

OCTOBER 2024

CT DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

INSIDER

NEWSLETTER FOR COMMUNITY PARTNERS



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DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES

portal.CT.gov/dss



DSS SENDS TEXTS!

In an effort to support DSS clients with timely, actionable information to access and maintain benefits we are sending text messages. We are currently sending reminder messages about Renewals and Periodic Report Forms using a short code.

In 2024 we have sent 800,000 reminder text messages! To make sure our clients don't miss out on text messages from us, please remind them to log into their MyDSS account to confirm or update their phone number!

MyDSS Features

Assisting clients using a mobile device or tablet? You can use MyDSS to:

- Check real-time EBT card balances
- Alerts from DSS
- Complete SNAP Periodic Report Forms (PRF)
- Complete renewals for SNAP, cash and medical programs
- Upload pictures of verification documents
- Notices
- View and download proof of benefit letters (budget sheets)
- Report changes

For technical support using MyDSS or ConneCT, call:

1-877-874-1612

Monday - Friday
8:30 AM- 5:00 PM

What is MyDSS?



MyDSS is the mobile-friendly version of the ConneCT online portal, packed with extra features to make your life easier. DSS households who already access ConneCT can use the same MyAccount login to access a range of self-service options.

MyDSS minimizes the need for phone calls and in-person visits to the Resource Center to obtain benefit status or details. Additionally, DSS can receive information more rapidly with this system.

2024 HUSKY A Transition

Eligibility Changes for Some Parents & Caretaker Relatives

OCTOBER 1, 2024

Starting October 1, 2024, a new state law (Public Act No. 24-81) lowers the income limit for HUSKY A Parents and Caretaker Relatives from 160% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to 138% FPL. The new state law does not affect children's health coverage.

Coverage will be changing for parents and caretaker relatives enrolled in HUSKY A who are over the new income limit. Most parents and caretaker relatives will not have to take any action and will be automatically enrolled in one of two yearlong extensions of HUSKY A coverage: Transitional Medical Assistance (TMA) for those with income from a job, or Extended Medical Assistance (EMA) for those with income from spousal support.

If eligible for either extension, they will receive a notice in the mail in late September detailing their new coverage. HUSKY A Parents and Caretaker Relatives who have unearned income, other than spousal support, over the new limit, do not qualify for an extension. These individuals will be offered the opportunity to enroll in a Qualified Health Plan (QHP) through Access Health CT. Most individuals who enroll in a QHP are eligible for financial help, including no-cost coverage through the Covered Connecticut Program.

If they would like to enroll in a QHP to continue coverage, they will receive a notice in the mail in late September with information on how to enroll. Or contact Access Health CT today:
By Phone: 855-805-4325
Online: AccessHealthCT.com



138% Federal Poverty Level by Household Size (Annual)

Household Size	Income Under
2	\$28,207
3	\$35,362
4	\$43,056
5	\$50,480
6	\$57,905
7	\$65,329
8	\$72,754

KEEPING HUSKY COVERAGE

138% Federal Poverty Level by Household Size (Annual)

Household Size	Income Under
2	\$28,207
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You may still qualify for HUSKY Health coverage through Access Health CT if:

- Your income has gone down since your last renewal;
- You are pregnant;
- You have additional people in your household that were not previously reported.

If you have changes to report, please call the **Access Health CT Contact Center at 1- 855-805-4325** and we'll check to see if you qualify for another type of HUSKY.



You can apply for other coverage with DSS if:

- You have breast or cervical cancer or
- You have tuberculosis (TB) – a Limited Benefit Coverage Group for services related to the treatment of TB
- You are blind or disabled
- You recently turned 65
- You have very high medical bills that qualify you for coverage (called “spend down”)
- You need family planning services – a Limited Benefit Coverage Group for men and women needing services to prevent pregnancy or to plan the number and spacing of your children.

