

Governmental Benefits



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***Please see the insurance chapter for all government benefits relating to health insurance.

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Governmental Benefits

You may be eligible for a variety of governmental benefits, regardless of your marital status or whether you have children.

***Please see the insurance chapter for all government benefits relating to health insurance.

Social Security

Old-Age (retirement), Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI)—popularly referred to as Social Security—provides monthly benefits to workers and their families when earnings stop or are reduced because the worker retires, dies, or becomes disabled. The amount of benefits received is based on the worker's level of earnings in employment or self-employment covered by the Social Security program. (For Congressional Statistics in Wyoming, see http://www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/factsheets/cong_stats/2003/wy.pdf)

Social Security benefits are part of a social insurance program and its benefits are distinct from employer-provided pensions, Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs), or other forms of savings. Retired workers are guaranteed an inflation-indexed payment for their entire lifetime. Other forms of saving have much more risk. For example, an employer pension program may go bankrupt, private investments face substantial risk if there is a market downturn, and workers' savings may run out. The disability insurance provided by Social Security protects workers and their families against a physical or mental disability that renders someone unable to work; the survivors' insurance provides benefits to the families of deceased workers. http://www.epinet.org/content.cfm/issueguide_socialsecurity

Women rely on Social Security more than men do.

- In Wyoming, 20% of adults receive Social Security benefits, including 21% of women and 19% of men. About 39,000 women, 34,000 men and 5,000 children rely on Social Security benefits in the state.

(Social Security Administration and U.S. Census Bureau)

- Women represent 55% of all people 65 and older in Wyoming who rely on Social Security benefits. (Social Security Administration)

Social Security is important for the economic security of elderly women.

Without Social Security, 54% of elderly women in the United States would be poor. (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities; sample size too small to obtain reliable estimate for Wyoming)

Social Security is particularly important to women.¹

Women have fewer earnings to rely on in retirement. Less than half of all workers (46%) had a private pension through their employer in 2002, women are less likely than men: 44% of women have pensions compared to 47% of men. Women of color are even less likely to have a pension than are white women. Furthermore, a woman's pension is typically smaller than a man's because women earn less per hour, and often work part time or spend time out of the labor force. Because they earn less, women have fewer savings than men to depend upon in retirement—thus they rely more heavily on Social Security.

Since women live in retirement an average of three and a half years more than men, they need more retirement income over the course of their lives, not less. They need a retirement program - like Social Security - that provides more income to people who live longer.

Given their longer life spans, it is especially important for women that Social Security benefits be adjusted each year for inflation. If inflation were 3% per year but benefits were not adjusted accordingly, benefits would buy 25% less after 10 years and 45% less after 20 years.

A woman who never worked but stayed home to care for family is still entitled to a Social Security benefit equal to half that of her working husband.

¹Id.

²http://www.epinet.org/content.cfm/issueguide_socialsecurityfacts



Widows and divorced women (after a marriage of at least 10 years) are entitled to Social Security benefits even if they never worked, so long as their husbands were eligible for benefits.

Social Security offers mainly retirement benefits.²

Workers can receive four different types of benefits under Social Security: retirement, early retirement, disability, and survivorship benefits.

Workers are entitled to retirement benefits if they have contributed to Social Security for at least 10 years, and if they have reached the normal retirement age, which is currently 65 (and is set to increase to 67 for workers born after 1959).

Early retirement benefits are available to workers if they have contributed to Social Security for at least 10 years, and if they have reached the earliest age at which benefits can be paid, currently 62. Benefits, however, are reduced by 20% compared to what the retiree would have received at age 65.

Both full and early retirement benefits were paid to 29.2 million retired workers in 2002. Of these, 71% or 20.8 million retirees received a reduced benefit payment because they chose the early retirement option. Average monthly retirement benefits for all workers receiving retirement benefits were \$895 in 2002, or about \$10,700 per year. In comparison, workers who had retired early received on average \$830 per month.

Social Security is more than a worker retirement program.

