

0800 **PURPOSE AND ADMINISTRATION**

0800.05 **LEGAL PROVISIONS**

REV:05/1997

The Rhode Island Family Independence Assistance Act (RIGL 40-5.1 et seq.) establishes the legal basis for a public financial program to assist needy families and is the law through which the Federal assistance programs, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Medical Assistance, are available to families in Rhode Island who meet program eligibility criteria. The Department of Human Services is charged with the responsibility of setting forth the eligibility requirements established in law to meet the needs of those persons determined eligible.

0800.10 **PURPOSE**

REV:05/1997

The purpose of the Department of Human Services (referred to as "the Agency") is to provide financial and medical assistance to eligible individuals and families.

The assistance programs are administered in a manner consistent with the objectives of the programs and respect the rights, privacy, and personal dignity of the individual. All applicants and recipients, without regard to race, color, national origin, disability, or sex, have a right to apply, to confidentiality, to equitable and courteous treatment, to self determination, to receive the proper form of assistance, to receive, if eligible, an accurate unrestricted money payment and to an adjustment conference, and/or to a Fair Hearing.

An application consisting of the Application for Assistance - Part I (DHS-1) and the Statement of Need (DHS-2), completed by the applicant and filed with the Agency, is used to apply for assistance and initiates the application process. An interview with the applicant to review these forms is required. The applicant is also required to document the information so that the Agency can determine the applicant's eligibility or ineligibility. That determination encompasses all factors of eligibility, as set forth in the law and policy of the Agency, and includes a full exploration and computation of resources which can be made available to each person or family.

0800.15 **SCOPE OF THE PROGRAM FOR FAMILIES**

REV:01/2002

The purpose of the Family Independence Program is to assist working families with children who have insufficient income to meet their needs for food, shelter, clothing, child care, and medical care and to provide families with parents who are unemployed with financial assistance while they obtain the skills necessary for employment and provide the child care and medical care they require to be employed.

1. Cash assistance for eligible families: families in which there is an eligible child (see Section 0806) and whose resources are within program limits (see Section 0822), whose countable income is less than the cash payment amount are eligible for a supplemental cash payment. Families receiving cash payments receive Medical Assistance.

2. Child Care Assistance Program: families with income less than two hundred twenty-five percent (225%) of the federal poverty level are eligible for subsidized child care for children under age sixteen (16). See Section 0850.
3. Medical Assistance for Families: families with an eligible child who are not eligible for cash assistance may be eligible for Medical Assistance as categorically needy or medically needy if their income and resources are within program limits. See Section 0348.
4. Medical Assistance for Children: children under age nineteen (19) living in families with income less than two hundred fifty percent (250%) of the federal poverty level are eligible for Medical Assistance coverage through the RItE Care program regardless of whether their family qualifies for cash assistance or medical assistance described above. See Section 0348.
5. Medical Assistance for Pregnant Women: pregnant women with income less than three hundred fifty percent (350%) of the federal poverty level may be eligible for Medical Assistance coverage through the RItE Care program. See Section 0348.
6. Food Stamps: families within program income and resource limits are eligible for food stamps. The Food Stamp Program is a federal program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is administered in Rhode Island by the Division of Individual and Family Support Services in the Department of Human Services. A household that has been determined eligible for Food Stamps receives benefits which augment the food purchasing power of the family. See the DHS Food Stamp Manual, Sections 1000 et seq.