

Detailed Information on State of Hawaii Assistance Programs

Hawaii Financial Assistance

Program Description

The Hawaii Financial Assistance program provides assistance to needy families with (or expecting) children and provides parents with job preparation, work and support services that enable them to leave the program and become self-sufficient. This is accomplished through strategies implemented in the Pursuit of New Opportunities (PONO) welfare reform program which delivers cash assistance and the First-to-Work (FTW) program which provides employment preparation and support services.

General Program Requirements

In order to qualify for this benefit program, you must be a resident of Hawaii, either pregnant or responsible for a child under 19 years of age, a US national, citizen, legal alien, or permanent resident, have low or very low income, and be either under-employed (working for very low wages), unemployed or about to become unemployed.

Program Contact Information

To fill out an online application for Hawaii Financial Assistance (TANF), please go to:

<https://www.realchoices.org/AGModules/Forms/FormLoader.aspx?FormID=3>

To learn more about the Hawaii Financial Assistance program please contact the Hawaii Department of Human Services Benefit, Employment Support Services Division at:
808-643-1643

Hawaii Food Stamp Program

Program Description

The Food Stamp Program helps supplement food budgets for low-income working families and individuals, people on public assistance, seniors and people with disabilities. In Hawaii, Food Stamp benefits are distributed through the state's Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) system.

General Program Requirements

In order to qualify for this benefit program, you must be a resident of the State of Hawaii and fall into one of two groups: (1) those with a current bank balance (savings and checking combined) under \$2,001, or (2) those with a current bank balance (savings and checking combined) under \$3,001 who share their household with a person or persons age 60 and over, or with a person with a disability (a child, your spouse, a parent, or yourself). For either group, you must also have an annual household income of less than \$11,677 if one person lives in the household; \$15,757 if two people live in the household; \$19,849 if three people live in the household; \$23,929 if four people live in the household; \$28,009, if five people live in the household; \$32,089 if six people live in the household; \$36,169 if seven people live in the household; or \$40,249 if more than seven people live in the household.

Program Contact Information

For more information about the Food Stamp Program or any of the Food and Consumer Service's 15 nutrition assistance programs, contact the Food and Consumer Service Public Information Staff at:
703-305-2286

Locally, please call the Public Assistance Information Line at:
808-643-1643

This is an interactive voice response unit that will provide general information and office locations. Please note that this number is accessible only to calls originating within Hawaii.

Hawaii Head Start

Program Description

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. Parents play a large role in the programs, both as primary educators of their children and as participants in administering the programs locally. Both programs provide pre-literacy and literacy experiences in a multi-cultural environment. Parents are also provided social services, including assistance with childcare.

General Program Requirements

In order to qualify for this benefit program, you must be a resident of the State of Hawaii, you must be a parent or primary caregiver responsible for a child who is too young for public school and your household's annual income before taxes must not exceed \$10,700 if you have one person in the household; \$14,360 if you have two people living in the household; \$18,020 if you have three people living in the household; \$21,680 if you have four people living in the household; \$25,340 if you have five people living in the household; \$29,000 if you have six people living in the household; \$32,660 if you have seven people living in the household; \$36,320 if you have eight people living in the household; \$39,980 if you have nine people living in the household; \$43,640 if you have 10 people living in the household; \$47,300 if you have 11 people living in the household; \$50,960 if you have 12 people living in the household; \$54,620 if you have 13 people living in the household; \$58,280 if you have 14 people living in the household; \$61,940 if you have 15 people living in the household; \$65,600 if you have 16 people living in the household; and \$69,260 if you have 17 people living in the household.

If you do not meet these criteria, you may still qualify if you are a U.S. national, citizen or permanent resident whose financial status is low income or very low income, who is under-employed, unemployed or about to become unemployed, facing pregnancy, less than 19 years of age yourself, or the parent or primary caregiver for children under the age of 19 years. Other qualifications may apply.

Program Contact Information

You can call Jacqueline Rose of the Hawaii Head Start-State Collaboration Office at:
808-586-5232

For further information on the program or to locate a Head Start provider in your area, please visit:

<http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/hsb/hsweb/index.jsp>

Hawaii LIHEAP Program

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program

Program Description

In 1980, Congress enacted the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, authorizing assistance to eligible households to offset the rising costs of home energy. The U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services administers the program nationally, and distributes Federal monies among state and other grantees according to an allocation formula. Each grantee uniquely structures its own program following Federal guidelines. Hawaii households may apply for help with either their shut-off or regular heating bill, from either the electric or gas company on their island. Applications are accepted during the month of June. If eligible, households receive a one-time credit deposited directly into their utility accounts. Assistance to alleviate shut-off is immediate, however, the utility company must verify the amount needed to restore service; maximum shut-off credit is \$100. Help with regular heating bills is distributed in the latter part of the year, pro-rated among the total number of applicants statewide, and varied by factors such as household size, household income, region, etc. The Hawaii Department of Human Services administers LIHEAP statewide, and utilizes local community action agencies on each island to process applications for the department.

