

# Public Assistance Information for Montana AmeriCorps Members

*Updated 7/2022*



# Remember...

You **may or may not** be eligible for public assistance in Montana.

**Eligibility** is determined on a case-by-case basis.



**Eligibility can be dependent on things like...**

- Age & ability
- Expenses
- Assets (car, home, etc.)
- \$\$ in bank accounts
- Additional Income (like a part-time job outside of your service)

**Eligibility is impacted by your stream of service**

- **Example:** AmeriCorps **State & National** members may apply for SNAP *after* their term of service has begun, but **VISTA** members must apply *before* their service start date

# Montana DPHHS Public Assistance Programs

<p><b><u>SNAP</u> – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provides food &amp; nutrition assistance to eligible people</li><li>• Funds delivered to an assigned Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) debit card</li></ul>	<p><b><u>LIEAP</u> – Low-Income Energy Assistance Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Offers energy bill &amp; weatherization assistance for eligible renters &amp; homeowners</li><li>• Energy bill assistance available October 1 – April 30</li><li>• Weatherization assistance available anytime</li></ul>
<p><b><u>TANF</u> – Temporary Assistance for Needy Families</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provides a monthly cash benefit to eligible families to assist with basic ongoing needs</li></ul>	<p><b><u>WIC</u> – Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, &amp; Children</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Offers healthy food, breastfeeding support, nutrition tips, and connection to community resources for eligible parents and pregnant women</li></ul>

# SNAP

## Information:

- [dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/SNAP](https://dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/SNAP)
- Benefits **can** be used for:
  - Groceries
  - Plants/seeds to grow food
- Benefits **cannot** be used for:
  - Nonfood items (cosmetics, paper products, etc.)
  - Alcohol or tobacco
  - Vitamins or medicines
  - Hot foods

## How to Apply:

- Apply Online:  
[apply.mt.gov](https://apply.mt.gov)
- Call the Public Assistance Helpline:  
**1-888-706-1535**
- Visit your local Office of Public Assistance  
**See locations here:**  
[dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/OfficeofPublicAssistance](https://dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/OfficeofPublicAssistance)
- [Email](#) for a PDF application
- Need more assistance? Visit  
[montanalawhelp.org/issues/public-benefits](https://montanalawhelp.org/issues/public-benefits)



# LIEAP

## Information:

- [dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/energyassistance](https://dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/energyassistance)
- If you receive benefits from SNAP, TANF, or Supplemental Security Income, you **may** automatically qualify for LIEAP



## How to Apply:

- Call LIEAP Number:  
**1-833-317-1080**
- Contact an Eligibility Office  
**See locations here:**  
[dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/energyassistance/liheapoffices](https://dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/energyassistance/liheapoffices)
- Need more assistance? Visit  
[montanalawhelp.org/issues/public-benefits](https://montanalawhelp.org/issues/public-benefits)



# Applying as an AmeriCorps Member

- Your Living Allowance/any payments from your program are **not considered income** for SNAP, LIEAP, or TANF eligibility
- Ask your program staff for a **Proof of Service letter** to bring when you apply
- Need more assistance? Visit [montanalawhelp.org/issues/public-benefits](http://montanalawhelp.org/issues/public-benefits)



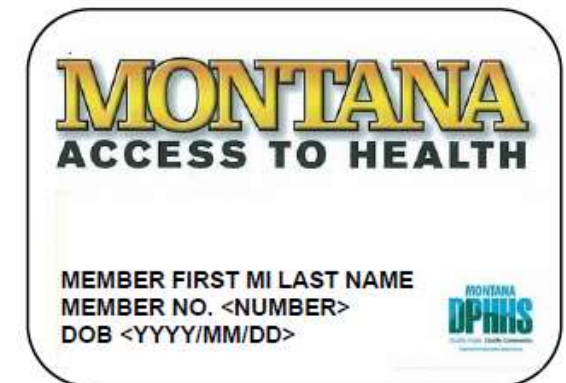
# Medicaid – healthcare benefits for income-eligible Montanans

- Montana Medicaid

- Apply here: [apply.mt.gov/](https://apply.mt.gov/)
- Montana Medicaid Guide: [dphhs.mt.gov/assets/hrd/MedicaidMemberGuide2020.pdf](https://dphhs.mt.gov/assets/hrd/MedicaidMemberGuide2020.pdf)
- General Information: [dphhs.mt.gov/montanahealthcareprograms/memberservices](https://dphhs.mt.gov/montanahealthcareprograms/memberservices)
- For more information and to determine eligibility, contact:
  - Public Assistance Help Line:  
  
1-888-706-1535
  - Your local Office of Public Assistance: [dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/OfficeofPublicAssistance](https://dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/OfficeofPublicAssistance)
- Need more assistance? Visit [montanalawhelp.org/issues/public-benefits](https://montanalawhelp.org/issues/public-benefits)

- Federal Medicaid

- Medicaid is a federal-state partnership. State-specific information will be most useful
- General Information: [medicaid.gov/](https://www.medicaid.gov/)



# Child Care for AmeriCorps Members

- AmeriCorps offers childcare benefits to active, full-time members who qualify
- More information: [americorpschildcare.com/index.cfm](http://americorpschildcare.com/index.cfm)
- Montana Childcare Providers:  
[dphhs.mt.gov/childcareprovidersdashboard](http://dphhs.mt.gov/childcareprovidersdashboard)
  - Not all providers at this link qualify as AmeriCorps Childcare providers





# Community Resources

- Community Gardens
  - Some have public plots that community members can harvest food from, or offer volunteers food in exchange for service
- Thrift stores
  - Some local thrift stores offer financial or in-store assistance to eligible individuals (E.g., vouchers to purchase winter clothes at the thrift store)
- Farmers Markets
  - Many accept SNAP benefits
- Local Food Banks
  - Food and sometimes toiletries available
- Local libraries
  - Provide free internet, community gatherings, & more
  - Must prove residency to obtain **free** library card (Lease or utility bill in your name is common documentation; ask library for guidance)
- Local Credit Unions
  - Many offer free financial literacy education/programs
- Local United Way
  - Works to advance the common good in communities across the world

# Questions?

## THANK YOU!



**AmeriCorps**  
Montana