

HOW RESOURCES ARE TREATED IN FEDERAL PUBLIC BENEFIT PROGRAMS IN TEXAS

Program	Resource Limit	Vehicle rule ¹	EITC treatment*	Other resources
TANF**	\$1,000 (includes cash in checking/savings accounts and any other liquid resource)	\$4,650 of each car exempted; excess value counted toward \$1,000 limit	<p>Applicants: If the household is not already receiving the public benefit when they receive the EITC lump-sum payment, the EITC payment is not counted as a resource the month of receipt, or in the following month. However, <i>starting in the third month after the EITC payment is received, any unspent EIC funds would be counted as a resource.</i></p> <p>Recipients: If the household is already receiving the benefit when they receive the EITC payment, the EITC payment is not counted as a resource the month of receipt, or in the following 11 months. <i>After that, any unspent EITC refund would be counted.</i></p> <p>Exception: If the household loses eligibility for the benefits for more than 30 days during the 12 months described above, any unspent portion of the EITC payment will be counted as a resource when the household re-enrolls.</p>	See Page 3
Food Stamps**	\$5,000 (includes cash in checking/savings accounts and any other liquid resource)	\$15,000 of first car exempted; \$4,650 of each additional car exempted; excess value counted toward \$5,000 limit		
Children's Medicaid**	\$2,000; \$3,000 if household includes elderly or disabled member (includes cash in checking/savings accounts and any other liquid resource)	First car exempted; \$4,650 of each additional car exempted; excess value counted toward \$2,000/\$3,000 limit		
CHIP	\$5,000 (includes cash in checking/savings accounts and any other liquid resource)	\$15,000 of first car exempted; \$4,650 of each additional car exempted; excess value counted toward \$5,000 limit		
SSI	\$2,000 for single person; \$3,000 for couple (includes cash in checking/savings accounts and any other liquid resource) For a child, parents' resources in excess of the these limits are "deemed", i.e., counted toward the child's limit: \$2,000 if living with one parent; \$3,000 for two	First car exempted if used for employment, to get medical care, or transport disabled person; \$4,650 of each additional car exempted; excess value counted toward \$2,000/\$3,000 limits		
Federal Housing	Federally subsidized housing programs do not have resource limits, however a household's income does affect its eligibility and the amount of rental assistance it receives, and interest earned on resources is counted as income. If a household's resources exceed \$5,000, a percentage also may be counted as income, if that amount exceeds the family's actual net income from the assets. HUD determines the percentage based on the current passbook savings rate.			
Veterans' Benefits	The EITC/CTC do count as a resource, but the VA's resource limit is so high (\$80,000, not counting home and motor vehicle), that saving EITC refunds is not likely to affect eligibility.			

* Families should be encouraged to retain records of their EITC refunds.

**See the Texas Works Handbook, Section 1230, <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/handbooks/TexasWorks/PartA/>

OTHER RESOURCES THAT ARE EXEMPT FROM ASSET TESTS IN TEXAS

Note: This is NOT a comprehensive list. For a complete list of resource exemptions by program, see the Endnotes

Asset	Benefit Program		
	Food Stamps/Children's Medicaid/TANF ²	CHIP ³	SSI ⁴
Home and surrounding land	Yes	Yes	Yes
Household goods/Personal possessions	Yes	Yes	Household goods and personal property that are not worth more than \$2,000 total; <u>and</u> one wedding ring and one engagement ring.
IRA/Keogh Plan/SEP IRA	No	Yes	No
401K	Yes	Yes	No
IDAs	Yes	Yes	Yes
Unspent EITC payments	<u>Applicants:</u> Exempt in the month of receipt and following month <u>Recipients:</u> Exempt in the month of receipt and following 11 months		Exempt in the month of receipt and following 9 months
Texas Guaranteed Tuition Plan (formerly Texas Tomorrow Fund)	Yes	Yes	See footnote ⁵
529 plans	Yes	Yes	

ENDNOTES

¹ In addition to the vehicle amounts listed here, certain cars used for specifically defined purposes are also exempt, although these exemptions vary by program. See Section 1238.4, of the Texas Works Handbook, “How to Determine Fair Market Value of Vehicles,” at <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/handbooks/TexasWorks/PartA/A1200/tw-a1230.asp#1233.2> for a complete list by program.

² See the Texas Works Handbook, Section 1230, for complete rules by program. Handbook may be accessed at <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/handbooks/TexasWorks/PartA/A1200/tw-a1230.asp#1233.2>.

³ CHIP resource rules are in the Texas Administrative Code (Title 1, Part 15, Chapter 370, Subchapter B, Division 4, Section 370.44 “Income and Assets”) at [http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac\\$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=1&pt=15&ch=370&rl=44](http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=1&pt=15&ch=370&rl=44)

⁴ See “Resources” section of the SSA publication “Understanding Supplemental Security Income” at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/notices/supplemental-security-income/text-understanding-ssi.htm#over>.

⁵ “Dedicated accounts for disabled or blind children,” which may be used for education or job skills training, are exempt. See <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/notices/supplemental-security-income/spotlights/spot-dedicated-accounts.htm> for more information.