

# Summary of Public Benefits Available in Forsyth County, North Carolina

For Reference: the total population of Forsyth County was 389,157 as of July 1, 2022.

	Eligibility Criteria	Availability*	Active Recipients*	Number Eligible*
<p><b>Food and Nutritional Services (FNS)</b>  <i>NC Dept. of Health and Human Services - Division of Social Services</i>                      Food and Nutrition Services (FNS), also known as 'food stamps' and federally referred to as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), provides low-income families with cash assistance for food. Families receive an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card that is pre-loaded monthly with their benefit amount.</p>	<p>The household income threshold for FNS benefits is 130% of the FPL<sup>1</sup> for many households, and 200% for those categorically eligible.</p>	<p>Universally Available</p>	<p>65,244  <i>April, 2023</i></p>	<p>123,180 - 133,430</p>
<p><b>Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)</b>  <i>NC Dept. of Health and Human Services - Division of Public Health</i>                      Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides food for new mothers, infants, and children under age 6 through an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card and coupons that can be used at grocery stores and other participating food outlets.</p>	<p>New mothers and children up to age 5 can receive WIC benefits if their household income is equal to or less than 185% of the FPL<sup>1</sup>.</p>	<p>Universally Available</p>	<p>9,740  <i>February, 2023</i></p>	<p>10,087 - 12,595</p>
<p><b>Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) / NC Work First Cash Assistance Program</b>  <i>NC Dept. of Health and Human Services - Division of Social Services</i>                      North Carolina's Work First Cash Assistance Program, called Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) federally, provides cash assistance and job training to low-income families. Families are able to receive Work First benefits for up to 24 months (extensions available), then they must wait 36 months before reapplying.</p>	<p>Only families with children age 17 or younger, and who fall below the income thresholds are eligible for Work First Cash Assistance.</p>	<p>Universally Available</p>	<p>179<sup>†</sup>  <i>April, 2023</i></p>	<p>4,576 - 9,392</p>
<p><b>North Carolina Child Care Subsidy</b>  <i>NC Dept. of Health and Human Services - Division of Child Development and Early Education</i>                      The NC Child Care Subsidy Program provides subsidized child care to families using state and federal funds. Most families pay 10% of their gross income in child care costs and the subsidy program covers the rest, up to a given maximum.</p>	<p>Children under age 6 can receive benefits if their household income is equal to or less than 200% of the FPL<sup>1</sup>.</p> <p>Children ages 6-12 can obtain benefits if their household income is equal to or less than 133% of the FPL<sup>1</sup>.</p> <p>If a child's household income exceeds their corresponding FPL<sup>1</sup> threshold but is less than 85% of the state median income, the child can continue enrollment for another year.</p>	<p>Limited Number of Spots</p>	<p>2,027  <i>May, 2023</i></p>	<p><b>133% FPL<sup>1</sup>:</b>                      10,893 - 13,959</p> <p><b>200% FPL<sup>1</sup>:</b>                      12,215 - 14,515</p>

\*In Forsyth County, North Carolina

†Active household recipients

<p><b>Smart Start Child Care Scholarships</b>  <i>Smart Start of Forsyth County</i>  Scholarships are managed by Smart Start of Forsyth County. The scholarships help subsidize child care expenses for children ages 0-5. Generally, guardians pay a copay equaling 10% of household income.</p>	Children ages 0-5 can receive a scholarship if their household income is equal to or less than 200% of the FPL <sup>1</sup> .	Limited Number of Spots	271 <i>May, 2023</i>	12,215 - 14,515
<p><b>Housing Choice Voucher Program</b>  <i>Housing Authority of Winston-Salem</i>  The Housing Choice Voucher program, often referred to as Section 8 vouchers, is administered by the Housing Authority of Winston-Salem and provides rent subsidies to low-income households. Families can choose any housing in the private market, assuming the owner agrees to rent under the program. In general, families must pay 10% of their gross income or 30% of their adjusted gross income in rent — and the housing voucher covers the rest.</p>	The initial eligibility threshold is 50% of the Winston-Salem metropolitan statistical area median income. Once a household qualifies, they stay enrolled in the program but may not receive any benefits if their income increases past a certain threshold.	Limited Number of Spots	8,563 <i>May, 2023</i>	67,939 - 77,455
<b>MEDICAID PROGRAMS</b>				
<p><b>Medicaid for Families with Dependent Children<sup>2</sup></b>  <i>NC Dept. of Health and Human Services - Division of Health Benefits</i>  Medicaid for Families with Dependent Children (MAF) is full Medicaid coverage for children ages 21 and under as well as parents/caretaker relatives, and/or spouses who are caring for a related child under age 18 in their household. The family must earn a very low income<sup>3</sup>.</p>	Parents/caretaker relatives, and/or spouses must be living with and caring for a child, to whom they are related, who is under age 18, and fall below the income thresholds <sup>3</sup> . Children living on their own must be under age 21 to receive the benefit individually.	Universally Available	16,701 <i>May, 2023</i>	4,553 - 9,125
<p><b>Medicaid for Infants and Children<sup>4</sup></b>  <i>NC Dept. of Health and Human Services - Division of Health Benefits</i>  Medicaid for Infants and Children (MIC) is full Medicaid coverage for children ages 18 and under living in low-income households.</p>	Children under age 6 receive coverage if their household income is equal to or less than 210% of the FPL <sup>1</sup> . Children ages 6-18 gain coverage if their household income is equal to or less than 133% of the FPL <sup>1</sup> .	Universally Available	45,973 <i>May, 2023</i>	<b>133% FPL<sup>1</sup>:</b> 18,849 - 22,865  <b>210% FPL<sup>1</sup>:</b> 12,576 - 14,868

**Source and reference information for the facts and figures presented in this document have been omitted due to space limitations. For source and reference information, or for questions about the content in this document, please contact [info@forsythfutures.org](mailto:info@forsythfutures.org).**

- <sup>1</sup> FPL stands for Federal Poverty Level, which is a measure published by the Department of Health and Human Services each year that assists in determining eligibility for federal programs, in particular many benefit programs.
- <sup>2</sup> Some benefit programs have asset thresholds where recipients no longer qualify for the benefit if their household assets exceed a predetermined limit. For example, Medicaid for Families with Dependent Children has an asset limit of \$3,000 across savings, checking, and/or retirement accounts.
- <sup>3</sup> Pre-tax monthly income limits for family sizes ranging from 1 to 5: 1 - \$434, 2 - \$569, 3 - \$667, 4 - \$744, 5 - \$824.
- <sup>4</sup> Medicaid's North Carolina Health Choice program no longer exists as of April 1, 2023; previous recipients are now enrolled in MIC.



The Asset Building Coalition of Forsyth County, North Carolina believes that every person deserves access to the financial resources needed to meet their basic needs, achieve their goals, reach their potential, and make a positive impact.