

Public Assistance-related Resources

Section 1: Introduction to Public Assistance

Government Benefits, Grants, and Financial Aid

<http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/Benefits.shtml>

Source: *USA.gov*

To quickly locate any federal benefit program, use this alphabetized listing of benefits and other types of public assistance programs, linking you to the federal site with detailed information. This information also available in Spanish:

<http://www.usa.gov/gobiernousa/Temas/Beneficios.shtml>

GovBenefits.gov

http://www.govbenefits.gov/govbenefits_en.portal

Here is another online portal to all types of government assistance programs, which can be searched by benefit type, federal agency, state program, etc. Once you select a category of assistance, the site provides information and links to related programs state-by-state. The Spanish version is here: http://www.govbenefits.gov/govbenefits_es.portal

Section 2: Cash Programs, Food Programs, Housing and Shelter Programs

Office of Family Assistance: About TANF

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/tanf/index.html>

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children & Families

This site unfortunately does not have a Spanish mirror site, but the English pages provide a great deal of information, including links to State programs and contacts, and a listing of names and acronyms used for this program by each state.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/fsp/>

Source: United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service
Previously known as Food Stamps, the SNAP program has a section specifically for applicants and recipients, as well as sections for nutrition education and outreach materials. Also available in Spanish: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fsp/outreach/sp-default.htm>

Women, Infants & Children (WIC)

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/>

Source: United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service
These pages for WIC include a section on “How to Apply,” with eligibility requirements and guidelines, and state contacts.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap/>

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children & Families

Here is an overview of the LIHEAP program, including a section for consumers and persons wishing to apply for this program. Currently, there is not a Spanish site, but there are several consumer documents in Spanish.

LIHEAP Clearinghouse: National Energy Assistance Referral

<http://liheap.ncat.org/referral.htm>

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children & Families

Because this federal program is applied by State grantees, often with very different eligibility requirements from state to state, ACF hosts this clearinghouse site, providing a central location to find contact information for your nearest LIHEAP program. There is also a page that provides names and contacts of LIHEAP directors by state or region.

HUD's Public Housing Program

<http://www.hud.gov/renting/phprog.cfm>

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

HUD describes their “Public Housing” program, which is designed to help low-income families and individuals find and pay rent for “safe and decent” housing. This page (also available in Spanish: <http://espanol.hud.gov/renting/phprog.cfm?lang=es>), also gives a link to programs available state-by-state.

Section 3: Legal Services, Health Programs, Programs for Children and finding local assistance

Legal Services Corporation

<http://www.lsc.gov/>

The Legal Services Corporation was created as a nationwide initiative to assist low-income persons with civic legal aid. There is a searchable map of state programs from their front page, and here: <http://www.lsc.gov/map/index.php>

Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.

<http://www.cliniclegal.org/>

Click on the “Programs” button to access CLINIC’s outreach programs, including the Center for Immigrant Rights (<http://www.cliniclegal.org/programs/center-for-immigrant-rights>), which includes a BIA Pro Bono project with access for legal representation for immigrants across the U.S. You may also search their affiliate directory:

<http://www.cliniclegal.org/about-us/affiliate-directory>

Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Service

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/home/medicaid.asp>

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

These federal pages explain the Medicaid and Medicare programs, with sections to search for providers of these services, either by provider type or special types of services. It also includes sections for service providers on outreach and education. These pages also encompass the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP):

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/home/chip.asp>

State Children's Health Information Program (SCHIP) Information Center

<http://www.schip-info.org/>

Source: National Center for Public Policy Research

This site would be the most helpful for service providers, furnishing papers and updates on the SCHIP Program, commentary, a blog and a poll for visitors. It also hosts links to organizations with further information about SCHIP.

Insure Kids Now!

<http://www.insurekidsnow.gov/>

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

This user-friendly site is designed for parents and families to visit, learn about state children's health insurance programs, and connect them to information on programs, eligibility and requirements in their state. The site is also available in Spanish:

<http://www.insurekidsnow.gov/espanol/default.asp>. If parents have questions, there is a hotline to call for assistance.

Directory of Migrant Health Centers & Primary Care Associations

http://www.migrantclinician.org/health_centers.html

Source: Migrant Clinicians Network

Migrant Health centers work to meet the needs of migrant farm workers and their families, with low or no-cost healthcare and services. Use the clickable map to receive a listing of these centers by state. For services providers, there is a "Migrant Info" page as well.

Office of Head Start

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ohs/>

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children & Families

Along with introductory information about Head Start, this site includes descriptions of programs and services, and a locator for Head Start Programs.

Even Start

<http://www.ed.gov/programs/evenstartformula/index.html>

Source: U.S. Department of Education

The Even Start program supports literacy for both adults and younger learners, as well as speakers of other languages, ESL. The “Contacts” page provides information for each state.

Catholic Charities

<http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/>

Click on “Meeting Peoples’ Basic Needs” to read about programs that assist with clothing, food, utilities, emergency assistance, etc. On that same page there is a “Contact” link that will take you to a page to search for local programs. Catholic Charities also has programs for immigrants in particular, including legal and immigration assistance (under “Special Populations”).

National Community Action Foundation

<http://www.ncaf.org/>

Community Action programs, located across the U.S., reach out with services that help lift individuals and families out of poverty, becoming self-sufficient and successful. Their programs often include outreach and help applying for many federal assistance programs, such as Head Start, LIHEAP and other energy assistance, health services, etc. Many programs include adult education as well, and in locations with Spanish-speaking populations, bilingual staff and/or programs are often available. Use the “Links/CAA Links” from the drop-down menu to access a clickable map to search for programs state-by-state, and by region.

General links of interest:

Immigrants and Public Benefits

<http://www.nilc.org/immspbs/index.htm>

Source: National Immigration Law Center

The NILC hosts these pages, with an overview of the topic, as well as pages for different types of benefits, providing guidelines, eligibility, news and advocacy, etc. Visitors may also subscribe to their “Immigrants Rights Update,” which sends news via e-mail.