

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP): assures that nutritious meals and snacks are served to children and eligible adults enrolled in child care centers, family child care homes, after school programs, emergency shelters, and adult day care programs by providing reimbursement for meals that meet minimum nutritional standards. The CACFP requires that well-balanced meals are served and good eating habits are taught. The CACFP also provides training and technical assistance on nutrition, food service operations, program management, nutrition education and recordkeeping.

Child Care Aware® of Missouri is the Child Care Resource and Referral Agency in Missouri. Information is available for parents, early care and education programs, and the general public about the many benefits of quality early learning. Partnering with state government agencies on system building and working with legislators on policy that affects early childhood, this network works to improve outcomes for children and families.

Food Stamp program: The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 renamed the federal program the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) effective October 1, 2008. SNAP is designed to promote the general welfare and safeguard the health and well-being of the nation's population by raising the levels of nutrition among low-income households. The program is called the Food Stamp Program in Missouri.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) – Laws and regulations for children with special needs from birth through three years (Part C) and three years to 21 years of age (Part B).

Missouri Early Head Start/Child Care Partnership Project: a nationally recognized effort to increase the capacity of and access to care for this vulnerable age group and to provide parents with a wider variety of quality child care settings from which to choose. The benefits of this partnership include allowing Missouri to maximize state funds by drawing down additional federal funds through a partnership with the Administration for Children and Families. It also positively impacts the overall quality of care in communities, and maximizes the number of children receiving benefits from this funding.

Missouri Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP): has two components: Energy Assistance/Regular Heating (EA) and Energy Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP). EA is designed to provide financial assistance to help pay heating bills for Missourians during the months of October, November, December, January, February, and March. Eligibility requirements for EA are based on income, household size, available resources and responsibility for payment of home heating costs. Eligibility for EA may also qualify individuals for additional financial assistance through ECIP.

Missouri's Medicaid program is called **MO HealthNet**. MO HealthNet covers qualified medical expenses for individuals who meet certain eligibility requirements. Eligible individuals receive a "MO HealthNet Identification Card" or a letter from the Family Support Division identifying them as eligible for certain medical care services.

MO HealthNet (Medicaid) for Families: provides medical care for children under 19 years of age whose family income falls within certain guidelines. After your application has been

processed, you will receive a letter from the Family Support Division. If family members are eligible for services, they will be issued a “MO HealthNet Identification Card,” and explanation of the medical services available to them.

ParentLink is a free program offering information on many topics helpful to families. ParentLink is operated by the University of Missouri. Parenting Specialists maintain a confidential toll-free warm-line at 800-552-8522 (en Español, 888-460-0008).

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF): a program designed to provide cash benefits to low-income families for the household’s children such as clothing, utilities and other services. Upon approval of TANF, the recipient must participate in employment and training services through the Missouri Work Assistance (MWA) program. The MWA program helps TANF recipients transition from TANF to a job by helping set goals and get the skills needed to find a job and support the recipient’s family.

Women, Infants and Children (WIC): a special supplemental nutrition program which provides services to pregnant women, new mothers, infants and children up to their 5th birthday based on nutritional risk and income eligibility. The primary services provided are health screening, risk assessment, nutrition education and counseling, breastfeeding promotion and referrals to health care. Supplemental food is provided at no cost to participants.