Applicants with a debt-to-income (DTI) ratio above 0.6 are considered high risk and are generally soft declined unless they present strong compensating factors such as a verified high net worth, long-term employment stability, or government-backed income guarantees. Delinquencies in repayment behavior are critical indicators; any applicant with more than two missed or delayed payments in the last six months is flagged for further review. Unless a valid explanation is provided and supported by corrective actions, such cases are marked for soft decline.

A credit score below 580 constitutes a significant credit risk and typically leads to automatic rejection. This applies regardless of employment status, declared income, or the presence of dependents. Active collections or charge-offs reported within the last 12 months trigger manual escalation. Applicants must submit supporting documentation explaining the nature of the collection and demonstrate ongoing resolution efforts.

Bankruptcy within the past 24 months is a disqualifying factor unless there is verifiable evidence of post-bankruptcy recovery, such as stable employment, consistent bank activity, and no additional missed payments. In cases of insufficient or unverifiable income, applications are flagged for manual underwriting. Declared income without employer letters or supporting bank credits over a 3-month window is not accepted as valid for creditworthiness evaluation.

For applicants with more than two dependents and a DTI above 0.5, the burden adjustment factor is applied. While this increases the risk tier, exceptions can be made if housing payments are current and utility bills are not in arrears. Revolving credit utilization over 80% on any account is considered a warning signal and must be explained with evidence of debt repayment activity or an active consolidation plan.

Loan stacking, defined as opening multiple high-interest short-term loans within a 90-day period, is considered a high-risk behavior. Such applicants are generally not eligible for support programs unless enrolled in structured debt counseling or consolidation arrangements. A history of positive repayment — no defaults, no over-limit usage, and no bounced debits for a minimum of 18 months — results in preferred classification, especially if accompanied by a credit score of 650 or above.

If an applicant is unemployed for more than 12 consecutive months and lacks a secondary source of income or retraining plan, their case is categorized as economically vulnerable. These applicants are redirected toward enablement programs, not financial relief. Self-employed or gig workers must provide evidence of consistent income flow through either business bank statements, platform transaction history, or documented client contracts. At least three months of revenue history is required for consideration.

Joint liabilities must be fully disclosed. In cases where the applicant shares loans or credit cards with a spouse or family member, full documentation must be provided to establish the actual burden. If this is not submitted, the total liability is assumed during risk scoring. Thin credit files or credit invisibility do not result in automatic rejection, but require supplemental data like rent receipts, mobile top-up records, and utility payments to build a provisional credit profile.

High-risk geographies, fraud database matches, and anti-money laundering triggers result in immediate disqualification regardless of credit or income standing. Any history of legal proceedings related to financial fraud, bounced cheques, or loan evasion results in a permanent ban from financial assistance programs. However, past default due to documented medical or family emergencies may be re-evaluated under special cases with supporting evidence.

Applicants reporting income that is significantly inconsistent with their transaction history or showing mismatched employer details (e.g., declared employer not reflected in deposits) are subject to additional fraud screening. Employment must be verified either via payslip uploads, official letters, or salary deposits from verifiable accounts. Self-declared cash income is not acceptable without corroborative bank entries.

Monthly expenditure patterns are analyzed where available. Applicants spending more than 75% of their income on discretionary categories (non-essentials, travel, entertainment) are flagged for financial literacy intervention before eligibility is reconsidered. Social support may be extended in exceptional hardship cases where net worth is low, dependent count is high, and no access to other financial resources is evident.

Finally, credit risk is always evaluated in combination with social context. A high-risk applicant with zero dependents, high discretionary spending, and multiple recent credit lines will be treated differently than a high-risk applicant with three dependents and no housing security. All edge cases must be reviewed manually by the social support review board using a case-based scoring override mechanism.