General Program Requirements

In order to qualify for this benefit program, you must be a resident of the State of Hawaii and must submit your original, current bill from the electric company or The Gas Company and proof that you reside at the service address on the bill. The entire energy household must be included in the application. Annual income limits are subject to change. For FFY 2003 the limits are \$15,945 for one person, \$20,901 for two persons, \$26,325 for three persons, \$31,740 for four persons (add \$5,415 for each additional member). Additional eligibility criteria must be reviewed with the household during the application interview.

Program Contact Information

On the island of Oahu, contact HCAP (Honolulu Community Action Program) at:
808-521-4531

For Hawaii island, contact HCEOC (Hawaii County Economic Opportunity Council) at:
808-961-2681

For Maui, Molokai, Lanai, contact MEO (Maui Economic Opportunity) at:
808-249-2970

For the island of Kauai, contact KEO (Kauai Economic Opportunity) at:
808-245-4077

Or contact the State LIHEAP Program Office at:
808-586-5734

Hawaii Medicaid Fee-For-Service Program

Program Description

Medical assistance is medical coverage provided for eligible low-income Hawaii residents. Hawaii has two medical assistance programs called Hawaii QUEST and Medicaid Fee-For-Service. Generally, for eligible individuals who are age 65 and over, or certified blind or disabled, coverage is provided under Hawaii's Medicaid Fee-For-Service Program where providers are paid directly for covered services. For all other eligible individuals, coverage is provided under a managed care program called Hawaii QUEST.

The income standard used to determine your eligibility would depend on your coverage group. When applying for Medicaid, the Department will determine your coverage group and use the income standard of that group to determine your eligibility.

General Program Requirements

In order to qualify for this benefit program, you must be a resident of the State of Hawaii, a US national, citizen, or qualified alien in need of medical assistance, whose financial situation would be characterized as low income. You must also be age 65 or older, blind, or disabled. You must meet certain income and asset levels to become eligible. Adults must not have countable income that is more than 100% of the current Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Children under age 19 must not have countable income that is more than 200% FPL. Pregnant women must not have countable income that is more than 185% FPL (her household size includes the unborn child(ren)). You cannot have more countable assets than the amount that is listed. 1. \$2,000

for a household of one; 2. \$3,000 for a household of two; 3. \$250 for each additional person. 4. Asset limits do not apply to individuals under age 19, or to pregnant women for the duration of the pregnancy plus 60 days.

Program Contact Information

Contact the nearest office of the Med-QUEST Division's Eligibility Branch to request an application form. Go to this link for a list of eligibility offices:

<http://www.med-quest.us/contact/index.html>

The Med-QUEST Division accepts applications at eligibility offices located throughout Hawaii. (Most hospitals and certain health centers have also made arrangements to forward your medical application to us.) If you are currently receiving food stamps, your caseworker can process your medical application.

For more information, please visit the Med-QUEST Division's web site:

<http://www.med-quest.us>

Complete the application form and return it to the Med-QUEST office. They may contact you to schedule an appointment to establish your eligibility. You may be required at that time to provide verification of your date of birth, citizenship, Social Security Number, income, and assets. If you are unable to represent yourself, you may appoint someone to represent you. This could be your spouse, adult child, sibling, other relatives, a friend, or anyone else who knows of your situation.

To access and print an application form go to:

<http://www.med-quest.us/forms/eligibility/forms/DHS%201100%20Rev.%200303-Fi...>

Hawaii Quest

Program Description

Medical assistance is medical coverage provided for eligible low-income

Hawaii residents. Hawaii has two medical assistance programs called Hawaii QUEST and Medicaid Fee-For-Service.

Hawaii QUEST, commonly known as QUEST is a program that provides health coverage through health plans for eligible Hawaii residents. It provides medical and mental health services. Dental services are provided under the Medicaid Fee-For-Service Program. QUEST is administered by the Department of Human Services, Med-QUEST Division and is financed through the State of Hawaii and the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

If you are pregnant and need medical coverage, you may apply for medical assistance at any time. Even if you applied before and were not eligible, you may be eligible now.

