Economic Assistance

Connecting people to resources that help meet basic needs
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
Program Purpose

The Economic Assistance team helps lower income North Dakotans when they are struggling to make ends meet by connecting them to resources that can help meet their basic needs.
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
Federal Programs

- Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program
Connecting North Dakotans to economic assistance is a partnership

The state and Human Service Zones work together to deliver help to low and moderate-income families.

Person decides to apply
Making ends meet is getting more difficult every month so the applicant makes the decision to reach out for help.

Contact Human Service Zone
The local applicant can contact their human service zone directly or they can simply apply online.

Gather information
The applicant can enter as much info as they can in the SPACES self-service portal.

Determine eligibility
An eligibility worker will review the information, reach out if needed, and make a determination of eligibility.

Issue benefits
If the applicant is eligible to receive assistance, the state will issue the benefit in the appropriate manner.
Many federal assistance programs are designed to help individuals and families who earn less than 60% of State median income (SMI).

60% SMI is roughly equivalent to 200% of the federal poverty level.

### ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
State Median Income for ND households 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Size</th>
<th>30% SMI</th>
<th></th>
<th>60% SMI</th>
<th></th>
<th>100% SMI</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Annual Income</td>
<td>Hourly Wage</td>
<td>Annual Income</td>
<td>Hourly Wage</td>
<td>Annual Income</td>
<td>Hourly Wage</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$16,238</td>
<td>$7.81</td>
<td>$32,475</td>
<td>$15.61</td>
<td>$54,125</td>
<td>$26.02</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$21,233</td>
<td>$10.21</td>
<td>$42,467</td>
<td>$20.42</td>
<td>$70,778</td>
<td>$34.90</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$26,230</td>
<td>$12.61</td>
<td>$52,460</td>
<td>$25.22</td>
<td>$87,433</td>
<td>$42.04</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$31,226</td>
<td>$15.01</td>
<td>$62,452</td>
<td>$30.03</td>
<td>$104,087</td>
<td>$50.04</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$36,222</td>
<td>$17.41</td>
<td>$72,444</td>
<td>$34.83</td>
<td>$120,740</td>
<td>$58.05</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>$41,219</td>
<td>$19.82</td>
<td>$82,437</td>
<td>$39.63</td>
<td>$137,395</td>
<td>$66.06</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>$42,155</td>
<td>$20.26</td>
<td>$84,310</td>
<td>$40.53</td>
<td>$140,517</td>
<td>$67.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>$43,092</td>
<td>$20.72</td>
<td>$86,184</td>
<td>$41.43</td>
<td>$143,640</td>
<td>$69.06</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hourly wage based on assumption of 2,080 hours of work / year (full time equivalent)
EVERY OCCUPATION HAS A DIFFERENT EARNING PROFILE, WHICH HELPS US UNDERSTAND WHO MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE

Sampling of occupations by average wage (2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Less than $13 / hr</th>
<th>$13 - $20 / hour</th>
<th>$20 - $28 / hour</th>
<th>$28 - $35 / hour</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Waiter/Waitress</td>
<td>Pharmacy tech</td>
<td>Carpenter</td>
<td>School counselor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child care worker</td>
<td>Home health</td>
<td>Loan processor</td>
<td>Rotary drill oper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dishwasher</td>
<td>PT assistant</td>
<td>Legal secretary</td>
<td>HR specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bartender</td>
<td>Hair stylist</td>
<td>Correctional officers</td>
<td>Accountant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cafeteria worker</td>
<td>Retail</td>
<td>Auto service tech</td>
<td>Real Estate Sales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short order cook</td>
<td>Farmworker</td>
<td>Surgical tech</td>
<td>PR specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cashiers</td>
<td>Restaurant cook</td>
<td>Roofer</td>
<td>Counselor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterinary Assistant</td>
<td>Data entry</td>
<td>Lic Practical Nurse</td>
<td>Registered Nurse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dental assistant</td>
<td>Computer network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Firefighter</td>
<td>specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Surgical assistant</td>
<td>Construction supervisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Clergy</td>
<td>Dental hygienist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Social worker</td>
<td>Architecture occ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Police</td>
<td>Speech pathologist</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Meet Larry, Deb, Lily & Ben

