

Assessing The Financial Impact Of Federal Benefit Program Enrollment On Low-income Households

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Abstract : Background: Link Health is a Boston-based non-profit leveraging in-person and digital platforms to promote health equity. Its primary aim is to financially support low-income individuals through enrollment in federal benefit programs. This study examines the monetary impact of enrollment in several benefit programs. Methodologies: Approximately 17,000 individuals have been screened for eligibility via digital outreach, community events, and in-person clinics. Enrollment and financial distributions are evaluated across programs, including the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), Lifeline, LIHEAP, Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC), and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Major Findings: A total of 1,895 individuals have successfully applied, collectively distributing an estimated \$1,288,152.00 in aid. The largest contributors to this sum include: ACP: 1,149 enrollments, \$413,640 distributed annually. Child Care Financial Assistance (CCFA): 15 enrollments, \$240,000 distributed annually. Lifeline: 602 enrollments, \$66,822 distributed annually. LIHEAP: 25 enrollments, \$48,750 distributed annually. SNAP: 41 enrollments, \$123,000 distributed annually. TAFDC: 21 enrollments, \$341,760 distributed annually. Conclusions: These results highlight the role of targeted outreach and effective enrollment processes in promoting access to federal benefit programs. High enrollment rates in ACP and Lifeline demonstrate a considerable need for affordable broadband and internet services. Programs like CCFA and TAFDC, despite lower enrollment numbers, provide sizable support per individual. This analysis advocates for continued funding of federal benefit programs. Future efforts can be made to develop screening tools that identify eligibility for multiple programs and reduce the complexity of enrollment.

Keywords : benefits, childcare, connectivity, equity, nutrition

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