Special eligibility workers are assigned to quickly process applications from pregnant women. If you are eligible, they can help you enroll faster so that you can get prenatal care as soon as possible.

To receive special processing, be sure your application says that you are pregnant. For eligibility purposes, either a home pregnancy test or a health care provider, who could be a physician, a nurse midwife, a pediatric nurse practitioner, or a family nurse practitioner, must medically verify pregnancy. A pregnant woman, however, shall not be required to provide documentation that her pregnancy has been medically verified.

General Program Requirements

In order to qualify for this benefit program, you must be a resident of the State of Hawaii, a US national, citizen, or qualified alien in need of health care/insurance assistance, whose financial situation would be characterized as low income. You must not be age 65 or older, blind, or disabled. You must meet certain income and asset levels to become eligible. Adults must not have countable family income that is more than 100% of the current Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Children under age 19 must not have countable family income that is more than 200% FPL. Pregnant women must not have countable family income that is more than 185% FPL (her household size includes the unborn child(ren)). You cannot have more countable assets than the amount that is listed. 1.\$2,000 for a household of one; 2.\$3,000 for a household of two; 3.\$250 for each additional person. Asset limits do not apply to individuals under age 19, or to pregnant women for the duration of the pregnancy plus 60 days.

Program Contact Information

Contact the nearest office of the Med-QUEST Division's Eligibility Branch to request an application form. Go here for a list of eligibility offices:

<http://www.med-quest.us/contact/index.html>

To obtain and application go to the below link

<http://www.med-quest.us/forms/eligibility/forms/DHS%201100%20Rev.%200303-Fi...>

The Med-QUEST Division accepts applications at eligibility offices located throughout Hawaii. (Most hospitals and certain health centers have also made arrangements to forward your medical application to us.) If you are currently receiving food stamps, your caseworker can process your medical application.

Complete the application form and return it to the Med-QUEST office. They may contact you to schedule an appointment to establish your eligibility. You may be required at that time to provide verification of your date of birth, citizenship, Social Security Number, income, and assets. If you are unable to represent yourself, you may appoint someone to represent you. This could be your spouse, adult child, sibling, other relatives, a friend, or anyone else who knows of your situation.

For more information, please visit the Med-QUEST Division's web site:

<http://www.med-quest.us>

Hawaii School Breakfast and Lunch Program

Program Description

A school lunch program is to be provided in the public schools for the purposes of providing students with a nutritious meal at a minimum cost, providing learning experiences, and establishing desirable food habits. The National School Breakfast and Lunch Programs are administered by the Office of Hawaii Child Nutrition Programs (OHCNP).

General Program Requirements

In order to qualify for this benefit program, you must be a resident of the State of Hawaii and a parent or primary caregiver responsible for a child(ren) who attends school (high school or under). Those who qualify must also have an annual household income before taxes that must not exceed \$26,566 if two people live in the household; \$33,337 if three people live in the household;

\$40,108 if four people live in the household; \$46,879 if five people live in the household; \$53,650 if six people live in the household, or \$60,421 if seven people live in the household. For larger households, add \$6,771 for each additional person in the home.

Program Contact Information

Please call the Hawaii State Department of Education to ask about the School Breakfast and Lunch Program:
808-587-3600

or write to:
Hawaii State Department of Education
P.O. Box 2360
Honolulu, HI 96804

To contact the Office of Hawaii Child Nutrition Program, go to this website:

<http://doe.k12.hi.us/contactingus.htm>

You can contact your child's school to find out what meals are served and how to apply for free or reduced price school meals.

Hawaii Special Milk Program

Program Description

The Hawaii Special Milk Program provides milk to children in schools, childcare institutions, and eligible camps that do not participate in other Federal child nutrition meal service programs. Schools that participate in the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Programs, can participate in the Special Milk Program for half-day kindergarten and pre-kindergarten children who do not have access to a school meals program. The program reimburses schools and institutions for the milk they serve.

General Program Requirements

Any child in a school or institution that participates in the Special Milk Program can get milk. Schools may elect to offer free milk to low-income children. In order to qualify for this benefit program, you must be a resident of the State of Hawaii, your household's annual income before taxes must not exceed \$13,910 if one person lives in the household; \$18,668 if two people

live in the household; \$23,426 if three people live in the household; \$28,184 if four people live in the household; \$32,942 if five people live in the household; \$37,700 if six people live in the household; \$42,458 if seven people live in the household. For larger households, add \$4,758 for each additional person in the home.