Many Social Security recipients in Wyoming are not retired workers. They receive benefits either as the widow or widower, spouse or child of a worker, or as a disabled worker. The overwhelming majority of these 27,000 beneficiaries are women and children. (Social Security Administration)

Workers are also insured in case they become disabled.³

Social Security provides insurance to workers in case they become disabled and can no longer work. The dis-

ability need not be related to an accident at the worker's job. The number of years that are required to receive disability benefits varies with the age of a worker. Younger workers need fewer years to qualify for disability benefits. In 2002, Social Security paid an average monthly disability benefit of \$834 to 5.5 million beneficiaries.

Social Security offers life-insurance type benefits to workers.⁴

If a worker dies, her family receives benefits from Social Security. Survivorship benefits are paid if the deceased worker has, on average, worked at least one quarter for each year after he or she attained the age of 21. In 2002, Social Security paid an average monthly survivorship benefit of \$861.

Social Security Income (SSI)

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) pays benefits based on financial need.

SSI is a monthly benefits program for adults with limited income and resources who are blind or who are age 65 or older. Blind or disabled children can also receive SSI benefits. People who receive SSI can also get Medicaid, Social Security benefits, food stamps, and other social services.

Although the Social Security Administration (SSA) administers the program, eligibility for SSI benefits is based on financial need alone, not on how long you have worked or how much you have paid into the Social Security system. However, the financial eligibility rules are quite stringent. If you are seeking SSI benefits because you are disabled, the program's criteria for determining disability are the same as those outlined in the Social Security disability section.

SSI for disabled adults, like Social Security disability benefits, requires proof of inability to perform substantial gainful activity. The disability has to be one (physical or mental) that is expected to last 12 continuous months or to result in death. The definition of disability for SSI for children is different from the standards for disability in the Social Security programs. For children

³Id., ⁴Id.



to receive SSI because of a disability, the child must have a physical or mental condition that can be medically proven and which results in marked and severe functional limitations. Like the adult disability standard, the child's disability must have lasted or be expected to last at least 12 continuous months or to result in death. Children with minor behavioral problems will not qualify for SSI.

Contact your local Social Security Administration office to apply for SSI for yourself or for your children.

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) pays benefits to you and certain members of your family if you are "insured," meaning that you worked long enough and paid Social Security taxes.

What Is a Qualifying Disability?

The definition of disability under Social Security is different than other programs. Social Security pays only for total disability. No benefits are payable for partial disability or for short-term disability.

Disability under Social Security is based on your inability to work. The SSA considers you disabled under Social Security rules if you cannot do work that you did before and they decide that you cannot adjust to other work because of your medical condition(s). Your disability must also last or be expected to last for at least one year or to result in death.

This is a strict definition of disability. Social Security program rules assume that working families have access to other resources to provide support during periods of short-term disabilities, including workers' compensation, insurance, savings and investments.

The first step is to go to the local Social Security office nearest to you. You can look this information up on at http://www.socialsecurity.gov/denver/st_wy.htm or call Social Security's toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213 Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

If you have a touch-tone phone, you can get recorded information and some services 24 hours a day (includ-

ing weekends and holidays).

If you are deaf or hard of hearing, call the toll-free TTY number, 1-800-325-0778, between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The lines are busiest early in the week and early in the month so it's best to call at other times. Whenever you call, have your Social Security number handy.

Delayed Retirement

Not everyone retires at full retirement age. You may decide to continue working full time beyond that time. In that case you can increase your Social Security benefit in two ways:

- Each additional year you work adds another year of earnings to your Social Security record. Higher lifetime earnings may result in higher benefits when you retire.
- In addition, your benefit will be increased by a certain percentage if you delay retirement.

These increases will be added in automatically from the time you reach your full retirement age until you start taking your benefits, or you reach age 70. The percentage varies depending on your year of birth. For example, if you were born in 1943 or later, 8% per year will be added to your benefit for each year you delay signing up for Social Security beyond your full retirement age.

