



House of Delegates Study Group

Economic Stability

Delegate Mike McKay and Delegate Pam Queen, Co-Chairs

Wednesday, September 30, 2020
1:00 pm

Highlights of United Ways of Maryland

The Impact of Benefits Cliff

“Potential **loss of public benefits** to working families resulting in **small increases to earned income**”



United Way ALICE Families

In Maryland, **more** than **one** in **three working households** can't afford basic expenses like food, housing, healthcare, childcare, and transportation.

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Focus of Benefits Cliff Study

Types of Families

- ▶ 1 Adult Households
- ▶ 1 Adult, 2 Children Households
- ▶ 2 Adults, 2 Children Households

Safety Net Programs

- ▶ Food Supplement Program (FSP)
- ▶ Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA)
- ▶ Medical Assistance (MA), Maryland Children's Health Insurance Program (MCHP), and Maryland Health Connection (MHC)
- ▶ Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP)
- ▶ Office of Home Energy Programs (OHEP)
- ▶ Child Care Scholarship Program (CCSP)
- ▶ Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC)
- ▶ Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC) and Poverty Level Credits

United Way Recommendations



▶ General

- ▶ Gradually Phase-out Benefits - SNAP, E&T, TANF, and Childcare
- ▶ Match Maryland Dollars to Federal Dollars

▶ Specific Areas

- ▶ Housing, Childcare, Employment, Health

NCSL

State Policy Strategies



- ▶ MAPPING BENEFITS CLIFFS
- ▶ ALIGNING ELIGIBILITY LEVELS
- ▶ MAKING WORK PAY
- ▶ INCREASING FAMILY ECONOMIC SECURITY THROUGH ASSET DEVELOPMENT
- ▶ FOSTERING CULTURE AND SYSTEM CHANGES IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS

<https://www.ncsl.org/research/human-services/addressing-benefits-cliffs.aspx>

Next Steps and Policy Plans

2021 Maryland General Assembly