Program Contact Information

You may also contact your local school district to learn more about Hawaii Special Milk.

To learn more about Hawaii Special Milk, please call the Department of Education at:
808-586-3230

Hawaii Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

Program Description

The WIC Program provides supplemental foods, nutrition education and referrals to health care, at no cost, to low-income pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, infants, and children up to age 5 who are determined to be at nutritional risk. To be fully eligible for the WIC Program, applicants must be determined by a health professional, at no cost, to be at nutritional risk (i.e., have certain medical-based or diet-based risk conditions).

General Program Requirements

In order to qualify for this benefit program, you must be a resident of the State of Hawaii, pregnant, breastfeeding or postpartum woman, infant or child up to 5 years of age and: (1) are individually determined by a health professional to be at nutrition risk; and, (2) meet an income standard, or are determined automatically income eligible. A person who participates or has family members who participate in certain other benefit programs, such as the Food Stamp Program, Medicaid or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, may automatically meet the income eligibility requirement. Please see the following Web Site for the income standard or maximum income limit for WIC eligibility: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/howtoapply/incomeguidelines03-04.htm>

Program Contact Information

For more information on Hawaii WIC, please visit the Hawaii Department of Human Resources (DHR):

<http://www.hawaiiwic.com>

You can also call the Hawaii WIC services branch on Oahu at: 586-8175 or from the neighbor islands toll-free at: 888-820-6425

Or if you have questions about the WIC program send an e-mail to: wic@mail.health.state.hi.us

Hawaii Summer Food Service

Program Description

The Summer Food Service program provides free, nutritious meals and snacks to help Hawaii children in low-income areas get the nutrition they need to learn, play, and grow, throughout the summer months when they are out of school.

General Program Requirements

In order to qualify for this benefit program, you must be a resident of the State of Hawaii, your household's annual income before taxes must not exceed \$19,795 if one person lives in the household; \$26,566 if two people live in the household; \$33,337 if three people live in the household; \$40,108 if four people live in the household; \$46,879 if five people live in the household; \$53,650 if six people live in the household; \$60,421 if seven people live in the household; \$67,192 if eight people live in the household. For larger households, add \$6,771 for each additional person in the home.

Program Contact Information

To learn more about Hawaii SFSP, please call the Hawaii Department of Education at: 808-586-3230

You may also contact your local school district to learn more about Hawaii SFSP.

Hawaii Unemployment Insurance

Program Description

Unemployment insurance benefits provide temporary financial assistance to workers unemployed through no fault of their own that meet Hawaii's eligibility requirements.

General Program Requirements

In order to qualify for this benefit program, you must be a resident of the State of Hawaii, have worked in the past 12 to 18 months, and have earned at least a minimum amount of wages as determined by our guidelines. You must also be able to work and available for work each week that you are collecting benefits.

Program Contact Information

In order to establish your unemployment insurance benefits or reopen an existing claim, call the telephone filing system, "Hawaii Tele-Claim." If you are in the State of Hawaii, call:
808-643-5555

If you are in another state, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, or Canada, call:
877-215-5793

If you cannot file your claim by telephone, you can report in-person to your nearest local office to file a claim in person. The addresses for the unemployment offices are on page 18 in the Unemployment Employers Manual:

http://hawaii.gov/labor/ui/pdf/STEP-BY-STEPS/claimant_process.pdf

If you do not have a touch-tone telephone or do not speak English, call Hawaii Tele-Claim and remain on the line for further instructions. If you are hearing-impaired, call your Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) and advise the TRS assistant to select Option 2 from the menu:
808-643-5555

Hawaii Weatherization Assistance Program**Program Description**

The Federally funded Weatherization Assistance Program, supplemented by other funds, has helped low-income families install insulation jackets and timers on water heaters, provided new heat pump water heaters, and offered

advice on improving energy efficiency.

General Program Requirements

In order to qualify for this benefit program, you must be a resident of the State of Hawaii, your household's annual income before taxes must not exceed \$16,050 if one person lives in the household; \$21,540 if two people live in the household; \$27,030 if three people live in the household; \$32,520 if four people live in the household; \$38,010 if five people live in the household; \$43,500 if six people live in the household; \$48,990 if seven people live in the household; and \$54,480 if more than seven people live in the household. For family units with more than 8 members, add \$3,660 for each additional member.

