

## Arkansas

When a family or individual is faced with a progressive condition such as DM1 or DM2 they are often presented with additional financial expenses as well as loss of a steady income. This section attempts to gather financial resources that are available on a state level for persons living in the United States. By no means is this section complete; we invite you to share with us any resources you've identified.

This is an on-going project. We will add more resources as we gather them; please send us resources you know of that are not currently listed.

Please be advised that each organization has its own eligibility and application requirements. None of these organizations are affiliated with the Myotonic Dystrophy Foundation. We hope you will share your experiences with us – let us know if you are successful in finding a good resource to help your family.

## Education

Arkansas YOUiversal: is a program from the Arkansas Department of Higher Education. It is a one stop shop to apply for financial aid. One can apply to over 25 scholarships in one application. [https://www.ark.org/adhe\\_financialaid/login.aspx](https://www.ark.org/adhe_financialaid/login.aspx)

Fund My Future: is a state-wide outreach program created to assist Arkansas students in achieving their higher education goals. The program, sponsored by the Arkansas Student Loan Authority, serves as a resource of information about college access and financial aid programs. Fund My Future is designed to serve the needs of students, parents, and counselors. <https://fundmyfuture.info/Home>

## Employment

Disaster Unemployment Insurance Assistance (DUA): is a federally-funded program administered by the US Department of Labor and State Employment Security Agencies. It provides assistance and employment services to jobless workers and the self employed when they are unemployed as a direct result of a major natural disaster. <https://www.dws.arkansas.gov/unemployment/disaster-ui-assistance/>

Trade Readjustment Allowances (TRA): are a form of Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) that is paid to an eligible adversely affected worker on a weekly basis after he/she exhausts entitlement to regular unemployment compensation, including state and federal extensions. <https://www.dws.arkansas.gov/programs/trade-adjustment-assistance/>

Unemployment Insurance from the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services (ADWS): ADWS administers Arkansas' Unemployment Insurance (UI) program and facilitates employer compliance with the Arkansas Employment Security Law, collects unemployment insurance contributions from employers, provides unemployment insurance benefits to those eligible, and maintains management information systems for filing unemployment insurance claims and fraud detection. To learn how to file a claim, visit <https://www.dws.arkansas.gov/unemployment/>

## Housing

Apartment Finder from the Arkansas Development Finance Authority (ADFA): ADFA currently monitors approximately 450 apartment complexes that contain over 20,000 affordable rental units across Arkansas. Use this link to find affordable apartment complexes by county. <https://adfa.arkansas.gov/apartment-finder/>

Arkansas Development Finance Authority (ADFA): One of ADFA's primary purposes is to create and preserve affordable rental housing for low and moderate income persons and families. To learn more about this and other programs that the ADFA offers, visit: <https://adfa.arkansas.gov/program/tax-exempt-multi-family-housing-bonds/#programscontent>

Arkansas Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP): helps low-income households with home energy costs by administering Regular Assistance and Crisis Intervention Programs. Each program provides financial assistance to eligible households with a one-time per year payment to household's energy supplier, or under certain circumstances, to the applicant. The Crisis Intervention Program provides assistance to eligible households facing energy-related emergencies. To check eligibility visit <https://www.benefits.gov/benefit/1542>

Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP): Its mission is to insulate the dwellings of low income persons (particularly the elderly, persons with disabilities, families with children, high residential energy users, and households with a high energy burden) in order to conserve needed energy and to aid those persons least able to afford higher utility costs. WAP utilizes seven service providers to weatherize homes throughout all of Arkansas's 75 counties. <https://www.adeg.state.ar.us/energy/incentives/wap.aspx>

## Financial

Arkansas Temporary Cash Assistance For Needy Families (TANF): was created to help families in need. The TANF bureau works with families to help them become self-sufficient. TANF's program features include: assisting needy families so children can be cared for in their own homes, preventative measures for out of wedlock pregnancy, the encouragement of two parent families, reduction of the dependency of needy parents by assisting with job preparation. <https://www.tanf.us/arkansas.html> and <https://www.dws.arkansas.gov/programs/temporaryassistance-for-needy-families/>

