

Public Assistance Information for Montana AmeriCorps Members

Updated 12/2024



AmeriCorps
Montana

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

SNAP – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

- Provides food & nutrition assistance to eligible people
- Funds delivered to an assigned Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) debit card

LIEAP – Low-Income Energy Assistance Program

- Offers energy bill & weatherization assistance for eligible renters & homeowners
- Energy bill assistance available October 1 – April 30
- Weatherization assistance available anytime

TANF – Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

- Provides a monthly cash benefit to eligible families to assist with basic ongoing needs

WIC – Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, & Children

- Offers healthy food, breastfeeding support, nutrition tips, and connection to community resources for eligible parents and pregnant women

SNAP

Information:

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



LIEAP

Information:

- 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
- Need more assistance? Visit
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



Medicaid – healthcare benefits for income-eligible Montanans

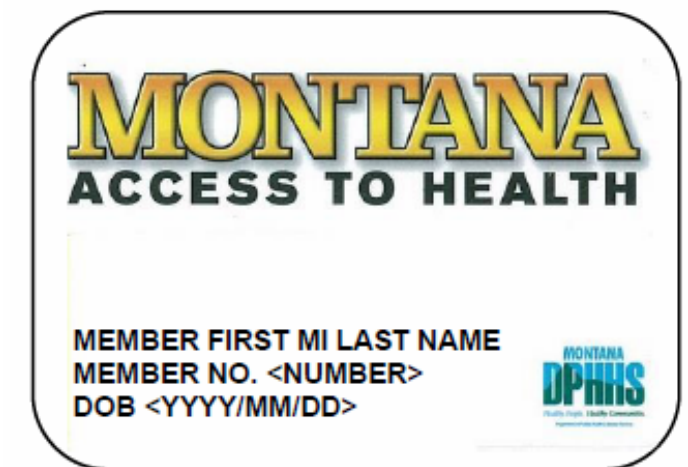
- Montana Medicaid

- Apply here: apply.mt.gov/
- Montana Medicaid Guide: dphhs.mt.gov/assets/hrd/MedicaidMemberGuide2020.pdf
- General Information: 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
- Need more assistance? Visit 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
- Montana Childcare Providers:
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!



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