

## HOW YOUR BENEFITS WILL CHANGE WHEN YOU GO TO WORK!

After you go to work, you may still be able to get Financial Assistance to Needy Families (FANF) cash, Medicaid, Food Stamps, and help with Child Care costs, as well as other work related support services.

### CAN I STILL GET CASH ASSISTANCE?



When you go to work, you and your family may still be able to get FANF cash, depending on how much you earn. It is **VERY IMPORTANT** that you contact your Family Services Specialist (FSS) **WITHIN 10 DAYS of getting your first paycheck**. We will only count half of your gross earned income when we redetermine your FANF eligibility and benefit amount.

If you continue to get your cash grant after you go to work, **every month** that you get any cash benefits will count toward the **60-month lifetime limit**. If your grant amount is low, you may want to think about saving your time on assistance for a future time when you may need it more. However, **there are no time limits on getting Medicaid, Food Stamps, or NH Child Care Scholarship**.

### WHAT ABOUT MEDICAL ASSISTANCE?



If you are working and still getting a cash grant, you will continue to get medical assistance. If your earnings cause your cash grant to stop, you can get up to 12 extra months of Extended Medical Assistance (EMA) for you and your family. To get EMA you must fill out and return the *Quarterly Extended Medical Assistance Reports* that will be sent to you every three months. There is no income limit for the first six months of this program. After the first six months, you can still get EMA for six more months, as long as your gross earned income, minus out-of-pocket child care costs, is not more than the income limits for your family size.

Even when you can no longer get EMA, your children may be eligible for medical benefits under the Children's or Expanded Children's Medicaid program and you may be eligible for help with medical coverage under the NH Health Protection Program or through the Health Insurance Marketplace. To get more information about these programs, speak to your Family Services Specialist or visit our website at [www.dhhs.nh.gov/dfa/medical](http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dfa/medical).

### CAN I STILL GET FOOD STAMPS?



You may still be able to get Food Stamps when you go to work. We do not count 20% of your earnings while you are working. If your FANF cash closes, you may still be able to get Extended Food Stamps (EFS). EFS is a fixed amount of Food Stamps that you will get for up to 5 months after your FANF cash closes.

**(More on the Back)**

### **WHAT ABOUT CHILD CARE COSTS?**



If you are working, looking for work, or training for work, you may be able to get help with your child care costs. Your gross monthly income level for your household size will determine the rate of your NH Child Care Scholarship. Also, we may not count some of your out-of-pocket child care costs when we count your earnings for FANF, Medicaid, and Food Stamps.

### **WHAT ABOUT CHILD SUPPORT?**



As long as you are still getting a cash grant, the Division of Child Support Services (DCSS) will keep any current child support it collects up to the amount of the grant and any arrearage owed for assistance provided to your family in the past. When you stop getting a grant, any current support and any past due support owed to you that DCSS collects will be sent to you. You will get a letter from DCSS explaining how your child support case will change and what choices you will have. Call your Child Support Worker if you have any questions.

### **CAN I GET HELP WITH HOUSING AND HOME HEATING COSTS?**



To learn if you qualify for subsidized housing and the programs for families who live in subsidized housing, call toll-free, 1-800-439-7247, and talk to someone at the New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority. If you are having trouble paying your heating bill, call your local Community Action Program and ask about the Fuel Assistance Program. The number is listed under “Community Action Program” in the white pages of your phone book.

### **WHAT ABOUT TRANSPORTATION COSTS?**



If you are getting a cash grant, you may get paid back for round-trip travel between your home, child care provider, and where you work. Your employer does not need to sign off on this. Also, if you are still getting a cash grant, you may get help with car repairs. Call your NHEP Team for more details.

### **WHAT'S THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT?**



The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a special federal income tax credit for certain people who work. The amount you can get depends on your family's income and the number of dependent children in the household. The amount of income you can earn and still qualify for the EITC changes every year. When you get ready to file your federal income tax, the new amounts can be found on the IRS forms you use to figure your income taxes. Go to [www.irs.gov/eitc](http://www.irs.gov/eitc) or call 1-800-TAX-1040 for more information about tax credits.

You can get all the EITC as a refund after you file your federal tax return, or you can get some of it in your paycheck and the rest after you file your federal tax return. If you get it in your paycheck, it is not counted as income for FANF cash, Medicaid, or Food Stamps. Ask your employer about the EITC, or call the UNH Cooperative Extension at 1-800-366-3456 and request their free Earned Income Tax Credit publications. For free help and tax preparation, go to [www.NhEITC.org](http://www.NhEITC.org) or dial 211.

**To contact us, please call 1-800-852-3345 ext. 9700, or visit our website at:  
[www.dhhs.nh.gov/DFA](http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/DFA)**