Important Point: If you decide to delay your retirement, be sure to sign up for Medicare at age 65. In some circumstances, medical insurance costs more if you delay applying for it.

If you plan to start your retirement benefits after age 62, it is a good idea to contact Social Security in advance to see which month is best to claim benefits. In some cases, your choice of a retirement month could mean additional benefits for you and your family.

It may be to your advantage to have your Social Security benefits start in January, even if you don't plan to retire until later in the year. Depending on your earnings and your benefit amount, it may be possible for you to start collecting benefits even though you continue to work.



Under current rules, many people can receive the most benefits possible with an application that is effective in January.

Because the rules are complicated, you are urged to discuss your plans with a Social Security claims representative in the year before the year you plan to retire.

Retirement Benefits for Widow(er)s

Widow(er)s can begin receiving benefits at age 60 or age 50 if disabled. If you are receiving widow or widower benefits (including divorced widows or widowers), you can switch to your own retirement benefits - assuming you're eligible and your retirement rate is higher than your widow(er)'s rate - as early as age 62. In many cases, a widow(er) can begin receiving one benefit at a reduced rate and then switch to the other benefit at an unreduced rate at full retirement age. The rules vary depending on the situation, so you should talk to a Social Security representative about the options available to you.

Family Benefits

If you're receiving retirement benefits, some members of your family also can receive benefits.

Those who can include:

- Your wife or husband age 62 or older;
- Your wife or husband under age 62, if she or he is taking care of your child who is under age 16 or disabled;
- Your former wife or husband age 62 or older;
- Children up to age 18;
- Children age 18-19 if they are full-time students through grade 12; and
- Children over age 18, if they are disabled.

Spouse Benefits

A spouse receives one-half of the retired worker's full benefit unless the spouse begins collecting benefits before age 65. In that case, the amount of the spouse's benefit is permanently reduced by a percentage based on the number of months before she or he reaches 65.

For example, if your spouse begins collecting benefits at 64, the benefit amount would be about 46 percent of your full benefit. At age 63, it would be about 42 percent and 37.5 percent at age 62.

If you're eligible for both your own retirement benefits and for benefits as a spouse, your own benefit will be paid first. If your benefit as a spouse is higher than your retirement benefit, you will get a combination of benefits equaling the higher spouse benefit.

Maximum Family Benefits

If you have children eligible for Social Security, each will receive up to one-half of your full benefit.

But there is a limit to the amount of money that can be paid to a family. If the total benefits due your spouse and children exceed this limit, their benefits will be reduced proportionately. Your benefit will not be affected.

Benefits For A Divorced Spouse

A divorced spouse can get benefits on a former husband's or wife's Social Security record if the marriage lasted at least 10 years. The divorced spouse must be 62 or older and unmarried. If the spouse has been divorced at least two years, he or she can get benefits, even if the worker is not retired. However, the worker must have enough credits to qualify for benefits and be age 62 or older. The amount of benefits a divorced spouse gets has no effect on the amount of benefits a current spouse can get.

What You Need To Know When You Are Eligible for Retirement Benefits

Call the toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213, to apply for benefits or to make an appointment to visit any Social Security Office to apply in person.

Information You Will Need:

- Your Social Security number;
- Your birth certificate;
- Your W-2 forms or self-employment tax return for last year;



- Your military discharge papers if you had military service;
- Your spouse's birth certificate and social Security number if he or she is applying for benefits;
- Children's birth certificates and Social Security numbers, if applying for children's benefits;
- Proof of U.S. citizenship or lawful alien status if you (or a spouse or child is applying for benefits) were not born in the U.S.; and
- The name of your bank and your account number so your benefits can be directly deposited into your account.

You will need to submit original documents or copies certified by the issuing office.

Veterans' Benefits

These benefits are available to disabled, blind or older veterans and their children, wives or husbands, widows or widowers. Benefits may be available even if the disability is partial or is not connected to time in the service. Veteran's benefits can include cash benefits as well as health care coverage. Apply for benefits at the Veteran's Administration Center, 1-800-827-1000.

