



# Navigating Benefits.gov: How Benefits.gov Can Help You and Citizens in Your Community

# Agenda

- Welcome
- Mission and History
- The Benefit Finder Tool
- Highlights and Categories
- How to Apply
- Newsroom
- Get Involved
- FAQs
- Contact Us
- Open Forum Q&A

# Mission & History

## Our Mission

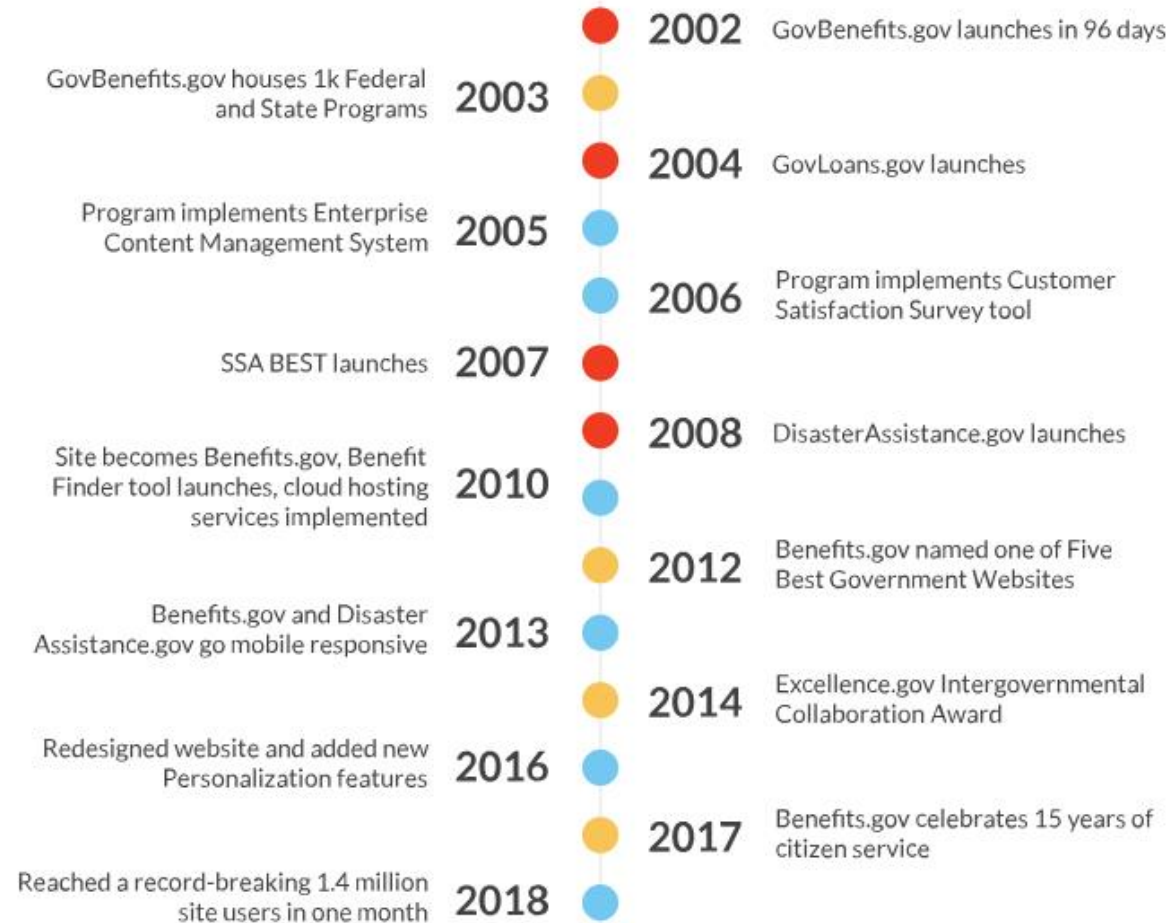
As the official benefits website of the U.S. government, our mission is to increase citizen access to benefit information, while reducing the expense and difficulty of interacting with the government.



