

What You Need To Know About Reach Up

Reach Up helps eligible parents to set and reach short and long-term goals that will enable them to financially support their minor, dependent children.

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.

What is required of me?

- You may work primarily with your case manager or with another member of the Reach Up team (like a job coach).
 - You'll be required to meet regularly with a Reach Up team member(s). You'll be offered the chance to meet by phone or in person. If you can't make an appointment, you must call ahead of time to reschedule.
 - You and the member(s) of the Reach Up team you are working with will create a plan that maps out your goals and the steps you will take to achieve them. This could include goals related to your education, employment, finances, health, housing, relationships, safety, training, well-being and more. It's up to you!
 - You'll participate in activities that help you reach your goals and improve your finances. If your goals or plans change, that's okay—just let the Reach Up team member you are working with know.
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What else should I know?

- Reach Up team members will help you write a "Family Development Plan" with the steps to reach your goals.
- You may be eligible for financial supports related to the activities in your Family Development Plan (some examples include gas money for job search, car repairs, and clothing for a job or job interview). Your Reach Up team member will work with you on exploring support services you may be eligible for.
- While on Reach Up, any child support you get will be assigned to the state and included in the amount of your benefit payment.
- Benefits will usually be issued on the 1st and 16th of the month (or all on the 1st if child support is collected by the state.)
- Your Reach Up benefit may be reduced or closed if you do not participate.

- A Benefits Program Specialist (BPS) will determine the amount of your benefit and help get them issued. If you have questions about your benefits or need to report a change, call 1-800-479-6151.
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What happens after your Reach Up benefit closes?

- If your Reach Up benefit closes because you go to work, you *may* still be eligible for supports for up to 6 months.
 - When your Reach Up or PSE grant closes, you'll automatically be signed up for Reach Ahead if you are eligible. Reach Ahead will provide the following benefits for up to 24 months: support to help you keep a job, child care subsidy, and a cash benefit to help you buy food.
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What happens if you've received more than 60 countable months of Reach Up?

- If you're applying for Reach Up and have already received 60 countable months of Reach Up/TANF there are a few different rules that may apply to you and your household.
- Any months of TANF received in another state since July 2001 counts towards your 60 month limit in Vermont.
- The months you were on Reach Up in any other household may count toward your time limits.
- If your Reach Up benefits end because you did not fully meet program requirements, you chose to withdraw from the program, or for other reasons, you still may be eligible for food benefits, health care, fuel, and catastrophic General Assistance as long as you meet those program requirements.
- If your Reach Up benefits end because you did not meet the program requirements and you did not have a good reason, you will not be eligible for Reach Up again for two full months after your Reach Up benefit closes. You will also not be eligible for non-catastrophic General Assistance during this time.