Ages 27 (Larry), 26 (Deb), 3 (Lily), and 1 (Ben)

Live in a 2-bedroom apartment in West Fargo
Rent is $950/month

Larry works full time as a construction laborer ($14/hour) and mom full time as a grocery store clerk ($9/hour).

Neither job provides health insurance. The kids receive coverage through CHIP.

Deb has family in Dickinson. Larry’s family is from South Dakota.

Lily and Ben go to daycare in a home-based group setting. The cost is $1,520/month for both kids.

They have two cars, both are paid off.

Family applies for CCAP, LIHEAP, SNAP and TANF.
CCAP helps pay a portion of the cost of childcare for working families or families in training or education programs.

Families can earn up to 60% of state median income and be eligible for assistance.
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

2,580
Average number of children served per month

$16.3 million
Support to families

$523
Average payment per child per month

SFY2021
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

CCAP assists families with the cost of care up to the State Maximum Rate which is set at the 75th percentile of provider rates based on market rate. Families are responsible for costs over the maximum.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Center</th>
<th>License Family/Group</th>
<th>Self-Certified Family/Registered</th>
<th>Approved Relative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-1</td>
<td>$840</td>
<td>$640</td>
<td>$420</td>
<td>$350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>$790</td>
<td>$620</td>
<td>$390</td>
<td>$330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-5</td>
<td>$720</td>
<td>$600</td>
<td>$382</td>
<td>$322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-13</td>
<td>$660</td>
<td>$600</td>
<td>$370</td>
<td>$310</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Co-Pay – CCAP families are responsible for a share of child care costs varying from 2% - 7% based on household income. Households with lower incomes have lower co-pays.
Deb and Larry’s gross monthly income is approximately $3,979.

Monthly child care cost is $1,520 (this is 38% of their monthly gross income)
- Lily - $700
- Ben - $820

State Maximum Rate for child care costs under CCAP:
- Lily - $600
- Ben - $620

Based on income family is responsible for a 7% co-pay of $294.

Family receives CCAP payment in the amount of $926 leaving a family share of $594 ($294 co-pay + $300 for care exceeding SMR).

Total out of pocket cost for child care for Ben and Lily is $594, which represents 15% of their monthly income.
LIHEAP helps households with home heating costs by paying a portion of their heating bills.

Families can earn up to 60% of state median income and be eligible for assistance.
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

12,725
Average number of households served

$10.4 million
Support to households

$816
Average payment per household per month

Average households served per heating season (Oct-May)

SFY 2017: 12,324
SFY 2018: 13,518
SFY 2019: 13,352
SFY 2020: 12,785
SFY 2021: 12,725

SFY2021
LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE
Calculating LIHEAP payments for each household is based on a combination of household income and heating costs

[Estimated Cost of Heat] – [Household share] = [LIHEAP share]

Estimated cost of heat – Cost/consumption table based on actual costs of heat for various sizes of living units, building types and fuel types within ND.

Household share - annual dollar amount an eligible household could reasonably be expected to pay:
  ▪ 1% of adjusted annual income for families with 0-20% of state median based on household size.
  ▪ 2% of adjusted annual income for families with 21-40% of state median based on household size.
  ▪ 3% of adjusted annual income for families with 41-60% of state median based on household size.

[LIHEAP share] ÷ [Estimated Cost of Heat] = % of each actual heating bill LIHEAP will pay
Meet Larry, Deb, Lily & Ben

LIHEAP Determination

Adjusted annual income is $27,728, after the allowable deductions:
• 27% earned income deduction
• $7,128 family share of child care

Based on adjusted income, the household can reasonably be expected to pay 2% of their adjusted income toward heat.