- Our History
- Formerly GovBenefits.gov founded in 2002
  - One of the earliest E-Gov initiatives by presidential mandate
  - Single Source for government benefits, information, and resources
  - Operated, managed, and supported by a Federal agency Partnership, Benefits.gov provides an innovative, technology-based solution to benefit information delivery
  - Serving millions of citizens

# Mission & History

## Our Timeline





# Mission & History

## Our Partners



Department of Agriculture



Department of Health & Human Services



Department of Justice



Department of State



Department of Commerce



Department of Homeland Security



Department of Labor



Department of Transportation



Department of Education



Department of Housing and Urban Development



Small Business Administration



Department of Treasury



Department of Energy



Department of the Interior

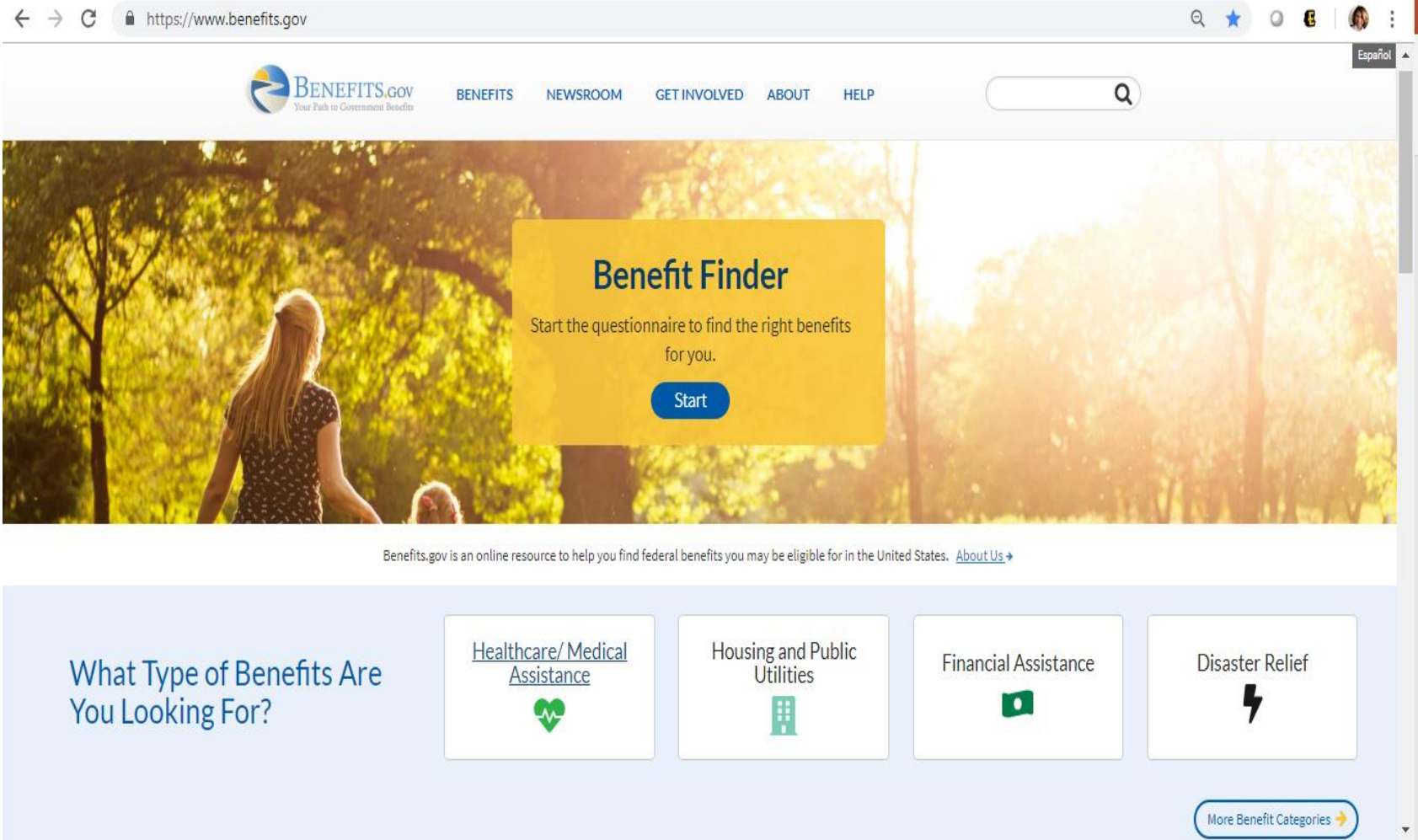


Social Security Administration



Department of Veterans Affairs

# Homepage



The screenshot shows the homepage of Benefits.gov. At the top, there is a browser address bar with the URL https://www.benefits.gov. Below the browser bar is the website's navigation menu, which includes the Benefits.gov logo, the tagline "Your Path to Government Benefits", and links for BENEFITS, NEWSROOM, GET INVOLVED, ABOUT, and HELP. A search bar is located to the right of the navigation menu. The main content area features a large banner image of a woman and a child walking in a park. Overlaid on this image is a yellow box with the text "Benefit Finder" and "Start the questionnaire to find the right benefits for you." Below this text is a blue "Start" button. Underneath the banner, a line of text states: "Benefits.gov is an online resource to help you find federal benefits you may be eligible for in the United States. [About Us](#) →". Below this text is a light blue section titled "What Type of Benefits Are You Looking For?". This section contains four white boxes, each with a title and an icon: "Healthcare/ Medical Assistance" with a heart icon, "Housing and Public Utilities" with a building icon, "Financial Assistance" with a dollar sign icon, and "Disaster Relief" with a lightning bolt icon. At the bottom right of this section is a button labeled "More Benefit Categories →".

# Site's Main Feature: Benefit Finder

The screenshot shows the homepage of Benefits.gov. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the logo "BENEFITS.GOV Your Path to Government Benefits" and links for "BENEFITS", "NEWSROOM", "GET INVOLVED", "ABOUT", and "HELP". A search bar is located on the right side of the navigation bar. Below the navigation bar is a large banner image of a woman and a child walking in a park. Overlaid on this image is a yellow box with the text "Benefit Finder" and "Start the questionnaire to find the right benefits for you." A red arrow points to a blue "Start" button. Below the banner, there is a line of text: "Benefits.gov is an online resource to help you find federal benefits you may be eligible for in the United States. [About Us](#) →". Below this is a section titled "What Type of Benefits Are You Looking For?" with four categories: "Healthcare/ Medical Assistance" (with a heart icon), "Housing and Public Utilities" (with a building icon), "Financial Assistance" (with a dollar sign icon), and "Disaster Relief" (with a lightning bolt icon). A "More Benefit Categories →" button is located at the bottom right of this section.