Program Contact Information

For additional information about the Hawaii Weather Assistance Program, please visit:

http://www.hawaii.gov/dbedt/ert/dsm_hi.html#anchor367806

You can also contact the State Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT) by calling:
808-586-2423

Or you can send an email to:
library@dbedt.hawaii.gov



**Native
American
Employment
and Training
Programs**

Program Description

This program supports employment and training activities for Native American, Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian individuals to develop their academic, occupational and literacy skills, make them more competitive in the workforce, and

promote the economic and social development of their communities.

General Program Requirements

In order to qualify for this benefit program, you must be unemployed or about to be unemployed and you or a family member must be a member of a Federally recognized American Indian tribe or Alaskan Native village; or you must be a Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, American Indian or Alaskan Native who is unemployed due to general declining economic conditions that make it unlikely for you to return to your previous employer.

Program Contact Information

Regional or Local Office: Persons are encouraged to contact the Homeownership Center serving their State, or the nearest local HUD Office. See Catalog Address Appendix IV for a list of offices.

<http://www.doleta.gov/DINAP/>

To access to a local directory of Indian and Native American Programs and find a program in your State, visit:

<http://www.doleta.gov/dinap/directory/dinap.cfm>

For more information, you may call a toll-free help line:
866-487-2365

Native Hawaiian Career and Technology Education Program

Program Description

The Native Hawaiian Career and Technical Education Program makes grants to organizations primarily serving and representing Native Hawaiians for programs or portions of programs authorized by, and consistent with, the Carl D. Perkins Vocational

and Technical Education Act.

General Program Requirements

Currently, the Governor of Hawaii is authorized to select an institution or institutions that primarily serve Native Hawaiians.

Program Contact Information

Headquarters Office:

Discretionary Programs Management Branch

Discretionary Programs and Innovation Group
Division of Academic and Technical Education
Office of Vocational and Adult Education
U.S. Department of Education

400 Maryland Ave SW
Washington, DC 20202

Web Site Address:

U.S. Department of Education

<http://www.ed.gov>

Native Hawaiian Health Systems

Program Description

The mission of the Native Hawaiian Health Care Program is to improve the health status of Native Hawaiians by advocating, initiating, and maintaining culturally appropriate strategic actions aimed at improving the physical, mental and spiritual health of Native Hawaiians.

The Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship provides financial support for Native Hawaiian students pursuing careers in selected health professions to increase the number of Native Hawaiians in health professions and to improve the availability of primary and preventative care services to Native Hawaiians in the State of Hawaii.

General Program Requirements

In order to qualify for this benefit program, you must be a US citizen and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.

Program Contact Information

For more information please visit:

<http://grants.gov>

Native Hawaiian Health Care Program
Bureau of Primary Health Care
Division of Programs for Special Populations
4350 East-West Highway
9th Floor
Bethesda, MD 20814
301-594-4476

VA - Home Loans - Native American Direct Loan (NADL) Program

Program Description

The Native American Direct Loan Program makes home loans available to eligible Native American veterans who wish to purchase, construct, or improve a home on Federal trust land.

The home must be your primary residence.

(It's also possible to use the program to re-finance an existing Native American Direct Loan.)

General Program Requirements

This program is designed specifically for Native Americans who want to purchase, build, or improve a home on Federal Trust Land.

Native Americans who may qualify for these loans include—

Veterans (including Reserve and National Guard members who were called to active

duty)
Active duty service members
Current Reserve and Guard members
(usually after 6 years of reserve service)

Commissioned Officers of the Public Health Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are considered to be active duty members and veterans, once discharged.

Length-of-service requirements apply in most cases.

Veterans must have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

In addition, you must either (a) be a Native American enrolled in an American Indian tribe or Alaskan Native village, a Pacific Islander or a Native Hawaiian; OR (b) be married to such a person.

You will need a valid Certificate of Eligibility (COE). You can get one from VA or from a lender using the Automated Certificate of Eligibility (ACE) program.

If you need to obtain your COE, contact a lender about obtaining your COE or download VA Form 26-1880, complete it and mail it (with proof of service) to our Winston-Salem Eligibility Center at:

VA Loan Eligibility Center
PO Box 20729
Winston-Salem, NC 27120

You can download the form at
<http://www.va.gov/vaforms/>.

Program Contact Information

More information about the Native American Veteran Direct Loan Program is available at:

<http://www.homeloans.va.gov/native.htm>

More information on establishing eligibility is available at:

<http://www.homeloans.va.gov/eligibility.htm>

Or you may contact a regional loan center. Locations are listed at:

<http://www.homeloans.va.gov/contact.htm>