Personal Opportunities With Employment Responsibilities (POWER)

Following welfare reform at the national level, the State of Wyoming implemented the Personal Opportunities With Employment Responsibility (POWER) program effective January 1, 1997. This new program replaced the Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC) program and the waivers Wyoming had in place until that time.

This program provides "welfare to work" services to low-income families with children. A person's family may be eligible if the person is a single parent, if one parent is disabled or if the total income and assets of the family are low enough to entitle them to POWER benefits. In Wyoming, this program is under the TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) program. TANF regulations limit an individual's receipt of cash assistance to 60 months in a lifetime.

With Wyoming's small caseload each case is reviewed by DFS to assure adequate services were offered so the family could become self-sufficient or that it is not possible for the family to do so. Hardship extensions are granted when necessary.

Applications are made through the local Department of Social Welfare offices. Be aware that even though your family may not qualify for TANF benefits, you or members of your family may be eligible for Food Stamps, Medicaid or other programs.

Everyone who is found eligible for TANF can receive benefits under the following conditions:

- In a 2-parent household where 1 parent is unemployed or underemployed, that parent must find work after receiving benefits for 15 months. (Benefits might possibly continue, depending on how much is earned from employment.)
- Single parents and spouses of disabled parents must work after receiving benefits for 30 months, but:
 - o if a single parent has a child under the age of 13 years, the parent only needs to find half-time work after 30 months expire
 - o if a single parent has a child over the age of 13 years, the parent must find full-time work after 30 months expire.

In 1996, the U.S. Congress also passed a "welfare reform" act. Since those new requirements only affect those portions of a welfare grant that is funded by the federal government, it is possible for states to have different programs as long as they are paid by state funds.

Food Stamps

Did you know that for every 5 people that are eligible for the Food Stamp program in Wyoming, only 3 are receiving benefits? The Wyoming Food Stamp program is taking the necessary steps to reach all people that meet the 130% poverty level, by reaching out to all potential individuals and families. The Food Stamp program, under the Department of Family Services (DFS), provides crucial support to needy households and to those making the transition from welfare to work. Their mission is to raise the levels of nutrition among



low-income households, and provide them more nutritious foods for a better diet. The Food Stamp program follows regulations and rules established by the Federal government and the Food Stamp Act of 1977 as the basis for the present day program.

If you think you are eligible for Food Stamps in Wyoming or if you need some help in applying, or need help managing your food budget, you can find out more about the Food Stamp program by contacting your local Department of Family Services office. They will be able to assist you through this process. If you want to proceed through the process, the first step is to fill out an application, or you can also call the office and ask them to send you one. Benefits/Applications can be obtained in each of the 23 counties and are made available to people in outlying communities and the tribal reservations.

In order to qualify for this benefit program, you must be a resident of the State of Wyoming and fall into one of two groups: (1) those with a current bank balance (savings and checking combined) under \$2,001, or (2) those with a current bank balance (savings and checking combined) under \$3,001 who share their household with a person or persons age 60 and over, or with a person with a disability (a child, your spouse, a parent, or yourself).

For either group, you must also have an annual household income of less than \$11,677 if one person lives in the household; \$15,757 if two people live in the household; \$19,849 if three people live in the household; \$23,929 if four people live in the household; \$28,009, if five people live in the household; \$32,089 if six people live in the household; \$36,169 if seven people live in the household; or \$40,249 if more than seven people live in the household. These annual household limits change yearly, contact the DFS office for current requirements.

To download an application for benefits, go to: <http://dfsweb.state.wy.us/pdf/FoodStampDFS100.pdf>

Any questions that you might have as you complete this application please contact your local DFS office

for assistance. The address and phone numbers for local DFS offices are listed at <http://dfsweb.state.wy.us/districts/base2.htm>

For more information about the Wyoming Food Stamp Program, go to <http://dfsweb.state.wy.us/foodstamp-info.html>

WIC (Women, Infant, Children)

WIC is a Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, which serves to safeguard the health of low-income women, infants, & children up to age 5 who are at nutritional risk by providing nutritious supplemental foods, health and nutrition, breastfeeding education and support, and referrals to health care. The WIC program of Wyoming is administered by the Wyoming Department of Health.