If you would like to apply for these coverage groups visit:

www.connect.ct.gov

2024 HUSKY A Transition: Eligibility Changes for Some Parents & Caretaker Relatives

USING THE PEOPLE SERVED DASHBOARD

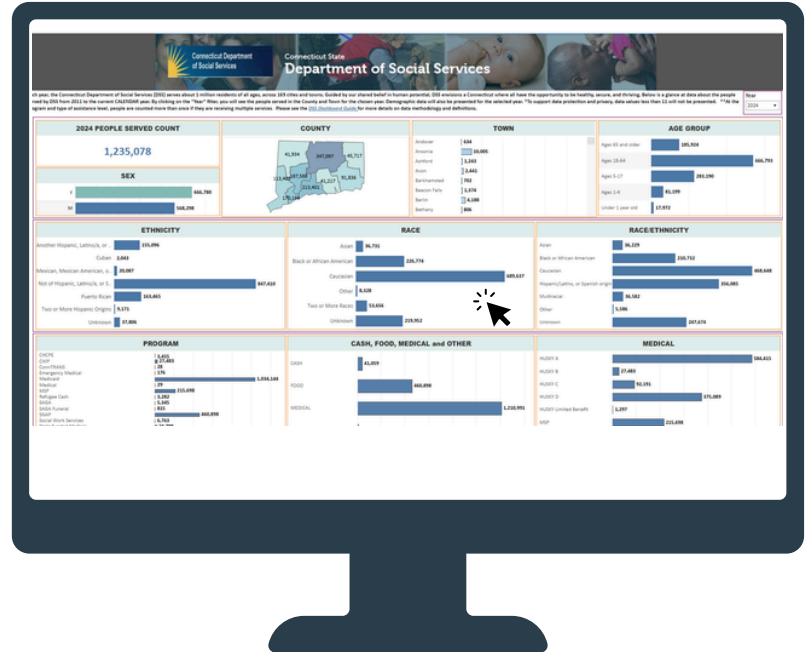
DSS People Served Dashboard

Impetus + Benefits

- Transparency + Accessibility → Data Democratization •
- Makes Annual “DSS People Served” Report Dynamic •
- Complements CT Open Data Portal • Advances PA 21-35
- Race/Ethnicity Reporting Requirements

Key Features:

- Filter at Temporal, Geographic, Demographic + Service Levels
- Export Image, .PDF or Aggregated Data



HOW TO ACCESS

Visit [DSS Data + Dashboards](#).

Scroll down to the DSS-Dashboard section and click on the “Click this link to be connected to the DSS Dashboard” to access the **People Served** Dashboard.

At the top of the graphs in the description you can find a link to the user guide that will help you navigate and use the dashboard.

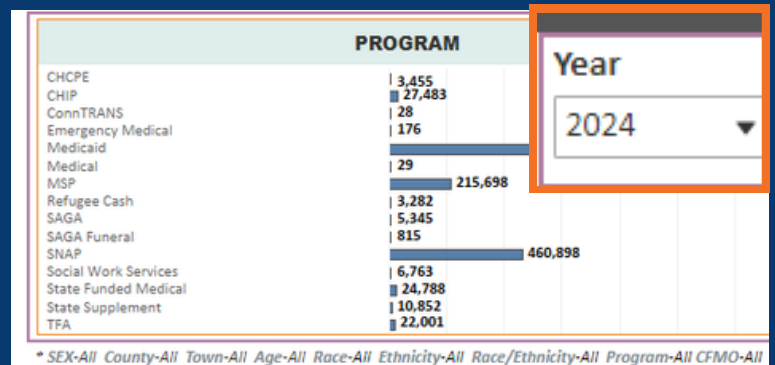
The link can also be found here:

[People_Served_Dash_Guide_V1_FINAL.pdf](#)

In the top right corner is a filter to select the year. Once that is selected you can scroll through the different graphs. They summarize the number of people being served by town and by county.

Additionally, the dashboard summarizes at a state level how many people are utilizing the different services.

This screenshot shows the 'DSS Data + Dashboards' page. On the left, there is a sidebar with navigation links: Business Intelligence and Big Data, Contact, DSS Data + Dashboards (highlighted), Enterprise Master Person Index, Interoperability, and Resources and Past Publications. The main content area has an 'Overview' section describing the dashboard's purpose. Below this, there is a 'DSS Dashboard' section with a link to 'Click this link to be connected to the DSS Dashboard.' and a 'Click here' button. At the bottom, there is a link to the 'DSS Dashboard Guide' and another 'Click here' button.



CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



Stay informed by receiving the most recent information, helpful tips, and valuable resources.

Click the icons below to connect with us!



How Do I Become a Community Partner?

Through the DSS Community Partner program you can help Connecticut residents apply for benefits at access points in their community.

Current community partners include residential care homes, nursing homes, town social service agencies, and advocacy groups.

If you are interested in becoming a community partner, please email

DSS.PartnerSignUp@ct.gov

Did you know?



You can print common DSS applications, forms and brochures.

[Click here to view common forms](#)