



## Guide to Benefits.gov for Families

### What is Benefits.gov?

As the official benefits website of the U.S. government, Benefits.gov is dedicated to connecting citizens to available benefit programs. With information on over 1,200 programs, the program you're looking for could be just a few simple steps away. Benefits.gov can help you learn what benefits you may be eligible to receive and how to apply for these benefits.

### How can Benefits.gov help you?

You work hard and still worry whether you're doing enough to meet your family's needs. Use Benefits.gov to explore assistance programs that may provide help with childcare and buying groceries.

### What can you expect to find?

Here are just a few benefits for which you may be eligible:

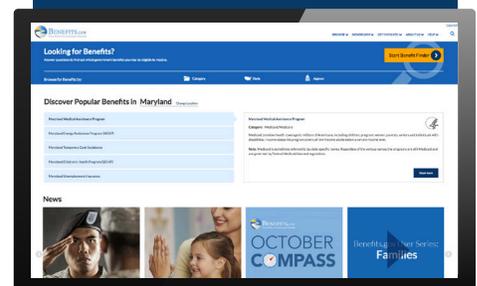
- The **Head Start** program (for children ages 3-5) and **Early Head Start** program (for pregnant women, infants and toddlers) promote school readiness for children in low-income families by providing comprehensive educational, health, nutritional, and social services.
- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, provides food benefits, access to a healthy diet, and education on food preparation and nutrition to low-income households. Recipients spend their benefits (provided on an electronic card that is used like an ATM card) to buy eligible food in authorized retail food stores.
- The **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009** contains COBRA premium assistance provisions that expand COBRA eligibility and provide eligible individuals with a 65 percent reduction of their COBRA premiums for up to 9 months. If eligible, these individuals pay only 35 percent of their COBRA premiums to the plan and the remaining 65 percent is paid by the employer through a payroll tax credit.
- ...And more!



### Get Started on your search today!

Click the confidential *Benefit Finder* on the homepage to begin answering questions about your current situation. You will be able to instantly view a list of benefits that you may be eligible for based on your responses.

Start Benefit Finder 



Benefits.gov offers multiple ways to search for benefits. Click on the "Benefits" tab and browse by category, state or Federal agency to help you quickly find the government benefits you are looking for so you can start your application process and be on your way toward improving your life.

You can also search our site by clicking the *search icon* and typing a keyword or phrase into the Search box.