



Applying for Benefits

How to get the help you need

About Texas benefits

Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families help families during challenging times. The benefit amounts are based on your household size, income, assets and other factors.

Providing incomplete or inaccurate information can lead to your application being delayed or even denied. Knowingly providing wrong information on a benefits application is considered fraud and can result in program disqualification, fines and criminal charges.

Applying for benefits isn't an intimidating process; just be as accurate as possible.

Tips for applying

- You can apply online at YourTexasBenefits.com or in person.
- You must be a Texas resident.
- Use your own name and personal information.
- Provide accurate information on your application:
 - ◇ Answer every question.
 - ◇ Be sure answers are complete and honest.
 - ◇ Correctly report all of your income, including self-employment income, income from household members, other benefits or earnings and cash received.
 - ◇ Include everyone who lives in your household for at least 24 hours a month.
 - ◇ Accurately state your finances.

Misuse of benefits

It's important to be honest when you apply for benefits. Honesty is also important when using them. Here are a few examples of the wrong way to use benefits that could have serious consequences.

- Trading a Lone Star Card's SNAP benefits for cash. Never sell your card to someone.
- Using your Lone Star Card to buy alcohol, tobacco or gas. SNAP benefits are for food.
- Sharing your Medicaid ID card with another person to use for medical services.
- Accepting payment from a doctor for referring other people with Medicaid.
- Changing or copying a Medicaid ID card and using it or selling it.

Contact the OIG to report benefits fraud

800-436-6184

211 Texas: Dial 2-1-1, select your language, then choose Option 3.

Online: ReportTexasFraud.com