

The Internet assists families in accessing needed services through online applications

By Bebe Bode

Louisiana provides a variety of information and services on their agency website regarding Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, Louisiana Children's Health Insurance Program (LaCHIP), Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program (FITAP, formerly known as TANF), and child care assistance. These five main state-administered low-income benefit programs offer a variety of services to Louisiana families.

Families can apply for these services through online applications. Online applications allow individuals to complete and submit an application over the Internet. They are a favorable option to facilitate enrollment by enabling individuals to apply for benefits at a convenient time and place.

They also can facilitate community groups' work to provide application assistance by allowing those groups to automatically transmit electronic applications.

Online printable applications, pre-screening tools, and policy and procedural manuals can be accessed through these websites as well.

All the information needed to learn about and/or access these five main state-administered low-income benefit programs are outlined as follows:

Policy Manuals/Materials

- SNAP, FITAP, and Child Care Assistance
<http://doa.louisiana.gov/osr/lac/67v01/67v01.pdf>

Descriptive Program and Eligibility Information

- SNAP
<http://www.dss.state.la.us/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&pid=93>
- FITAP
<http://www.dss.state.la.us/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&pid=139>
- Medicaid
<http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/subhome/1/n/10>

- LaCHIP
<http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/222>
- Child Care Assistance
<http://www.dss.state.la.us/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&pid=136>

Applications for Assistance

- SNAP, FITAP, and Child Care Assistance
<http://www.dcss.louisiana.gov/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&nid=158&pnid=0&pid=294&catid=0>
- Child Care Assistance
<http://www.dss.state.la.us/assets/docs/searchable/OFS/Applications/CCAP2Application.Pdf>
- Medicaid and LaCHIP
<http://bhsfweb.dhh.louisiana.gov/onlinemanualspublic/eligibility/mfmpublicnonfillable/1-g.pdf>

Online Application

- SNAP, FITAP, and Child Care Assistance
<https://webapps.dss.state.la.us/FAApplication/#> (in English and Spanish)
- Medicaid and CHIP
<https://bhsfweb.dhh.louisiana.gov/OlaPortalPublic/Public/public.aspx>
[Program Data](#)

Annual Statistical Data (w/monthly breakdowns and parish/region totals)

- SNAP, FITAP, and Child Care Assistance
<http://www.dss.state.la.us/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&nid=59&pnid=7&pid=252&catid=0>
- Medicaid
<http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/newsroom/detail/1699>
- LaCHIP
<http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/newsroom/detail/2324>