

Maine Family Development Account (FDA) Income Guidelines Effective January 1, 2019

Note: Round down to the nearest whole dollar before comparing income to these guidelines. This chart shows 200% of the Federal Poverty

200% of the Federal Poverty Level Guidelines			
Family Size	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$24,980	\$2,082	\$480
2	\$33,820	\$2,818	\$650
3	\$42,660	\$3,555	\$820
4	\$51,500	\$4,292	\$990
5	\$60,340	\$5,028	\$1,160
6	\$69,180	\$5,765	\$1,330
7	\$78,020	\$6,502	\$1,500
8	\$86,860	\$7,238	\$1,670
Each Add'l	\$8,840	\$737	\$170

Guidelines. For use in determining income eligibility for the Family Development Account program that is administered by the Maine FDA Coalition. Source: Federal Register 1/13/19.

Maine Family Development Account (FDA) Questions and Answers

What is the FDA Program? The FDA Program enables income-eligible individuals and families to have matched savings that will be used to buy a home, pay for education, or start or expand a small business. Participating families open a savings account to be used toward their identified goal. These savings will be matched upon withdrawal approved purchases.

Who is eligible to open FDAs? Applicants who are eligible for TANF or the Earned Income Tax Credit usually qualify to open a FDA. Annual household income must be at or below \$24,980 for one person and \$33,820 for two people (for larger households please refer to chart above). ***There are additional eligibility requirements.***

What can the savings and match funds be used for?

The savings and match funds can be used for:

- Home Ownership: The FDA can be used for a down payment and closing costs on the purchase of a home.
- Business Development: The FDA can be used to cover the costs of starting a business or expanding an existing business.
- Education or Training: The FDA can be used for education purposes, including vocational and technical training, community college, university or professional certification/licensure.
- For a limited time, Vehicle Purchase, Vehicle Repair, Home Repair & Emergency accounts are available to households with a minor child in them.

How much can a person save in an FDA?

Account holders usually save between \$20 and \$80 per month in an FDA for a maximum personal savings of \$1,000 for all assets. ***All participant deposits must come from earnings from employment or self-employment.*** Each dollar saved is matched by four additional dollars.

What are the time frames for participation in the program? Families must save for at least six months, and may save for up to three years. Length of participation depends on the identified savings goal and how much a family is saving each month.

How does the program work? Participation in the program includes the following steps:

1. Fills out a FDA application.
2. Identifies a savings goal, monthly amount to be saved and total savings.
3. Application is approved by staff member and/or review committee.
4. Opens account and begins saving.
5. Completes money management training and asset specific training.
6. When goal has been met, match funds are made available for asset purchase.

What access is there to FDA savings during program participation?

Participants have access to the FDA savings during their term of participation, with the following restrictions:

- May access their savings for emergency use once during their participation in the program.
- May withdraw their savings and leave the program at any time. Families can only withdraw what has accumulated of their own savings, without access to match funds.

This program is administered through the Maine Family Development Account Coalition. Please call Ida Bagley at 598-5648. Revised Jan 2019