

## Assistance Programs Available to program participants

### TANF – Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

- TANF can be used for wage supplements for working poor, child care, education, job training, transportation.
- To be eligible, a family of three (mother and two children) must have a gross income below \$784 per month and countable assets less than \$1000.
- Each state makes its own criteria: benefit levels; determination of financial need; work related activities and time limits
- States can set their own benefit levels
- Benefit levels are low and do not enable families to meet basic needs. They result in a family of three living below half the poverty level.
- Many states with the lowest benefit levels have larger Black populations.
- States cannot provide cash assistance from federal TANF funds for longer than a 60-month time limit over lifetime (can be extended due to hardship)
- The program emphasizes welfare-to-work – search for a job, attend an educational program, or volunteer (need to confirm)
- A family of 3 would receive approximately \$400 per month. In contrast, the poverty level for a family of three is \$21,700 per year.



### SNAP – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

- SNAP provides benefits to eligible low-income individuals and families via an electronic benefits transfer card. This card can be used to purchase eligible food (food made for human consumption) and seeds and plants in retail food stores.
- SNAP benefits cannot be used to purchase diapers or hygiene products. The HEARTH store provides those items to the Program Participants.
- To qualify for benefits, a family of three can have a maximum gross income of \$2300 per month or a net income of \$1800 per month. Families must recertify annually.
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- The **maximum allotment** for a family of three is \$616 per month. The amount will be reduced based upon the family's net income. The assumption is that the average family spends 30% of their income on food.

### **WIC – Women, Infants and Children – Special Supplemental Nutrition**

- WIC serves the following:
  - Pregnant women
  - Breastfeeding women up to one year postpartum
  - Women up to six month postpartum who are not breastfeeding
  - Infants and children under 5 years of age
- WIC income guidelines are set at 185% of the federal poverty level (\$21,700 for a family of three).
- Benefits range from \$50 - \$150 per month.
- Eligible purchases include fruit, milk, eggs, beans, peanut butter, WIC approved cereal and WIC approved baby formula.



### **Housing Choice Voucher – Section 8**

- Section 8 is the common term for federal low-income rental assistance programs managed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development
- The housing choice voucher program assists very low income families, the elderly and the disabled to afford decent, safe and sanitary housing in the private market.
- Participants can choose any housing that meets the requirements of the program. The owner must agree to rent under the program.
- Public Housing Agencies (PHA) determine the payment standard based upon the amount needed to rent a moderately priced dwelling in the local market.
- The housing allowance is calculated using the lesser of the payment standard minus 30% of the family's monthly adjusted income OR the gross rent minus 30% of the family's adjusted gross income.
- Eligibility is based upon income and family size. Income must not exceed 30% of the area's median income.



### **HEARTH Program Participants:**

Over the past five years:

The average age of a mom at HEARTH is 31 years of age.

The average number of children each mom has is 2.

The average age of a child at HEARTH is 9.

HEARTH Program Participants Stats:

- 8 children are enrolled in childcare, 3 of which are enrolled in the on-site Early Head Start classroom.
- 1 family receives TANF
- 90% receive SNAP benefits
- 100% (Moms and children) are on Medicaid
- 11% of the Moms receive child support
- 66% of the Moms are enrolled in educational program
- 33% of the Moms are employed

