



# Fact Sheet Supplement

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North Dakota Department of Human Services  
600 E Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58505-0250

[www.nd.gov/dhs](http://www.nd.gov/dhs)

## Medically Needy Income Levels (As amended by House at 75% of poverty)

The medically needy income levels are the amount of income an individual, couple, or family are allowed to keep to meet their expenses for shelter, food, utilities, and clothing, as well as other maintenance needs (such as gas, auto maintenance, auto or property insurance, etc.). Some recipients may also receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (formally known as Food Stamps) or Low-Income Home Energy assistance benefits to help with these costs.

The following chart compares the current medically needy income levels; and the proposed medically needy income level as amended by the House (75% of poverty), with the levels for SSI, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance, and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance programs. The income levels identify the amounts each program allows to meet basic maintenance needs.

**INCOME LEVELS (Monthly)**  
Effective April 2008 through March 2009

Family Size	Current Medically Needy	Medically Needy at 75% of PL	SSI	Food Assistance (SNAP) *	Fuel Assistance (LIHEAP) **
1	\$500	\$650	\$637	\$ 867	\$1,757
2	\$516	\$875	\$956	\$1,167	\$2,297
3	\$666	\$1,100		\$1,467	\$2,838
4	\$800	\$1,325		\$1,767	\$3,378

\*The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program has a gross and a net income test. This is the net income level.

\*\* The Fuel Assistance Income Levels are in effect from October 1, 2008 thru September 30, 2009.

A July 1, 2009 increase in the medically needy income level to 75% of poverty (as amended by the House), and the corresponding decrease in recipient liability, is estimated to increase Medicaid expenditures by \$4.5 million, of which \$1.7 million would be state general funds for the 2009 -2011 biennium.

The following chart compares the medically needy income level at 75% of the poverty level to 83% of the poverty level (from the Executive Budget), and to the SSI income levels.

Family Size	75% of Poverty*	83% of Poverty*	SSI
1	\$650	\$ 720	\$637
2	\$875	\$ 969	\$956
3	\$1,100	\$1,218	
4	\$1,325	\$1,467	

\*Based on 2008 Federal Poverty Level

## Impacts on Recipients

The requirement to spend down to the current medically needy income levels makes medically needy recipients the very poorest to qualify for Medicaid, and affects approximately 3,500 recipients. Many of these recipients cannot afford to pay their full recipient liability each month, which results in medical providers not being able to collect for services they provide, or recipients not receiving the services they need. These losses to providers also affect access to services.

The following scenarios identify the discrepancies between medically needy and SSI recipients, and indicate the extreme financial limitations in which medically needy recipients are placed. The last column shows the results if increased to 75% of the Federal Poverty Level.

<b>Scenario 1</b>	<b>Single SSI recipient</b>	<b>Single medically needy recipient at current level</b>	<b>Single medically needy recipient at 75% of poverty</b>
Monthly Income	SSI benefits \$637**	Social Security benefits \$728**	Social Security benefits \$728**
Rent	\$300	\$300	\$300
Telephone	\$ 45	\$ 45	\$ 45
Recipient Liability	\$ 0	\$208 *	\$ 58
Remaining income for food, clothing, and other expenses	\$292	\$175	\$325

\* Recipient liability amount after allowing \$20 income disregard.

\*\* Income is low enough to qualify for coverage of Medicare premium by Medicaid.

<b>Scenario 2</b>	<b>SSI couple</b>	<b>Medically needy couple at current level</b>	<b>Medically needy couple at 75% of poverty</b>
Monthly Income	SSI benefits \$956	Social Security benefits \$725 + \$700 = \$1425**	Social Security benefits \$725 + \$700 = \$1425**
Rent	\$300	\$300	\$300
Telephone	\$ 45	\$ 45	\$ 45
Medicare Premium(s)	Covered by Medicaid	\$ 96.40 \$ 96.40	\$ 96.40 \$ 96.40
Recipient Liability	\$ 0	\$696.20*	\$ 337.20*
Remaining income for food, clothing, and other expenses	\$611	\$191	\$ 550

\* Recipient liability amount after allowing \$20 income disregard.

\*\* Income is over the limit to qualify for payment of Medicare premium by Medicaid.