

If you are an employed adult, you may be eligible for the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). EITC is a tax break for wage earners. You do not have to owe taxes in order to be eligible and it does not affect your eligibility for other benefits. You may be eligible to get up to \$130.25 per month in your paycheck. For more information, call (800) 829-3676.

Working parents may be eligible for a Child Tax Credit of up to \$1,000 for each dependent child. Free taxpayer assistance is offered at Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites. Call 311 to find a VITA site and to see if you qualify for the Child Tax Credit.

If you have worked for 10 years and become disabled, you may be eligible for Social Security Disability Benefits (SSD). SSD benefits are also available to spouses and children of disabled persons. You may apply at any Social Security office. Call (800) 772-1213 for more information. Deaf/Hearing Impaired may call TTY (800) 325-0778.

If you or your child is disabled, elderly, or blind and are low-income, you may be eligible for supplemental security income (SSI), regardless of your work history.

SSI provides benefits for needy individuals and for disabled children. If you are eligible for SSI, you are automatically eligible for Medicaid. See KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: SSI DISABILITY BENEFITS FOR CHILDREN: THE APPEAL PROCESS or call (800) 772-1213 for more information. Deaf/Hearing Impaired may call TTY (800) 325-0778.

For in-depth information, contact The Children's Aid Society at (212) 358-8930 to get a complete set of KNOW YOUR RIGHTS brochures and other legal advocacy publications in both English and Spanish. You may also log onto www.childrensaidsociety.org.



For over 150 years, The Children's Aid Society has been assisting New York City's children and their families without regard to race, religion, nationality or socio-economic status. Children's Aid helps children in every aspect of their lives from infancy through adolescence, providing guidance and resources to ensure a child's current well-being and future potential. With over 100 programs and 40 locations in New York that touch the lives of more than 150,000 children every year, Children's Aid is one of the country's largest and most innovative child and family social service agencies.

www.childrensaidsociety.org

THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY
KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

subsidies
for
low-income
families



Heads of households who are unemployed or work in low-income jobs may, depending on their health and economic status, apply for benefits and subsidies to tide them over until new or better paying jobs are found.

These benefits include Unemployment Insurance Benefits, Medicaid, Child and Family Health Plus, food stamps, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security, public assistance, and legal services. And when you return to work or increase your earnings, your taxes will help others who are going through similar hard times. Each one is a little different. This brochure will describe each benefit and application process.

You do not have to be on welfare in order to get food stamps. *The Food Stamp Program provides monthly coupons* to low-income families to purchase food.

- You may also qualify for emergency food stamps while waiting for your regular application to be processed if your monthly income is less than \$150 *or* if your monthly expenses are more than your monthly income and resources.
- Most immigrants are also eligible for food stamps.

To apply, contact the Food Stamp Program Infoline at (718) 291-1900 or call 311.

Even if you are an undocumented immigrant, you can still receive medical treatment.

- If you cannot pay or have no insurance, you can be treated for an emergency condition free of charge at any public hospital.
- Undocumented adults who are financially eligible can obtain discounted medical care at participating hospitals and discounted prescriptions through HHC Plus.

Pregnant women can receive free medical treatment regardless of immigration status.

Pregnant women who enroll in the Prenatal Care Assistance Program (PCAP) will receive medical coverage while pregnant and for up to 2 months after their delivery. Their children will automatically receive 1 year of Medicaid coverage.

Women who receive public assistance and are at least three months pregnant may also receive a monthly \$50 pregnancy allowance added to their regular benefits if they submit a letter from a doctor that states the expected date of delivery.

Your child may be eligible for free or low-cost health insurance through Child Health Plus.

- Some families may have to pay a monthly premium depending on family size and income.
- Pregnant women may also apply.

You may be able to receive transitional benefits when you leave welfare to work.

- **Transitional Food Stamps**
You may be eligible to continue to receive the same amount of Food Stamps for up to 5 months. Contact the Community Food Resource Center at (212) 894-8060 to find out if you qualify.
- **Transitional Medicaid**
You may continue to receive Medicaid for 6 months after your welfare case is closed. You may also be eligible for another 6 months of coverage.
- **Transitional Childcare**
When your welfare case is closed, you may receive childcare assistance for 60 days, or up to 1 year. To find out if you qualify for Transitional Childcare, call (212) 835-7681.

If you are needy, you may be eligible for public assistance.

- Family Assistance (FA) is available for eligible families with children under 18.
- Safety Net Assistance is available for eligible adults.

You may be required to participate in BEGIN or the Work Experience Program in order to receive welfare assistance. If you are in school, that may count toward part of your work requirement. To find a welfare center near you, call (877) 472-8411.

If you are employed and lose your job through no fault of your own, you may be eligible for Unemployment Insurance Benefits (UIB).

- The UIB program provides temporary income for up to 26 weeks.
- If you are totally unemployed, you may be eligible for full benefits, and if you are working part-time, you may still be able to receive some benefits.

For more information or to apply, call (888) 209-8124. Deaf/Hearing Impaired may call (800) 662-1220.

You cannot be evicted without going to court even if you owe back rent. There is a legal procedure your landlord must follow before you can be evicted and you have the right to be heard by a judge.

You can force your landlord to make repairs. If your apartment is in poor condition and your landlord refuses to assist you, you may go to housing court and file a Housing Part (HP) action against your landlord.

For more information on housing rights, see [KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: EVICTION PREVENTION AND EMERGENCY SHELTER](#) and [TENANT AWARENESS AND ORGANIZING](#)
