

Summary of Public Benefits Available in Forsyth County, North Carolina

For Reference: the total population of Forsyth County was 392,921 as of July 1, 2023.

	Eligibility Criteria	Availability*	Active Recipients*	Number Eligible*
<p>Food and Nutritional Services (FNS) <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 the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), provides low-income individuals and families with cash assistance for food. Eligible participants receive an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card, which is pre-loaded monthly with their benefit amount. EBT cards can be used anywhere SNAP benefits are accepted but cannot be used to purchase hot or cold prepared food items (e.g., sandwiches, salad bar), pet food, alcohol, tobacco, or other non-food items like household supplies.</p>	<p>For most non-elderly families or families without a member who has a disability, their net income must not exceed 100% of the FPL¹, and their gross income must not exceed 130% of the FPL¹ to be income-eligible for the benefit. Additionally, there are various other requirements, including citizenship or other legal status and work requirements for most non-disabled adults aged 18-54 without dependents.</p>	<p>Universally Available</p>	<p>27,902[†] March, 2024</p>	<p>19,371-26,925[†]</p>
<p>Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) <i>NC Dept. of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Well-Being Division</i> The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) serves low-income and nutritionally at-risk pregnant, breastfeeding, or postpartum women, as well as infants and children up to age 5. WIC provides specific voucher amounts and types of WIC-approved foods that vary depending on the participant's category (e.g., infants and children vs. postpartum or breastfeeding mothers). A complete list of WIC-approved and non-approved foods can be found here.</p>	<p>Pregnant, breastfeeding, and post-partum women and children up to age 5 can receive WIC benefits if their household income is equal to or less than 185% of the FPL¹ and they are at nutritional risk.</p>	<p>Universally Available</p>	<p>8,906 March, 2024</p>	<p>9,081 - 15,327</p>
<p>Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) / Work First (WF) <i>NC Dept. of Health and Human Services - Division of Social Services</i> North Carolina's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, Work First (WF), provides cash assistance and job training to low-income families. Families can receive Work First benefits for up to 24 months (extensions are available), and then they must wait 36 months before reapplying.</p>	<p>Only families with children aged 17 or younger below the income thresholds are eligible for TANF / WF. Recipients must be NC residents and have citizenship or certain legal status, and residents receiving SSI, Foster Care, and/or Adoption Assistance payments are not included.</p>	<p>Universally Available</p>	<p>152[†] March, 2024</p>	<p>1,359-4,589[†]</p>
<p>North Carolina Child Care Subsidy <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 can receive benefits if they meet both situational and financial criteria. Situational criteria include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being in child protective services. • Having a parent in school or a job training program. • Having developmental needs. <p>Children under 6 and children with special needs meet the financial criteria if their income is below</p>	<p>Limited Number of Spots</p>	<p>2,167 March, 2024</p>	<p>19,896 - 28,886</p>

*In Forsyth County, North Carolina

[†]Active recipients or eligible household recipients

	<p>200% of the FPL¹, and children ages 6 -12 without special needs meet the financial criteria if their income is below 133% of the FPL¹.</p> <p>If a child's household income exceeds their corresponding FPL¹ threshold while enrolled in the program but is less than 85% of the state median income, they can continue enrollment for another year.</p>			
<p>Smart Start Child Care Scholarships <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>	<p>Children ages 0-5 can receive a scholarship if their household income is equal to or less than 200% of the FPL¹ and their parents work at least 25 hours a week, are in school full time, or some combination of work and school.</p>	Limited Number of Spots	347 <i>April, 2024</i>	9,109-13,973
<p>Housing Choice Voucher Program <i>Housing Authority of Winston-Salem</i> The Housing Choice Voucher program, often referred to as Section 8, is administered by the Housing Authority of Winston-Salem (HAWS) and provides rent subsidies to low-income families in the form of vouchers. HAWS issues the voucher directly to the owner or landlord, and then the tenant pays the difference between the actual rent charged and the voucher amount. Families may have to pay up to 40% of their income towards their housing costs.</p>	<p>The initial eligibility threshold is 80% of the Winston-Salem metropolitan statistical area median income (AMI), which varies by family size. Federal requirements stipulate that at least 75% of vouchers go to extremely low-income households, defined as those earning below 30% of the AMI. Everyone in the household must have a social security number to qualify, and criminal and eviction history may impact eligibility.</p>	Limited Number of Spots	8,280** <i>May, 2024</i>	123,019 - 149,971
MEDICAID PROGRAMS				
<p>Medicaid for Families with Dependent Children² <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 income³.</p>	<p>Parents/caretakers, 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. Children living on their own must be under age 21 to receive the benefit individually. Recipients must be a citizen or show proof of eligible immigration status to qualify.</p>	Universally Available	33,250 ⁷ <i>March, 2024</i>	9,159 - 21,975
<p>Medicaid for Infants and Children⁴ <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>	<p>Children from 18 years old and younger receive coverage if their family income is equal to or less than 211% of the FPL. Recipients must be a citizen or show proof of eligible immigration status to qualify.</p>	Universally Available	34,223 <i>March, 2024</i>	45,288 - 55,958
<p>Medicaid Expansion <i>NC Dept. of Health and Human Services - Division of Health Benefits</i> North Carolina expanded its Medicaid program and as of December 1, 2023, low-income⁵ adults between the ages of 19 and 64 without insurance may apply for Medicaid coverage.</p>	<p>Residents 19 to 64 receive coverage under this program if they are at or below 133% of the FPL. To qualify for this program, they cannot be pregnant⁶, enrolled in medicare, or enrolled in another insurance program. Recipients must be a citizen or show proof of eligible immigration status to qualify.</p>	Universally Available	17,443 <i>March, 2024</i>	40,422 - 53,376

**Active recipients reflect individuals living in households that are receiving a project-based or tenant-based voucher under the Housing Choice Voucher program

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.

- ¹ 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.
- ² Some benefit programs have asset thresholds where recipients no longer qualify for the benefit if their household assets exceed a predetermined limit. For example, TANF / WF has a limit of \$3,000 and includes any resources that can be readily converted to cash within 5 business days (e.g., savings, checking, retirement accounts, and/or any stocks or bonds held); all vehicles are excluded from the asset limit.
- ³ Pre-tax monthly income limits for family sizes ranging from 1 to 5: 1 - \$434, 2 - \$569, 3 - \$667, 4 - \$744, 5 - \$824.
- ⁴ Medicaid's North Carolina Health Choice program no longer exists as of April 1, 2023; previous recipients are now enrolled in MIC.
- ⁵ Pre-tax monthly income limits (133% of the FPL) for family sizes ranging from 1 to 5: 1 - \$1,670, 2 - \$2,226, 3 - \$2,862, 4 - \$3,458, 5 - \$4,055.
- ⁶ While pregnant women are not eligible under the new expanded Medicaid program, there is a separate Medicaid program for pregnant women earning up to 196% of the FPL.
- ⁷ This estimate includes other but similar programs beyond the Medicaid Families with Dependent Children (MAF) program.



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.