

percent of new admissions are families with annually adjusted incomes of 50 percent of the area median income.

### Weatherization Assistance Program

**(WAP)** provides home energy conservation services to homeowners and renters.



This federally funded program provides home energy conservation services to low-income homeowners and renters. A trained inspector assesses residences and creates an

audit that measures the most cost effective services for each individual case. Services such as wall insulation, air leakage reduction, and dryer venting can be expected to lower heating costs by 20–25 percent per dwelling. Those who receive Family Independence Program (FIP) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) are automatically eligible.

**Eligibility:** *Individuals and families with incomes under 200 percent of the poverty guidelines.*

**Home Heating Tax Credit** provides a tax credit for low-income households to assist with heating payments.



This federally funded tax credit provides assistance to low-income home owners or renters to offset high energy costs. The maximum credit for a family of three is \$706.

Residents who pay heating bills themselves receive an energy voucher and renters who have heat included receive a check for half of their credit amount. FIP recipients have their tax credit sent directly to their heat provider. Form MI-1040CR-7 must be used to claim the credit.

**Eligibility:** *Must own or rent a home in Michigan and have a household income that is below the income limit. (\$1,679 a month for a family of three)*

## Hotlines and Contact Information

### Call 2-1-1

2-1-1 is a FCC approved health and human service equivalent to 9-1-1 that provides information and referrals to thousands of programs. 2-1-1 databases are comprehensive, up-to-date and free to the caller.

Child Abuse Reporting	1-800-942-4357
Child Care Payments	1-800-990-3227
Domestic Violence Helpline	1-800-799-7233
EBT-Electronic Benefit Transfer	1-888-678-8914
Energy Assistance	1-800-292-5650
Housing Voucher Programs	(517) 373-9344 (313) 456-3540
Medicaid Customer Help	1-800-642-3195
Medicare	1-888-633-4227
MiChild Medical	1-888-988-6300
Work First	1-800-285-9675

More detailed information on these programs and others is available at:  
[www.michigan.gov/helpinghand](http://www.michigan.gov/helpinghand) and  
"Money Back in Michigan" at [www.milhs.org](http://www.milhs.org)



### Michigan League for Human Services

1223 Turner Street, Suite G-1, Lansing, MI 48906  
Ph: 517.487.5436 • Fax: 517.371.4546  
[www.milhs.org](http://www.milhs.org) • A United Way Agency



## Survival Toolkit



Michigan League for Human Services

517.487.5436

## Survival Programs in Michigan

Survival programs assist low-income individuals to meet basic needs such as food and housing. These programs are especially important during economic downturns. Each program has different eligibility criteria based on income and asset limits.

Poverty guidelines for 2011 (monthly income)			
Family Size	Percent of Poverty		
	130%	150%	200%
2	\$1,593	\$1,838	\$2,451
3	\$2,007	\$2,316	\$3,088
4	\$2,421	\$2,793	\$3,725

**Public Health Insurance Programs** provide access to health care from providers that accept Medicaid or MICHild reimbursement.



The state's Medicaid program provides access to health care services for children, families, and individuals who qualify. Children under age 19 who are not eligible for

Medicaid may be eligible for MICHild, if their family incomes are between 150 and 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. MICHild provides health and dental care for those children meeting family income limits. The family premium is \$10 a month

**Eligibility:** Children with income under 200 percent of the poverty guidelines (no asset limits). Adults are eligible by income, as well as family status, age, and disability. (Asset limit is usually \$3,000).

**Food Assistance Program (FAP)** also known as the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) provides an electronic benefit to purchase food.



The amount of food assistance benefits is determined by the household's size and income. In determining income, the household's expenses are taken into consider-

ation, such as dependent care, shelter, medical and child support payments. The average benefit per person in 2010 was \$130 a month. Food assistance benefits are issued electronically on a Bridge Card.

**Eligibility:** Individuals and families under 130 percent of the poverty guidelines with household expenses taken into account. (No asset limit.)

### Family Independence Program (FIP)

provides cash assistance program for families with children under 18.



The children can be 18 or 19 if they are attending high school full time and expected to graduate before age 20. Benefits

and eligibility vary by family size. The maximum grant is \$492 a month. The 2010 average benefit level for a non-two parent household was \$422 a month. As earnings increase, the grant decreases. (Benefits are issued on a Bridge Card.)

**Eligibility:** For a family of three with two children, the total household monthly income (earnings plus FIP benefit) cannot exceed \$814. Family cash assets, including retirement accounts, cannot exceed \$3,000.

**Child Care Assistance** (for children under 13 years old) provides a payment for child care to approved providers.

Michigan's Child Development and Care Program to subsidize some child care costs for working parents who receive FIP or have income less than \$1,990 a month for a family of three. The amount varies by the



children's age and child care setting. Also, the assistance provided decreases as a family's income level increases until the income level exceeds \$1,990 a month. The average amount per child is \$249. The child care provider must be licensed or registered with the Department of Human Services.

**Eligibility:** Monthly income below \$1,990 for a family of three.

**State Emergency Relief (SER)** provides limited assistance to individuals and families facing emergencies that threaten their health or safety.



A single parent cannot have income exceeding \$255 for the month. The emergency must be one that the payment can resolve and one that is not likely to happen again. Energy-related home repairs

and utility payments have a \$4,000 lifetime limit per household.

**Eligibility:** Restricted by several criteria as well as extremely low income levels.

### Housing Choice Voucher Program

provides rent subsidies for the elderly, people with disabilities, and families with particularly low income.



Waiting list for rental assistance

Waiting lists are administered at the county level and are only opened if all of the applicants can be notified of availability of rental assistance within the next year. The status of waiting lists varies from county to

county and the method of how applicants are chosen depends on how long the list remains open. Wait lists range from months to many years. A person's criminal history, prior rental experience and credit history are taken into account. Applicants must show proof of residence or employment within the county to achieve ranking preference.

**Eligibility:** 75 percent of applications are from families with gross incomes that are 30 percent of the area's median income. The remaining 25