

Can I qualify for any assistance if I work?

Many forms of assistance are available for working families and single working persons. In fact, there are programs specifically designed to help families transition into the workforce.

I have a job, and I am not receiving any assistance right now. What kind of assistance is available?

- ◆ Food Stamps
- ◆ Hoosier Healthwise (Medicaid for low-income children)
- ◆ TANF/AFDC*
- ◆ Subsidized Childcare
- ◆ Women Infants & Children (WIC)
- ◆ Public Housing
- ◆ Section 8 Housing

*TANF/AFDC is available for people with children, but most working parents are not eligible unless they were receiving TANF before they started working.

I receive assistance now, but I am afraid I will lose my benefits when I get a job.

You do not automatically lose most kinds of assistance just because you get a job. Eligibility depends upon income and family size.

◆ Food Stamps

You earned income will be disregarded for the first 6 months after you begin working. Contact your local Office of Family & Children (OFC) for more information.

◆ Hoosier Healthwise

Your children will be eligible for this program as long as your income is not more than 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (most children remain eligible after their parents return to work). Contact your local OFC for more information.

◆ TANF/AFDC

You will continue to receive TANF/AFDC until your income is more than 100% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Contact your local OFC for more information.

◆ Subsidized Childcare

You will continue to be eligible for subsidized childcare for one year after you return to work. Contact your local OFC for more information.

◆ WIC

Provides vouchers to get milk, juice, cheese, cereal and peanut butter for pregnant women and children under the age of 5 as long as the household's income is less than 185% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Contact your local WIC office for more information.

◆ Public Housing & Section 8 Housing

Earnings received as part of subsidized employment or a training program, and earnings used to pay for childcare should be deducted from your family's gross income before calculating your rent.

Even if your earned income does increase, your Public Housing Authority (PHA) may choose to delay rent increases until your annual recertification. Check with your local PHA to see whether they have chosen this option. Contact your local PHA or Community Action Program (CAP) for more information.

◆ Public Housing

There are three situations in which your public housing benefits are protected when you get a job:

1. You get a job while participating in a job training program such as a family self-sufficiency program, or
2. You get a job and your family received TANF/AFDC within the past six (6) months, or

3. You get a job and you earned less than \$2,575 last year.

In each of these situations, your family's increased earnings are disregarded for the first year you or a member of your household became employed. In the second year, 50% of the earnings are disregarded. Contact your local PHA for more information.

Is there any other place I can go for assistance?

Yes. The following agencies may be able to help you:

◆ Township Trustee

Provides assistance with things like rent, utilities, food, clothing, medical needs, burial expenses, etc.

◆ Workforce Development

Provides funding to retrain, educate and help with job search.

◆ Community Action Program (CAP)

Administers Head Start program (child care) and Housing Assistance program (Section 8), provides case management, emergency home repair, energy assistance, weatherization, and water/sewer assistance.

CAP also administers the REACH program, which is designed to help families become independent. REACH offers training on

money management, energy conservation and life skills, and provides job search support and financial assistance.

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ILS Office Contact Numbers	
Bloomington: (812) 339-7668 1-800-822-4774	Hammond: (219) 853-2360
Columbus: (812) 372-6918 1-866-644-6407	Indianapolis: (317) 631-9410 1-800-869-0212
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Fort Wayne: (260) 424-9155 1-888-442-8600	New Albany: (812) 945-4123 1-800-892-2776
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Programs That Help People Who Work

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Information Available on the web
www.indianajustice.org