Arkansas Transitional Employment Assistance (TEA): helps economically needy families with children under the age of 18 become more responsible for the support of their families. The TEA program is Arkansas' welfare reform/cash assistance program under the Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant. <https://www.benefits.gov/benefit/1652> <https://www.dws.arkansas.gov/programs/temporary-assistance-for-needy-families/>

Work Pays: Arkansas Work Pays is a post-employment program that provides assistance to prior participants of the TEA program. Participating families are eligible for the same support services and assistance as families enrolled in the TEA program and will receive a monthly cash assistance payment. The extra income provided is designed to help families make an easier transition to self-sufficiency. [https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/uploads/rulesRegs/Arkansas%20Register/2006/jun\\_2006/208.00.06001.pdf](https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/uploads/rulesRegs/Arkansas%20Register/2006/jun_2006/208.00.06001.pdf) and <https://www.dws.arkansas.gov/unemployment/>

## Food and Nutrition

The Special Nutrition Programs (SNP): provides reimbursement for well-balanced, nutritious meals served to individuals enrolled in the Child Care Food Program (CACFP), National School Lunch Program (NSLP), Special Milk Program (SMP), and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). <https://dhs.arkansas.gov/dccece/snp/SNPWelcomeM.aspx>

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): the purpose of SNAP is to help end hunger and improve nutrition and health. Low income households who receive SNAP benefits can buy the food they need for a nutritionally adequate diet.

<https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/images/uploads/dccece/PUB-169.pdf>

## **Medical and Health-related**

Arkansas Independent Choices: is an option under Medicaid that allows for family members, excluding spouses and legal guardians, to get compensated for personal services. This program also provides home modifications and assistive technology.

<https://www.caregiver.org/arkansas-independent-choices>

ARKids First health insurance: provides coverage options for more than 300,000 Arkansan children who otherwise might have gone without health care. Eligibility for ARKids is based on a family's income and other factors. ARKids covers well-child checkups, eye exams, dental checkups and more. For more information visit

<https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/about-dhs/dms/ar-kids>

ICanConnect: Sending an email or chatting on the phone can be challenging for people with both significant vision and hearing loss. ICanConnect provides free equipment including smartphones, tablets, computers, screen readers, braille displays, and more to people who meet federal disability and income guidelines. <http://www.icanconnect.org/>

Increasing Capabilities Access Network (ICAN): is the Arkansas statewide Assistive Technology program designed to make technology available and accessible for everyone who needs it. Assistive Technology (AT) is any kind of device or tool that helps people live, learn, work, and communicate more independently. AT can be very simple and inexpensive, like a modified knife or fork, or it can be very sophisticated and costly, like a computerized speech device. <https://equipment.ar-ican.org/>

Medicaid: reimburses health care providers for covered medical services provided to eligible needy individuals in certain categories. Eligibility is determined based on income, resources, Arkansas residency, and other requirements. For more information visit,

<https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/about-dhs/dco/programs-services/medicaidprogram-eligibility-and-enrollment>

Medicare: includes health insurance coverage for people who are 65 years old or older, people with disabilities, or people with ERSD. For more information about medicare, visit

<https://www.medicare.gov/>

The Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act (TEFRA): is a Medicaid program that can help families with children younger than 19 years old who have a disability receive care in their homes rather than in an institution. The TEFRA program can help pay for the cost of those services for eligible children. Some families will not have to pay anything as part of the program. Others pay a premium on a sliding scale, depending on their income.

<https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/about-dhs/dms/tefra>

## **Additional Resources**

Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) Arkansas Adult Care Center:

<https://www.mda.org/clinic/university-arkansas-adult-care-center>

2-1-1: is a free telephone service that connects individuals in need to important community services in Northwest Arkansas. 2-1-1 is the direct link between people and need and people who can give help. The 2-1-1 call center serves Benton, Carroll, Madison, and Washington counties. 2-1-1 can give information about child care and education, food, health, housing and utilities, jobs and support, and more.

<https://arkansas211.org/>