**BENEFIT PROGRAMS**

1. **Strong Families, Strong Future DC**

Provides $900/month for 1 year to low income and to new parents who meet certain annual income level requirements. Mothers must have a baby less than three months old or must be in her second or third trimester. Annual income must be less than $32,000 for a single parent; and under $43,550 for a couple. Must live in Ward 5,7,8.

1. **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**

Provides food assistance to needy DC families.

1. **Maryland’s Children’s Health Program**

Provides free health insurance for pregnant women and children who are low income and live in MD.

1. **Temporary Cash Assistance Program (MD)**

The Dept. of Social Services provides cash assistance to needy families with dependent children. Lifetime benefits are for up to 60 months and are applied for online at MD-DHS.

1. **Medical Assistance Program (MD)**

Helps individuals and families pay for medical care. Assistance is offered through both Medicaid (if one qualifies) and the Affordable Care Act.

1. **Burial Assistance Program (Federal Program)**

Provides limited financial help with funeral expenses of deceased recipients of Public Assistance programs when their families cannot afford funeral costs. The program provides a cash benefit to the funeral director when the deceased individual was either already receiving assistance or met the eligibility requirements of a program administered by the Department of Human Services.

1. **FEMA Covid-19 Funeral Assistance**

FEMA provides financial assistance for funeral expenses incurred after Jan. 20, 2020 for deaths related to coronavirus (COVID-19) to help ease some of the financial stress and burden pandemic caused.

1. **Homelessness Prevention Program**

This program assists individuals and families facing a housing crisis. Funding is available for small, one-time crisis grants to keep those facing eviction, safely housed. Grant funding is used for training clients on budgeting and other life skills, education on tenant rights and responsibilities, and mediation between landlord and tenant. The one-time direct grants are provided to landlords to prevent eviction. Qualifying households must have a lease in their name and the ability to pay rent moving forward.

1. **Home Energy Assistance Program (MD)**

This program, managed by DSS’ Office of Home Energy Programs (OHEP), provides bill assistance to low-income households in the State of Maryland to make their energy costs more affordable and to help with the prevention of loss and the restoration of home energy service.

1. **Emergency Rental Assistance Program (DHS DC)**

This program helps District residents earning less than 40% of the Area Median Income (AMI) who are facing housing emergencies, by providing funding for overdue rent including late fees and court costs if a qualified household is facing eviction. The program also supports security deposits and the first month's rent for residents moving into new apartments. 