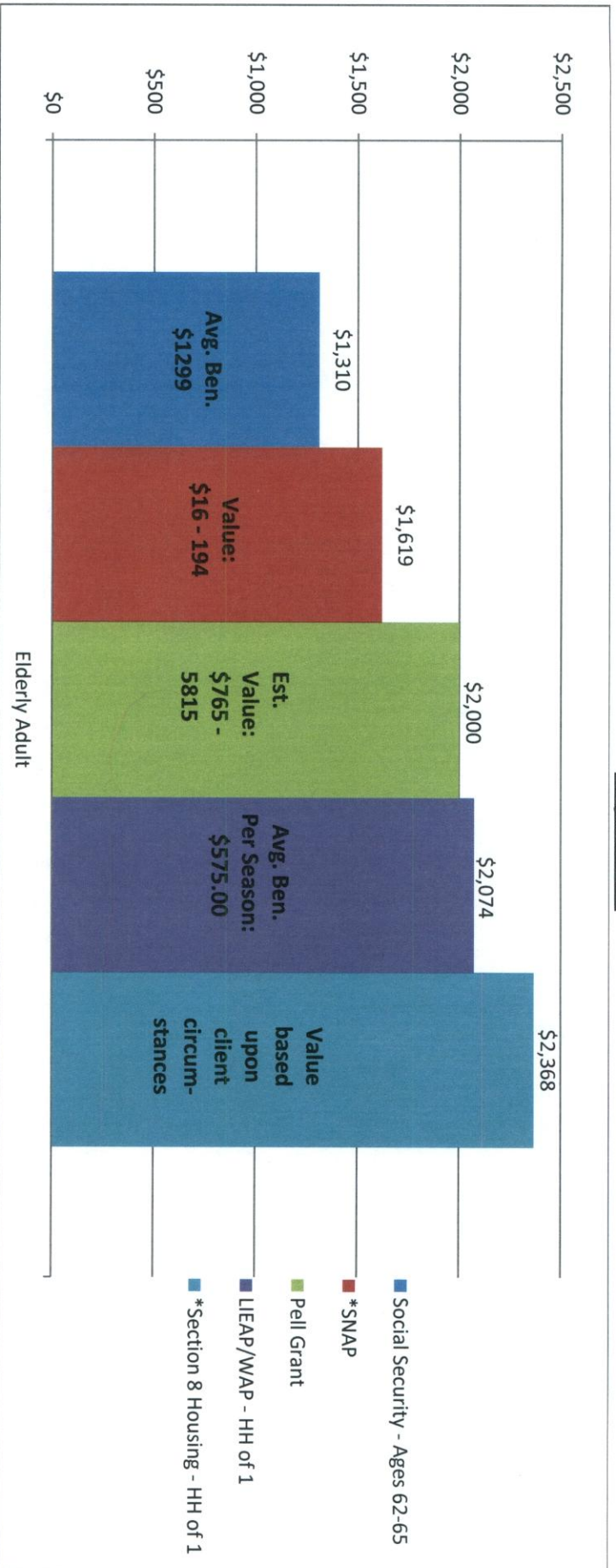
Chart #2
Monthly Income Guidelines
Single Adult
August 2016



- For Social Security, the monthly gross income limit for an individual is \$1,130 per month.
- For SNAP, a single adult can work full-time (172 hours) at \$7.42 before s/he is over the monthly gross income limit.
- For LEAP/WAP, a single adult can work full-time (172 hours) at \$12.06 before s/he is over the monthly gross income limit.
- For housing assistance, a single adult can work full-time (172 hours) at \$13.58 before s/he is over the monthly gross income limit.
- For Child Care, a single adult without dependents is not eligible.
- For Medicaid, a single adult is not classified as having a "group" that they would qualify under without having other special requirements.
- For POWER, an adult without dependents is not eligible.
- To be eligible for a Pell Grant, a single adult can work full time (172 hours) at \$11.63 before s/he is over the monthly adjusted gross income limit.

*Child Support counts as income for these programs.

Chart #3
Monthly Income Guidelines
Elderly Adult
August 2016



- For Social Security the gross income limit for an individual between the ages of 62-65 (pre-retirement age) is \$1,310 per month. For an individual age 66 (retirement age) there is no income limit.
 - For SNAP, the monthly gross income limit for an elderly adult (age 60+) is \$1,619.
 - For LIEAP/WAP, the monthly gross income limit for an elderly adult (HH of 1) is \$2,074.
 - For housing assistance a single adult can work full-time (172 hours) at \$13.77 before s/he is over the income limit.
 - For Child Care, an adult without dependents is not eligible.
 - For Medicaid, an adult is not classified as having a "group" that they would qualify under without having other special requirements.
 - For POWER, an adult without dependents is not eligible.
 - To be eligible for a Pell Grant, a single adult can work full time (172 hours) at \$11.63 before s/he is over the monthly adjusted gross income limit.
- *Child Support counts as income for these programs.