Estimated cost of heat for a 2-bedroom apartment with electric heat is $1,299 for entire heating season (October through May).

LIHEAP will pay 45% of the family’s energy bills leaving the family share at 55% (approximately $714 ÷ 8 months = $89/month).
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Provides nutrition benefits to supplement the food budget of needy families so they can purchase healthy food and move towards self-sufficiency.

Families can earn up to 60% of state median income and be eligible for assistance.
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

49,579
Average number of individuals in served in 23,927 households

$115.6 million
Support to households

$400
Average payment per household per month

SFY2021
SNAP Determination

Meet Larry, Deb, Lily & Ben

Monthly income is approximately $3,979.

Allowable monthly expenses:
- 20% earned income deduction ($796)
- $181 standard deduction
- $594 child care

Adjusted income = $2,408
($3,979 – $796 – $181 – $594 = $2,408)

Minus $362 shelter cost deduction
($950 Rent + $616 Utility costs – 50% of adjusted income = $362)

Net adjusted income of $2,046
($2,408 - $362)

Based on the above, SNAP expects family to include $614 in their household budget for food.

SNAP Thrifty Food Plan Budget – $782

\[ \text{minus} \]

30% net adjusted income - $614

\[ = \]

SNAP benefit of $168
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDS) are individuals age 18 through 49 who are able to work and do not have children under 18 years of age.

ABAWDS must work at least 20 hours or more a week to maintain continuous eligibility. Those who are not working are limited to three months of benefits in a 36-month period.

NDWorks – provides participating individuals opportunities to overcome barriers, gain skills, training or experience and participate in supervised job search activities to improve their employment prospects and reduce their reliance on SNAP benefits.

NDDHS partners with Community Options, Inc., to provide services to voluntary participants across the state.

Basic Employment Skills Training Program (BEST) – expose participating individuals to job seeking and retention skills. NDDHS partners with Job Service of ND to provide these services.

Individuals living in Burleigh and Cass HSZ's who are not exempt from work requirements must participate in order to receive SNAP.

* ABAWD and BEST requirements were waived starting in March and April 2020 due to the national health emergency.

* Participation in BEST is being reimplemented in September 2021.
TANF provides assistance to needy families with children who are deprived of parental support or care.

Which means that a parent is absent due to divorce, separation, death or one or both parents are aged or disabled.
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

1,066
Average number of families served per month

78%
of beneficiaries are children

44%
of N.D. TANF cases are “child only” cases (children in the care of a non-legally responsible caretaker)

Average households served per month

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SFY</td>
<td>1,119</td>
<td>1,091</td>
<td>983</td>
<td>981</td>
<td>1,066</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SFY2021
The TANF Basic Standard of Need is the basis for the TANF grant a household receives. The Standard of Need represents the six basic items of need:
• Shelter;
• Food;
• Clothing;
• Personal needs (e.g. combs, toothbrushes, razor blades, sanitary supplies, and haircuts);
• Household supplies (e.g. cooking utensils, laundry, bedding, and towels); and
• Fuel and utilities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of Care Takers</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>243</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>393</td>
<td>466</td>
<td>543</td>
<td>617</td>
<td>693</td>
<td>767</td>
<td>843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>436</td>
<td>533</td>
<td>632</td>
<td>731</td>
<td>830</td>
<td>929</td>
<td>1028</td>
<td>1127</td>
<td>1225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>436</td>
<td>533</td>
<td>632</td>
<td>731</td>
<td>830</td>
<td>929</td>
<td>1028</td>
<td>1127</td>
<td>1225</td>
<td>1325</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

Adjusted income is income minus allowable monthly expenses:
- Greater of 27% or $180 earned income deduction
- Time-limited % deduction from earned income:
  - 50% for months 1 through 6
  - 35% for months 7 through 9
  - 25% for months 10 through 13
- Child or spousal support paid
- Child or adult dependent care for paid employment

