

What You Need To Know About Reach Ahead

Reach Ahead helps families to transition from either Reach Up or Post-Secondary Education (PSE) to work.

Mission: Reach Up joins families on their journey to overcome obstacles, explore opportunities, improve their finances and reach their goals.

Vision: Families will be empowered, connected and thriving.

When your Reach Up or PSE benefit closes, you'll automatically be enrolled in *Reach Ahead* if you are eligible, unless you have opted out of auto enrollment. You won't have to fill out an application or enrollment form to start getting benefits, but you will need to complete a review at some point to keep getting them.

Who is eligible?

To be eligible for Reach Ahead:

1. You must live in Vermont;
2. Your household must include minor children;
3. At least one adult in your household that meets the work requirement through paid employment; and
4. You cannot exceed your lifetime limit for Reach Ahead (24 months).

What does Reach Ahead provide?

Reach Ahead offers the following benefits for up to a total of 24 months:

- Money for food: EBT food benefit of \$50 a month for the first 12 months and \$5 a month for the next 12 months.
- Support services to help you keep working: Help paying for car repairs, work clothes and work supplies (you must call your Case Manager or Career Coach to discuss the process before paying for any item).
- Cash incentive for continued employment.
- The maximum childcare subsidy available to help you pay less out of pocket.
- Case management and coaching services: Support with things like housing, childcare, transportation, career and/or education exploration, and resources to support you and your family.

A few other things you should know:

- You can opt out of automatic enrollment if you don't want to get Reach Ahead.
- If you're not eligible for Reach Ahead when your Reach Up or PSE benefit closes (or you opt out), you can apply within 6 months from the date your Reach Up or PSE closed.
- If you want the child care subsidy or support services you must call your Case Manager or Career Coach to discuss the process before paying for any item.
- You'll get your Reach Ahead food benefit on an EBT card. It can only be spent on food items allowed by 3SquaresVT.
- If you have any questions, talk to your Case Manager/Career Coach or call 1-800-479-6151.



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