

GETTING STARTED

Saving and asset limits

If you receive public benefits there can be limits on how much you can have in assets before the benefit is cut off. It's important to understand these limits to make sure your savings goals don't affect the benefits you receive or are applying for.

Assets are things you own that have value. Your money in a savings or checking account is an asset. A car, home, business inventory, and land are also assets.

Each program has different rules about what counts as an asset and the total value of your assets allowed to qualify for assistance. For some programs, these rules are the same regardless of where you live. For others, each state determines its own rules.

In general, your liquid assets (like cash or money in savings or checking accounts) are counted as assets. In some states, if the value of your car exceeds a certain amount, anything over that amount may be counted as an asset as well.

What to do

- **Identify which public benefits the person you're working with currently receives** or may be applying for in the near future.
- Use the websites provided to **figure out their state's specific asset limit for each program** and write it on the tool.
- If you regularly work with people who receive public benefits, **consider completing this tool in advance**. Make copies and review it with the people you serve.

A step further

Asset limit rules change regularly, so check the rules every year to make sure you have the most up-to-date information.

To access a dynamic and fillable version of this tool, visit <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/your-money-your-goals/tools>



Learn how **Saving** and asset limits can affect your benefits

1. Select the programs that you're enrolled in or plan to apply for in the future.
2. Review the asset limit listed and learn more about each program's asset limit rules by visiting their website.

PROGRAM TYPE	PROGRAM	YOUR STATE'S ASSET LIMIT
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability/	No limit
	<input type="checkbox"/> Supplemental Security Income (SSI) https://ssa.gov/benefits/ssi/	\$
Groceries and household expenses	<input type="checkbox"/> Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/state-directory	\$
	<input type="checkbox"/> Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) https://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/help	\$
Housing and home energy	<input type="checkbox"/> Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/low-income-home-energy-assistance-program-liheap	\$
	<input type="checkbox"/> Public housing https://www.benefits.gov/benefit/863	\$

PROGRAM TYPE	PROGRAM	YOUR STATE'S ASSET LIMIT
 Medical	<input type="checkbox"/> Family Medicaid https://www.medicaid.gov/state-overviews/index.html	No limit
	<input type="checkbox"/> Medicare Part D Extra Help (Low-Income Subsidy) https://www.shiptacenter.org/	\$
	<input type="checkbox"/> Medicare Savings Programs https://www.shiptacenter.org/	\$
	<input type="checkbox"/> State Child Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) https://www.medicaid.gov/state-overviews/index.html	\$