

## **Benefits/Assistance/Unemployment Programs**

Upon a layoff, downsizing, termination immediately apply for Unemployment Benefits.

Contact the **Texas Workforce Commission** and apply for benefits:

Log on to [ui.texasworkforce.org](http://ui.texasworkforce.org) or [www.workintexas.com](http://www.workintexas.com)

Call Tele-Center at 1-800-939-6631 weekdays 8am-5pm

You will need the following information:

- Your last employers name and mailing address
- Start and end dates of your last job
- Your alien registration number, if you are not a U.S. citizen
- (Deaf or hearing- impaired individuals, dial Relay Texas 711.)

**Workforce Solutions** (North Central Texas) office location is:

1701 W. Eldorado Parkway, Suite 250 – McKinney, TX 75069

972-542-3382

M-F 8am-5pm

Thursday 8am-7pm

1-888-548-WORK

[www.dfwjobs.com](http://www.dfwjobs.com)

This office location will allow you to apply for unemployment benefits there. Use their computers, fax, and copier for job search free of charge and help you in the job search process.

Next step is to apply for **Medicaid**: [www.medicaid.gov](http://www.medicaid.gov)

Or apply for **Medicare**: [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)

Or enroll in **COBRA** : [www.cobra-insurance.com](http://www.cobra-insurance.com) (if affordable) for health care benefits before your current benefits expire.

Apply for **CHIP** program for children only, and it is extremely affordable.

Next step is to apply for **SNAP** (food stamps) money assistance etc.

## **Assistance Services**

**211 Texas: (2.1.1)** – free 24/7 information service that is a program of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. Can put you in touch with the following services:

1. Food Stamps (SNAP)
2. Food Pantry locations (VITA Program Sites)
3. Electric Service Payment Assistance
4. Child Care Provider Referrals
5. Tax Preparation Assistance
6. Medicaid
7. Medicaid Applications
8. Rent Payment Assistance
9. Dental Care

### **CHIP Collin County**

(Children's Health Care)

901 N McDonald Street – suite 800 – McKinney TX 75069 – Hours: M-F 8am-5pm

Hotline: 877-543-7669, Main: 972-337-6100

Website: [www.chipmedicaid.org](http://www.chipmedicaid.org)

Provides low cost health coverage for children. Covers office visits, prescription drugs, dental care, eye exams, glasses, etc. Also provides medical coverage for unborn children through CHIP Perinatal. Offers coverage for the unborn baby, including labor and delivery expenses, prenatal visits and baby's health and medical services for the first months of life.

### **SNAP Collin County**

(Food Stamps)

901 N McDonald Street – suite 800 – McKinney TX 75069 – Hours: M-F 8am-5pm

1-800-448-3927

Lone Star Card for SNAP – 1-800-777-7EBT

## **GBFC**

1. Offers a \$50.00 food card
2. Provides counseling and assistance with the needs of your family.

## **Job Search**

1. Update your resume
2. Immediately start posting your resume on all job search sites.
  - a) [www.monster.com](http://www.monster.com)
  - b) [www.careerbuilder.com](http://www.careerbuilder.com)
  - c) [www.indeed.com](http://www.indeed.com)
  - d) [www.craigslist.com](http://www.craigslist.com) (not as reliable a source but try them all)
3. Update your LinkedIn account or set one up – [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)
4. Start networking and letting all of your friends, relatives, business associates, business contacts know that you are out of work and searching.
5. Get involved in job networking groups.
6. Use a recruiter/search firm (headhunter) to aid in your search, but don't just sit back and rely on them.
7. Start applying right away for positions and get your pipeline going and work this like a full time job.
8. Apply for all positions that are even close to your qualifications and don't rule anything out.
9. Be flexible and open to travel, relocation, hours, etc. to keep you open and not limit you.
10. Don't get discouraged! Stay consistent and persistent and maintain that fine line of being persistent and not a pest. (*Squeaky wheel gets the grease.*)
11. Leave a hand written thank you card after an interview for a position that you want. Leave it with the receptionist or someone in the office that can give it to the hiring manager or person you met with. If this is not possible then send a thank you email.
12. Always ask for the job or position if you want it – don't be shy and this is not rude to do.
13. During the interview if the position is not what you want then politely excuse yourself and save you and them the time. Remember you are interviewing them as well as they are interviewing you.
14. Always tell what you can do for the company and what you bring and provide. They want to see why they should hire you. Once they have decided on you then you can start asking what they provide for you and then you are able to negotiate.

15. Be yourself in the interview and just talk to the person. Break down all the barriers that they are used to and just be real. You want to stand out as different from everything they usually see and see the value in you and wanting to hire you.