This form has information about programs and services available through Department of Human Services (DHS) Family Community Resource Centers. You cannot get benefits while you are an inmate. But after your release, the full range of benefits may be available to you through your local DHS Family Community Resource Center.

Read this form to learn about the programs and services available through DHS and how to apply.

WHAT KIND OF HELP CAN DHS GIVE ME?

DHS has programs that provide cash, medical and Food Stamp benefits. If you qualify for cash benefits you will also get medical assistance and probably Food Stamps. If you do not qualify for cash benefits you may still qualify for medical or Food Stamp benefits.

Medical assistance is provided by the Department of Public Aid, but you apply for them at DHS.

HOW CAN I APPLY?

You can apply by completing an application before you are released. DOC Re-Entry Team staff can help you if you want. They will send your application to the DHS office near where you will live when you are released. Your application will be considered for cash, medical and Food Stamps, unless you state otherwise.

WHAT ELSE DO I HAVE TO DO BESIDES COMPLETE AN APPLICATION?

DHS will want proof of such things as your age, citizenship, child(ren)’s name(s) and address, your assets (such as bank accounts and cars). Proof can be such things as birth certificates, bank books, alien registration card, and children’s school records. If you think you are disabled, DHS will need medical records.

WILL I HAVE TO GO TO THE DHS OFFICE?

Yes, if you want cash benefits or Food Stamps. When DHS gets your application and you are requesting cash or Food Stamp benefits, you will be sent a notice telling you the date and time of your eligibility interview. This date is usually the first work day after your release. If you cannot keep your appointment, call the contact person on your appointment notice and schedule another interview. The appointment notice also tells you what information to bring to your interview. If you are applying for medical only, you do not have to complete an interview. Your application will be processed based on the information that was provided with your application.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I DON’T KEEP MY APPOINTMENT?

If you do not keep your appointment and do not request another appointment, your application for cash benefits will be denied. If you are applying for Food Stamps, you will be sent a Notice of Missed Interview. If you do not reschedule and keep the new appointment, your Food Stamp application will be denied on the 30th day after the date of application. An application for medical only does not need an interview.
WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I DO NOT GIVE THE PROOF BY THE DATE REQUESTED?

Your application may be denied if we do not receive all the information by the date requested. So, if you need help getting something ask us and we will help you to get the information. Therefore, provide the information by the date requested, or contact DHS to ask for help in getting the information.

HOW WILL I FIND OUT IF I AM ELIGIBLE OR NOT?

If you meet all eligibility requirements for the program(s) that you applied for, you will get a written notice of approval. If your application is denied you will get a notice that explains why you are not eligible.

IF I AM RETURNING TO LIVE WITH MY CHILDREN OR SPOUSE AND NEED HELP BUT THEY ARE ALREADY RECEIVING ASSISTANCE, WHAT SHOULD I DO?

If the people you will be living with are already receiving benefits, tell them to contact their DHS caseworker and request that you be added to their case. For cash or medical the caseworker will ask them to complete a form to add you. The DHS Liaison in the office will have received the notice that you are being released.