

## **Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust Mainstream Benefits, Resources and Services**

### **Basic Services or Assistance**

- Food Assistance (SNAP, Food Bank, Soup Kitchen, Senior Center Meal Program)
- Rental, Utility and Move-In Assistance outside of Coordinated CoC Referrals (Catholic Charities, Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP), Miami-Dade Community Action Service Centers (LIHEAP, HAG)
- Domestic Violence Assistance
- Public Transportation Assistance
- Credit Counseling
- Cell Phone & Internet Connections

### **Cash Benefits**

#### **Unemployment Benefits:**

Florida Reemployment Assistance benefits, also known as unemployment compensation, provides temporary wage replacement benefits to qualified individuals who are out of work through no fault of their own. Floridians in need of filing a claim for Reemployment Assistance benefits may do so online using the [CONNECT](#) system.

**Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Security Disability (SSDI) Benefits:** SSI and SSDI provide income, access to health coverage through Medicaid and Medicare, and help with workforce reconnection through work incentives and services.

#### **Veteran Benefits and Pensions:**

Disability Compensation is a monetary benefit paid to Veterans with disabilities that are the result of a disease or injury incurred or aggravated during active military service. Compensation may also be paid for post-service disabilities that are considered related or secondary to disabilities occurring in service and for disabilities presumed to be related to circumstances of military service, even though they may arise after service.

The Veterans Pension program provides monthly payments to wartime Veterans who meet certain age or disability requirements, and who have income and net worth within certain limits.

#### **Retirement Benefits and Pensions**

Retirement benefits through the Social Security Administration. Clients may also have retirement benefits or pensions.

### **Families with Children Benefits and Resources**

**Florida Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program:** SNAP, also formerly known as Food Stamps, provides low-income individuals and households with monthly cash benefits to purchase nutritional food.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF): Provides help to low-income families and those experiencing homelessness during transition to employment.

Women, Infants and Children (WIC): A federally funded nutrition program for Women, Infants, and Children, providing healthy foods, nutrition education and counseling, breastfeeding support, and referrals for health care and community services.

Child Support Assistance: When a parent or guardian has custody of a child and the other parent does not provide financial support, the Child Support Enforcement Division of [Miami-Dade County's State Attorney's Office](#) can help. If you are the custodial parent (the child lives with you), you are not alone in your efforts to get money or medical benefits for your child.

Early Childhood Education:

Early childhood education and services generally target children ages birth to 5 years old with some services for children up to 12 years old. Programs include Early Head Start and Head Start and School Readiness services. Early childhood education programming is offered through Miami-Dade County Public Schools and provider networks funded and coordinated by the Early Childhood Coalition and the Children's Trust.

Miami Dade County Public Schools Project UPSTART:

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS) Project UP-START assists schools with timely identification of students in unstable housing situations, immediate school enrollment and resources in order to help ensure their successful academic achievement. Project UPSTART coordinates its efforts with the CoC, particularly the emergency shelters.

## Medical Coverage

Medicaid: Health insurance coverage for low-income populations, including those with disability and/or experiencing homelessness. Youth transitioning from foster care can also access this benefit until the age of 26. This benefit covers required services like primary care, medical services and behavioral health treatment.

Medicare: Health Insurance coverage for persons who are 65 years of age or older and meet certain requirements.

Veterans Health Benefits: Qualified veterans can receive health and behavioral health services and other health-related supports through Veterans Administration (VA) medical centers, community-based outpatient clinics and vet centers. The VA also offers community living centers and other assisted living facilities.

Ryan White HIV/AIDS Part A and Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI): Provides core medical services and support services to persons living with HIV/AIDS whose income is at or below 400% of the

Federal Poverty Level. Ryan White is the payer of last resort for such services. (<http://aidsnet.org>).

Long-Term Care: Options of long-term care available in the community (ALFs, nursing homes, hospice care).

Community-Based Health and Behavioral Health Services: Health and behavioral health services offered through Community Health Centers, Federally Qualified Health Centers, county hospitals and clinics; public mental health and substance abuse service providers.

## Educational and Employment Services

Employment and Workforce Programs: CareerSource South Florida, a part of the state's network of local workforce development boards, offers employment services and workforce programs. CareerSource offices are located throughout Miami-Dade County, including Camillus House.

### Technical Schools

Local educational institutions offer technical training that lead to certification and employment opportunities. Institutions include MDCPS' secondary school technical programs, technical colleges, and MDCPS Adult Education Programs and Miami-Dade College. Technical schools and career pathways can be found at <https://ctemiami.net>

Youth Tuition and Fees Exemption: Provides homeless and/or current or former foster care youth an exemption from tuition and fees at state (public) universities, colleges in the Florida College System, and school district workforce education programs. Assistance applying for the exemption is provided to MDCPS homeless students through Project UPSTART assists MDCPS homeless students with assistance applying for the exemption. The local Community-Based Care Lead Agency (Citrus Family Care Network) and the Office of Continuing Care (Hope Florida) assist current or former foster care youth to access the exemption. Eligible youth may also apply for the exemption through the Florida university, college or workforce education program in which the youth is enrolling.

## Mainstream Subsidized Housing

- *Federally-Funded Mainstream Housing:* Federally funded housing subsidy or properties administered by local Housing Authorities (Housing Choice Vouchers, Mainstream Vouchers, Multi-Family, Public Housing etc.). Local Entitlement Jurisdictions also invest federal HOME funds in affordable housing developments.
- *Tax Credit Housing:* Affordable housing developed with federal Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC), including developments targeting homeless persons or having set-aside referral agreements with the Homeless Trust.
- *State and Local Subsidized Housing:* State-allocated SHIP funds administered locally that are allocated to rental assistance. Local Documentary Stamp Surtax-funded affordable housing.

## **Mainstream Benefits Checklist**

Instructions: For each benefit write in the date of application and date of approval. When the benefit is not applicable write "N/A" on date of application. When the client already has the benefit write "Receiving Benefit" on date of application. Any individual whose

public benefits are reduced, terminated, or denied should be referred to Legal Services of Greater Miami.

Client Name: \_\_\_\_\_ HMIS #: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Benefit</b>	<b>Date of Application</b>	<b>Date Approved</b>
Medicare*		
Medicaid*		
Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)*		
Food Stamps*		
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)**		
Employment assistance programs		
Early childhood education		
Health services		
Substance abuse programs		
Mental health counselling		
Legal services		

\*Update the HMIS record when benefits are received or changed.