In order to qualify for this benefit program, you must be a resident of the State of Wyoming, pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum woman, infant or child up to 5 years of age and: (1) are individually determined by a health professional to be at nutrition risk; and, (2) meet an income standard, or are determined automatically income eligible. A person who participates or has family members who participate in certain other benefit programs, such as the Food Stamp Program, Medicaid or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, automatically meets the income eligibility requirement.

Please see the following Web Site for the income standard or maximum income limit for WIC eligibility: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/howtoapply/incomeguidelines03-04.htm>

Head Start

The Head Start program (for children ages 3-5) and Early Head Start program (for pregnant women, infants, and toddlers) promote school readiness for children in low-income families by providing comprehensive educational, health, nutritional, and social services. Parents play a large role in the programs, both as primary educators of their children and as participants in administering the programs locally. Both programs provide pre-literacy and literacy experiences in a multi-cultural



environment. Parents are also provided social services, including assistance with childcare. Services are also available to migrant and seasonal farm worker families.

In order to qualify for this benefit program, you must be a resident of the State of Wyoming, you must be a parent or primary caregiver responsible for a child who is too young for public school and you must meet household annual income guidelines.

If you do not meet these criteria, you may still qualify if you are a U.S. national, citizen or permanent resident whose financial status is low income or very low income, who is under-employed, unemployed or about to become unemployed, facing pregnancy, less than 19 years of age yourself, or the parent or primary caregiver for children under the age of 19 years. Other qualifications may apply.

For more information on Wyoming Head Start, please visit <http://wind.uwyo.edu/headstart/>

If you would like to speak with a State representative regarding the program, you can also call the Wyoming Head Start-State Collaboration Office at: 307-766-2452.

For further information on the program or to locate a Head Start provider in your area, please visit: <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/hsb/hsweb/index.jsp>

Child Care Subsidies

Some people can receive financial assistance or subsidies for childcare. The available governmental programs include:

- **Parent Fee Scale Program** - This program provides financial assistance for employed parents and parents enrolled in approved training programs through a sliding fee scale which relates to family size and gross income.
- **Self-Employment Child Care** - This subsidy is offered to parents who are starting or who have started a business within the last year.

⁵<http://dfsweb.state.wy.us/fieldop/briefing5b.htm>

- **Seeking Employment Child Care** – This program provides a subsidy for child care in order to allow parents to obtain employment, retain employment, or to obtain training leading to employment.
- **Reach Up Child Care** - Parents who receive TANF and are engaged in an approved Reach Up program plan receive financial assistance for childcare necessary to carry out their Reach Up activities.
- **Incapacity Child Care** - This subsidy is available to parents determined to be physically or emotionally unable to care for their children on a full-time basis.

HIV/AIDS Assistance

The Wyoming Department of Health's HIV/AIDS Care and ADAP Program provide persons living with HIV/AIDS access to comprehensive health and support services. This program serves as the payer of last resort for persons who are uninsured, under-insured, or otherwise unable to access care and treatment. Funding for this program is provided in part by a grant from the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources Services Administration. Services provided by the program include:

- Primary medical care
- Laboratory and diagnostic services
- Case management services
- Prescription medications

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

In order to be eligible for assistance, an individual must meet **all three** of the following requirements:

1. Must be HIV-positive or have a diagnosis of AIDS. A health care provider must verify this by completing the Provider's Medical Certification Form.
2. Must be a resident of, and have a permanent address in, the state of Wyoming. A copy of a valid Wyoming driver's license or state-issued ID card must be submitted along with the Application for Assistance. There are no other acceptable forms of identification. Persons needing to obtain a driver's



license or state ID card can obtain more information from the WYDOT Driver Services website <http://www.dot.state.wy.us/Default.jsp?sCode=drv>.