Special Items of Need for certain expenses which are not covered by TANF:
- Child Restraint Seat
- Essential Services (necessary to meet the needs a household cannot perform independently)
- GED/High School Graduate Incentive Payment
- Health Insurance Premiums
- $50 per month housing allowance

Supportive Services:
- Child Care Expenses
- Job Readiness Assistance
- License, Certification and Examination Fees
- Tools for Employment
- Transportation
- Tuition Assistance
- Vehicle Repair and Insurance

TANF Basic Standard of Need
- Adjusted Income
+ Special Items of Need
+ Supportive Services
TANF Benefit
Meet Larry, Deb, Lily & Ben

TANF Determination

As children are not deprived of parental support, there is no eligibility for TANF.
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

Job Opportunity and Basic Skills (JOBS) Program - Provides supported employment and case management services along with support service payment to move individuals into employment and self-sufficiency.

• Adults participating in TANF must participate in JOBS
• Average number of adults participating in work activities during SFY 2020 was 400
• ND’s Work Participation Rate – percentage of individuals required to participate who were in a defined work activity.
  • FFY 2019: 54.1%
  • FFY 2020: 35.2%*

* Mandatory participation was waived starting in March 2020 due to the national health emergency. Required participation is being reimplemented in August and September 2021.
Meet Larry, Deb, Lily & Ben

SUMMARY
Larry and Deb’s Household Budget
with Economic Assistance

Monthly income (gross) $3,979
Monthly income (net) $3,313

Monthly expenses: Larry & Deb Assistance
Rent $950 $0
Heat $89 $73
Child Care $594 $926
Food $614 $168

Income after Expenses $1,066

From this remaining budget of $1,066, Larry and Deb need to cover the rest of their household expenses
• Out of pocket medical costs
• Gasoline & Vehicle costs (insurance)
• Internet & Phone
• Food costs over “assumed” budget
• Clothing & Household items
Meet Larry, Deb, Lily & Ben

SUMMARY

Larry and Deb’s Household Budget
without Economic Assistance

Monthly income (gross) $3,979
Monthly income (net) $3,313

Monthly expenses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Larry &amp; Deb</th>
<th>Assistance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
<td>$950</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heat</td>
<td>$163</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care</td>
<td>$1,520</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>$782</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Income after Expenses -$102

Larry and Deb do not have any room in their household budget to cover the rest of their household expenses

- Out of pocket medical costs
- Gasoline & Vehicle costs (insurance)
- Internet & Phone
- Food costs over “assumed” budget
- Clothing & Household items
Meet Larry, Deb, Lily & Ben

### SUMMARY
Larry and Deb's Household Budget
What happens if Deb gets a raise?

Deb receives a pay increase of $0.50/hour

| Monthly income (gross) | $4,066 |
| Monthly income (net)   | $3,381 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monthly expenses:</th>
<th>Larry &amp; Deb</th>
<th>Assistance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
<td>$950</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heat</td>
<td>$89</td>
<td>$73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care</td>
<td>$594</td>
<td>$926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>$782</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What changes?
- Ineligible for SNAP
- No impact on CCAP or LIHEAP

Increase in Net Income | $68
Income after Expenses  | $966
Benefit Loss           | $168 (SNAP)
SUMMARY
Larry and Deb’s Household Budget
What happens if Larry gets a promotion?

Larry gets promoted to Foreman @ $20/hour

- Monthly income (gross) $5,104
- Monthly income (net) $4,194

Monthly expenses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Larry &amp; Deb</th>
<th>Assistance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Rent</td>
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<td>$0</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care</td>
<td>$1,520</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>$782</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What Changes?
- Ineligible for SNAP and CCAP
- No impact on LIHEAP

- Increase in Net Income $813
- Income after Expenses $853
- Benefit Loss $762
Contact Information

Michele Gee, Director
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