

Testimony
Health Services Committee
Senator Lee Chairman
August 18, 2015

Chairman Lee, members of the Health Services Committee, I am Carol Cartledge, Director of the Economic Assistance Policy Division, for the Department of Human Services (Department). I am here today to provide information on Economic Assistance programs that limit hours worked or income, including limitations, whether the limitations are imposed by the state or federal government, and benefit levels.

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

The Child Care Assistance program helps income-eligible families pay for child care while they work or attend school or training. The federal maximum income eligibility limits for the sliding fee schedule (income limits) is 85% of state median income. CCAP provisions do not include work requirements.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Its purpose is to help qualifying low-income households with home energy needs. The federal maximum income eligibility limits is 60% of state median income. LIHEAP provisions do not include work requirements.

Medicaid

Medicaid provides coverage to:

- Low-income individuals from birth
- Children in foster care or subsidized adoption
- Former foster care children up to age 26, under certain circumstances
- Children with disabilities (birth to 19)

- Pregnant women
- Women with breast or cervical cancer
- Workers with disabilities
- Other blind and disabled individuals
- Low-income Medicare beneficiaries (Medicare Savings Programs)

Eligibility ranges are set by federal and state laws. Medicaid provisions do not include work requirements other than the Workers with Disabilities coverage group. In many situations, parents, caretaker relatives and children may continue to be eligible for Medicaid benefits for an additional 12 months when they lose eligibility for Medicaid due to increases in income from employment.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

SNAP is a safety net that helps qualifying low-income individuals buy food to help meet their nutrition needs. The federal maximum income eligibility limit is 200% of federal poverty level.

By federal regulations, adults without dependent children must be working 20 hours or more a week or they may only receive SNAP benefits for 3 months in a 3-year period. Families with an adult have a work requirement of 30 hours per week unless they are exempt. If the adult family member does not cooperate with the work requirement, they are disqualified and lose their portion of the benefit. Adults exempt from work requirements include individuals:

- Individuals who are employed and working at least 30 hours weekly or receiving weekly earnings at least equal to the federal minimum wage multiplied by 30 hours
- Under 18 or 50 years of age or older

- Responsible for the care of a child or incapacitated household member
- Participating in TANF JOBS
- Who are Medically certified as physically or mentally unable to work
- Who are Pregnant

As of March 2015, 45% of the SNAP cases were children, 18% were elderly or disabled and 37% were working.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

The TANF program provides cash assistance to indigent families with deprived children meaning a parent is absent due to divorce, separation or death; or one of the parents is disabled. The eligibility income level was increased during the 2015 legislative session and is at 35% of federal poverty level.

Based on federal regulations, the adult receiving a TANF benefit must participate in a work activity of 20 hours a week if the youngest child is under 6 years of age or 30 hours a week if the oldest child is over 6 years of age. Currently about 70% of the adults are in a work activity.

Here's a [PowerPoint with case scenarios](#) to demonstrate the impact on each program of increased hours.

This concludes my testimony and I would be happy to answer any questions.