

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

## Access to public benefits during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) crisis

If you are facing financial difficulties due to the COVID-19 emergency, you may be able to get help with food, healthcare, and cash assistance programs.

### FOOD (SNAP)

Help to buy food through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

### HEALTHCARE (Medicaid)

Help with healthcare costs through Medicaid or help with the costs of Medicare. Immigrants who do not qualify for full Medicaid may be able to get help with the costs of emergency care.

### CASH ASSISTANCE (TANF & GA)

Cash assistance may be available for families with children (TANF) and for disabled adults without children (General Assistance program).

### HEATING & COOLING (LIHEAP)

Help with overdue bills for heating and cooling through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. (LIHEAP).



Apply online at [www.yes.state.nm/us](http://www.yes.state.nm/us)

Apply for Medicaid by phone: 1-855-637-6574

For more information, call NM Human Services Department at 1-800-283-4465



### **You have a right to your application getting processed on time.**

- If you have no income or if your housing costs are greater than your monthly income, you must receive food benefits within 7 days of applying.
- Regular food, family cash assistance (TANF), and LIHEAP applications must be processed within 30 days.
- Medicaid applications must be processed within 45 days of application and can cover bills from 3 months prior.

### **Family cash assistance is available as a one-time lump sum or a monthly benefit.**

A family of 3 or more people can receive up to \$2,500.

### **Many lawfully residing immigrants are eligible for benefits.**

Many children are eligible to receive benefits even if their parents do not qualify. Medical testing, treatment, and care for COVID-19 are not part of the government's public charge test that may affect immigration status. Public charge does not apply to most immigrants who are eligible for public benefits programs.

**If you are already receiving benefits,** let the Human Services Department know if your income has gone down. You may be able to get more assistance. Your case should not close if you cannot meet paperwork or other requirements during the COVID-19 public health emergency. You cannot lose Medicaid during this time.

If you have questions or experience problems with applying, contact Teague González at the NM Center on Law and Poverty at [Teague@nmpoertylaw.org](mailto:Teague@nmpoertylaw.org) or (505) 433-7218.