



## Increasing Financial Stability of Individuals and Families

# Income Supports

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Local, state, and federal agencies offer social welfare programs providing quality services that promote safety, well-being, and self-sufficiency of children, adults, and families in need. To see a list of agencies and services, visit Arizona's Department of Economic Security to learn about organizations that may be able to help clients determine what benefits are available in Arizona.

### Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF):

For families (with children) who need help paying bills and stabilizing finances, cash assistance may be available. The federal TANF program provides billions of dollars annually to support state programs. The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Cash Assistance program provides temporary cash benefits and supportive services to the neediest of Arizona's children and their families. The program helps these families meet their basic needs for well-being and safety and serves as a bridge back to self-sufficiency. Eligibility is based on citizenship or qualified noncitizen resident status, Arizona residency and limits on resources and monthly income. Adults in families receiving cash assistance must work or participate in work-related activities for a specific number of hours per week depending on the number of work-eligible adults in the family and children's ages.

Cash Assistance may be available to needy families with dependent children, as well as:

- Kinship Care families
- Kinship Foster Care families
- Two-Parent families
- Unwed Minor Parents
- Legal Permanent Guardians

### Unemployment Insurance:

Clients who have involuntarily lost their jobs, possibly due to layoffs or business closing, may be eligible for unemployment compensation. The amount of compensation is based on the individual's previous earnings. They need to have been employed for a certain period of time and earned a certain amount in wages to qualify. Clients also must be currently able to work, seeking work, and registered to work with their state unemployment office.

### Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP):

Heating and cooling bills can be costly, and clients should not have to choose between providing a nutritious meal or warmth for their children. Energy assistance programs, coordinated among federal and state governments and utility companies, are available to help low-income households meet their energy needs. This program can help clients with utility deposits and bill payments.



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### Food Assistance Programs in Arizona:

PROGRAM / DESCRIPTION	ELIGIBILITY
<p><b>SNAP</b> is the national program to make sure people who meet income guidelines get the food they need. Also known as food stamps, SNAP puts healthy food within reach of eligible households using an electronic benefits card and monthly benefits so people can buy food at participating grocery stores.</p>	<p>Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is based on income and resources according to household size</p>
<p><b>NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH AND BREAKFAST PROGRAMS</b> make sure children get a nutritionally balanced meal at school.</p>	<p>All school-age children. Children in households receiving food stamps are automatically eligible.</p>
<p><b>CHILD and ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAMS</b> offers nutritious meals and snacks to children and some adults in day care settings</p>	<p>Children from low-income families in licensed non-residential child care centers, Head Start and after-school programs. Adults in certain adult day care centers are also eligible.</p>
<p><b>WIC</b> is a monthly supplement of food from the basic food groups. Participants receive vouchers to purchase approved food items (including cereal, juice, eggs, vegetables, tuna, cheese, milk, peanut butter, beans and baby formula) at grocery stores.</p>	<p>Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) must meet income eligibility guidelines; nutritionally at-risk pregnant women, breast-feeding and non-breastfeeding post-partum mothers, infants and children up to five years old.</p>

*Resources:*

Arizona's Department of Economic Security – [azdes.gov/](http://azdes.gov/)

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families – [tanf.us/arizona.html](http://tanf.us/arizona.html)