3. Must have total annual household income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. You may view the current income guidelines here http://wdh.state.wy.us/AIDS/income_guidelines.htm.

The current Application for Assistance form is available from any county public health office or you may download it at <http://wdh.state.wy.us/AIDS/ryan.htm>.

If you or someone you know is living with HIV/AIDS, would like to enroll in this program or simply need more information, please feel free to contact any public health nursing office in Wyoming. You may also contact the Program directly by telephone at (307) 777-5800 or toll free at (800) 438-1282.

Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP)

The Wyoming Department of Family Services (DFS) administers the Heating Assistance or Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP). Benefits are based on household size, household income and the type of fuel used as the primary heating source. Payments are made directly to the fuel provider.

Crisis Assistance payments are available to eligible clients who are facing an emergency situation: A life or health threatening situation, deposit funds for a fuel hook-up or to avoid a shut-off, or a heating system failure during winter months are considered crisis situations. LIEAP is a Federal emergency assistance block grant funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

In order to qualify for this benefit program, you must be a resident of the State of Wyoming, you must need financial assistance for home energy costs and you must meet household annual income guidelines.

LIEAP is paid for the months of November through May. Applications are accepted beginning the first of

working day in October through the last working day of February of the program year. To apply for Crisis Assistance you must FIRST complete the LIEAP Application and then complete the additional Crisis Application.

For more information on the Wyoming LIEAP program or to download an application, go to: http://pathways.state.wy.us/html/LIEAP_main.html.

Weatherization⁵

Weatherization is a federal program for eligible low income individuals designed to lower monthly fuel cost by making a home more fuel efficient, lowering fuel usage and make the home more comfortable at **no cost** to the client.

Measures addressed by the Weatherization program are:

1. **Health and Safety** – monitoring for unsafe conditions: Carbon Monoxide emissions, poor ventilation and wiring
2. **Heating System Efficiency and Safety** - Tuning and adjusting heating system
3. **Hot Water Systems** – Wrapping pipes and water heaters
4. **Drafts and Air Leaks** – Sealing off major air leaks – caulking
5. **Insulation** – Attics, floors and walls; also ceilings and bellies of mobile homes

Cooling Assistance⁶

Wyoming received funds for a cooling assistance program in 2006. (<http://www.liheap.ncat.org/stplans/WY2006.doc>). For more information, contact the Wyoming Department of Family Services, 2300 Capitol Avenue, Hathaway Building, 3rd Floor, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002-0490.

School Breakfast and Lunch Program

The School Breakfast Program provides funding that makes it possible for schools to offer a nutritious break-



fast to students each day. Similarly, the goal of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) is to protect the health and well-being of the nation's children by providing nutritious school meals every day. NSLP provides funding that makes it possible for schools to offer a nutritious school lunch. Schools receive Federal funds for each breakfast and lunch served, provided that the meal meets established nutrition standards.

In order to qualify for this benefit program, you must be a resident of the State of Wyoming and a parent or primary caregiver responsible for a child(ren) who attends school (high school or under). Those who qualify must also meet an annual household income guideline.

For additional information on the Wyoming School Breakfast and Lunch program, please visit the Wyoming Health, Safety, and Transportation Division at: <http://www.k12.wy.us/health.asp>

If you have questions about the programs, please call the Wyoming Health, Safety, and Transportation Division at 307-777-6281.

You can also contact your child's school to find out what meals are served and how to apply for free or reduced price school meals. Wyoming offers a search engine for residents to locate their local school at: https://www.sodexhoeducation.com/segment_0200/district_7501/ENM/Entry8/

Special Milk Program

The Special Milk Program provides milk to children in schools, childcare institutions and eligible camps that do not participate in other Federal child nutrition meal service programs. Schools that participate in the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Programs, can participate in the Special Milk Program for half-day kindergarten and pre-kindergarten children who do not have access to a school meals program. The program reimburses schools and institutions for the milk they serve.

