



## Buncombe County Economic Services

**Medicaid** - Medicaid is a health insurance program for individuals and families who cannot afford medical costs.

- **Medicaid for Adults** - Adult Medicaid programs can provide assistance to individuals age 65 or older. Medical assistance is also accessible for those who are either blind or disabled. Services are available to pay for medically necessary nursing home care for patients in skilled or intermediate care nursing homes. Services are also available for patients in medically necessary intermediate care facilities for people with developmental disabilities. Individuals who have Medicare coverage may be eligible to have their Medicare premiums paid by Medicaid.
- **Medicaid Programs for Families and Children** - Family Medicaid programs can provide assistance to children 18 and under, parents or other caretakers/relatives with children up to 18 years, pregnant women, and young adults ages 19 and 20.

**Food and Nutrition Services** - Formerly known as Food Stamps, Food and Nutrition Services is the primary source of nutrition assistance for millions of low-income households monthly. Benefits are issued on EBT (Electronic Benefits Transfer) cards and can be used to purchase food items from retail grocery stores and farmers markets. Certain authorized retail stores can also accept EBT payments for online food purchases.

**Special Assistance** - An assistance payment to eligible individuals who reside in licensed domiciliary homes, rest homes or family care homes. With this program, Medicaid is also provided to help pay medical bills.

**Special Assistance In Home** - Provides a cash supplement to low-income individuals who are at risk of entering a residential facility. Provides additional support services and income to individuals who would prefer to live at home. The case managers work directly with the recipients, families and other caregivers to develop a care plan that enables the recipient to live at home.

**Emergency Assistance**- Emergency funds paid directly to providers for things such as rent and utilities for families experiencing a short-term financial crisis due to unforeseen circumstances.

**General Assistance** – A program to help resolve eligible crises. The program is often used to pay for medication, utility and rent assistance, or training associated with other DHHS programs.

**Energy Assistance** – A number of programs are available to assist with heating or cooling costs.

**Child Care Subsidy** - Subsidized child care is a program funded through State and Federal dollars to assist parents with the cost of child care.

**Child Support** - Buncombe County Child Support provides the following services: locating non-custodial parents, establishing paternity, establishing support orders, enforcing the support orders and modification of existing orders. These services are available to anyone who needs help to ensure that the children receive the financial support from both parents. To apply for services an application must be completed and can be provided by calling 828-250-6340 or online at the website of [www.ncchildsupport.com](http://www.ncchildsupport.com).

**Skills Training and Employment Program** - If you are a Food and Nutrition Services recipient in Buncombe County and under the age of 60, the STEP program can help you find a job, get a better job, obtain skills training, or earn a GED at no cost to you.

**Work First** - Work First Family Assistance provides parents with cash assistance, short-term training, and other supportive services needed to empower and assist customers in securing employment to promote self-sufficiency. Other families caring for their relative children can also receive services and support.

**Housing Assistance** - The COVID Housing Relief Program provides financial assistance for housing and utilities to Buncombe residents who have lost income due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible individuals may qualify for past due rent, mortgage, and utility payments as well as assistance with current payments.

### **How to Apply**

**In Person:** 40 Coxe Avenue, Asheville, NC 28801

Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Phone:** 828-250-5500

**Email:** [dssmail@buncombecounty.org](mailto:dssmail@buncombecounty.org)

**Fax:** 828-250-6235

**Email:** [dssmail@buncombecounty.org](mailto:dssmail@buncombecounty.org)

**Fax:** 828-250-6235

**Mail:** PO Box 7408, Asheville, NC 28802

**Online:** NC DHHS's ePASS Portal is a way for individuals and families to apply for Medical Assistance, Food and Nutrition Services or Energy Assistance online. Visit [epass.nc.gov](http://epass.nc.gov) to apply.

**For more ways to apply or for additional program information call Buncombe County Health and Human Services at 828-250-5500.**

