

Eligibility for Montana's Public Assistance Programs

Prepared for the Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee
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Montanans are eligible for certain public assistance programs if they meet eligibility standards, including income limits that are usually set at a percentage of the federal poverty level (FPL). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services updates the poverty guidelines annually. The tables in this document show:

- the eligibility standards for various public assistance programs, including key Medicaid categories; and
- the income requirements for the various percentages of the federal poverty level.

Montana Public Assistance Eligibility Standards and Enrollments

Medicaid Category	Income as % of FPL	Allowable Assets	Enrollment ¹ March 2017
Parent/Caretaker Relative	24%	Not Counted	18,231
Aged, Blind, Disabled	Individual: \$735/month ² Couple: \$1,103/month	Individual: \$2,000 Couple: \$3,000	27,270
Expansion Group (Childless, Nondisabled Adults)	138%	Not Counted	79,018
Children Under 19	143%	Not Counted	101,900
Pregnant Women	157%	Not Counted	3,233
Children in Foster Care or Subsidized Adoption	Varies	Foster Care: \$3,000 Sub Adoption: Not Counted	5,656
Breast/Cervical Cancer	250%	Not Counted	47
Workers with Disabilities (Buy-In Program)	250%	Individual: \$15,000 Couple: \$30,000	1,132
Healthy Montana Kids Plan	144% to 261%	Not Counted	24,184
SNAP Category	Income as % FPL	Allowable Assets	Enrollees
Categorical Eligibility	TANF cash assistance or SSI eligibility	Not Counted	19,374
Expanded Categorical ³	200% gross/100% net ⁴ (must meet both standards)	Not Counted	102,485
TANF Category	Income as % of FPL	Allowable Assets	Enrollees
Parent/ Caretaker Relative and Related Minor Child	30% of 2011 FPL	\$3,000	9,989

¹ Source: Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services

² Income standards for this eligibility group are set at the Social Security Supplemental Security Income (SSI) level.

³ Expanded eligibility is conferred through receipt of a TANF-funded brochure providing information on community resources.

⁴ After allowable deductions such as rent, utilities, and child care, net monthly income may not exceed 100% of FPL.

Income at Various Levels of Poverty

Gross Yearly Income

Size	24%	30%	100%	138%	143%	157%	250%	261%
	M: Parents	TANF (2011 FPL)		M: Expansion	M: Children	M: Pregnant Women	M: Buy-In, Breast/Cervical Cancer	HMK-CHIP
1	\$2,894	\$3,267	\$12,060	\$16,643	\$17,246	\$18,934	\$30,150	\$31,477
2	\$3,898	\$4,413	\$16,240	\$22,411	\$23,223	\$25,497	\$40,600	\$42,386
3	\$4,901	\$5,559	\$20,420	\$28,180	\$29,201	\$32,059	\$51,050	\$53,296
4	\$5,904	\$6,705	\$24,600	\$33,948	\$35,178	\$38,622	\$61,500	\$64,206
5	\$6,907	\$7,851	\$28,780	\$39,716	\$41,155	\$45,185	\$71,950	\$75,116
6	\$7,910	\$8,997	\$32,960	\$45,485	\$47,133	\$51,747	\$82,400	\$86,026
7	\$8,914	\$10,143	\$37,140	\$51,253	\$53,110	\$58,310	\$92,850	\$96,935
8	\$9,917	\$11,289	\$41,320	\$57,022	\$59,088	\$64,872	\$103,300	\$107,845

M = Medicaid Category

Gross Monthly Income

Size	24%	30%	100%	138%	143%	157%	250%	261%
	M: Parents	TANF (2011 FPL)		M: Expansion	M: Children	M: Pregnant Women	M: Buy-In, Breast/Cervical Cancer	HMK-CHIP
1	\$241	\$272	\$1,005	\$1,387	\$1,437	\$1,578	\$2,513	\$2,623
2	\$325	\$368	\$1,353	\$1,867	\$1,935	\$2,124	\$3,383	\$3,531
3	\$408	\$463	\$1,702	\$2,349	\$2,434	\$2,672	\$4,255	\$4,442
4	\$492	\$559	\$2,050	\$2,829	\$2,932	\$3,219	\$5,125	\$5,351
5	\$576	\$654	\$2,398	\$3,309	\$3,429	\$3,765	\$5,995	\$6,259
6	\$659	\$750	\$2,747	\$3,791	\$3,928	\$4,313	\$6,868	\$7,170
7	\$743	\$845	\$3,095	\$4,271	\$4,426	\$4,859	\$7,738	\$8,078
8	\$826	\$941	\$3,443	\$4,751	\$4,923	\$5,406	\$8,608	\$8,986

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