Any child in a school or institution that participates in the Special Milk Program can get milk. Schools may elect to offer free milk to low-income children. In or-

der to qualify for this benefit program, you must be a resident of the State of Wyoming, and you must meet household annual income guidelines.

Go to <http://www.k12.wy.us/HS/milk.pdf>

You can also contact your local school district to learn more about Wyoming SMP.

Summer Food Service

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) provides free meals to low-income children during school vacations. More than 26 million children eat school lunch every day when school is in session, and about half of them receive their meals free or at a reduced price due to low household income. The Wyoming summer program offers those children nutritious food when school is not in session.

In order to qualify for this benefit program, you must be a resident of the State of Wyoming and your household's annual income must meet their guidelines. To learn more about Wyoming SFSP, please contact the Health, Safety, and Transportation office of the Department of Education at: 307-777-6281. You can also contact your local school district to learn how to receive Wyoming SFSP benefits.

Unemployment Benefits

Unemployment insurance benefits provide temporary financial assistance to workers unemployed through no fault of their own that meet Wyoming's eligibility requirements. In order to qualify for this benefit program, you must have worked in Wyoming during the past 12 to 18 months and have earned at least a minimum amount of wages as determined by our guidelines. You must also be able to work and available for work each week that you are collecting benefits.

In order to establish your unemployment insurance claim, you may do so online at: http://159.238.225.75/Ui/WYPilotasp/Claims/Website/En_index.stm. If you have questions, please call the Wyoming Claims Center at: 307-473-3789.



If you live outside Wyoming, you can file a claim by calling the Claims Center at: 866-729-7799. For more information, go to: <http://doe.state.wy.us/>.

For more, see Workplace Issues Chapter.

Wyoming Health Council

WHC is dedicated to community-based services. The Council sub-contracts with the local community health organizations which in turn, operate the clinics and provide the services. These agencies receive public funds to provide services. Annual services provided are: gynecological exams & pap smears; breast and cervical cancer screening; testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs or STDs); hypertension screening and anemia screening.

Other services: Pregnancy tests and options counseling; genetic screening; infertility education; how to involve parents in teens' decision to become sexually active; resisting sexual coercion, STD and AIDS/HIV information. Some sites also provide HIV testing. Education and counseling on all contraceptive (birth control) methods, including abstinence, are provided so each client can discuss options, risks, and benefits of each method and choose the best method for him/her.

If a client has a medical counseling need beyond the capacity of the family planning program, referrals are made to other providers and/or agencies in the community. Services provided may vary from clinic to clinic. The above services are available at all Title X funded Clinics. Please check with other clinics to be sure the services you need are available.

Clinics provide services to persons of all economic strata based on a sliding fee scale (costs may differ from clinic to clinic - please check with the clinic when making an appointment).

Staff members are available to give presentations to community groups, schools, etc. Audio-visual materials and pamphlets are also available. Information is also available to help parents provide sexuality education for their children and to encourage positive communication within families.

For your information, WHC and providers seek to prevent abortions through prevention of unintended pregnancies. Wyoming Family Planning clinics do not pay for or perform abortions as public funds may not be used to provide abortion services. But, clients requesting information on pregnancy options are to be informed of all their legal options, including pre-natal care, adoption, and abortion.

Exams are provided by nurse practitioners, physician assistants, or physicians. Each clinic has a physician available for consultation. For more information about the family planning program in Wyoming please contact:

Wyoming Health Council
2120 O'Neil Avenue.
Cheyenne, WY 82001
Phone (307) 632-3640
Fax (307) 632-3611

For more on Health Care Services, see chapter on Health & Reproductive Services

Additional Programs

The Wyoming Department of Health has many programs addressing Wyoming health needs. These programs can be found at <http://wdh.state.wy.us/main/programs.asp> or you can contact them at 307-777-7656.

You can find more information on these Wyoming benefits and many more federal benefits at www.GovBenefits.gov.