# Benefit Finder

## Benefit Finder

Answer Questions View Results Favorites

Core

General

Household

Education

Health

Income & Assistance

Work Experience

**Core**

All of the questions in this section must be answered in order to move on to the next sections of the Benefit Finder. Please answer the questions as accurately as possible for the best results. After this section is complete, you may click the "View Results" tab at any time to see a listing of resources that you, or a loved one, may be eligible to receive.

1 What is your date of birth? (Enter date in mm/dd/yyyy format.) ⓘ

2 Where do you live? ⓘ

- One of the 50 states or the District of Columbia
- Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands or the U.S. Virgin Islands
- Other



# Complete Questionnaire

## Benefit Finder



Answer Questions View Results Favorites

Core

General

Household

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- Other

# Complete Questionnaire

## Benefit Finder

Answer Questions | View Results | Favorites

Core

General

Household

Education

Health

Income & Assistance

Work Experience

**General**

1 What is your race or ethnicity? (Check all that apply.)

- African American
- Alaska Native
- Amerasian
- Asian
- Caucasian
- Cuban
- Haitian
- Hispanic
- Native American or American Indian
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

2 What is your current military status?

- Active
- Previously active
- Reserve
- Veteran
- Am not currently, nor ever have been, in the military

**Benefits You May Be Eligible For:**

**23**

American Indian/Alaska Native	1
Child Care/Child Support	1
Disability Assistance	2
Education/Training	4
Employment/Career Development Assistance	5
Energy Assistance	3
Food/Nutrition	3
Grants/Scholarships/Fellowships	4
Agriculture Loans	1
Healthcare	1

Can't find what you're looking for? [View more resources](#)



# View Results

## Benefit Finder

Answer Questions **View Results** Favorites

**View Results** E-mail Print

[Review Your Answers](#)

Based on your answers so far, you may be eligible for the resources listed below. Add any resources you are interested in to the "Your Favorites" list by clicking the "Add to Your Favorites" button located below each resource. You can further narrow down your resource results list by either returning to the "Answer Questions" tab and answering any remaining questions, or by clicking on the "Review Your Answers" button to edit your responses.

PLEASE NOTE: These results will not be stored on the site. To avoid losing your results, please email this list to yourself or someone else for future reference.

**Alcohol National Research Service Awards**  
The Alcohol National Research Service Awards support training in clinical research, treatment assessment research, problems of health promotion and alcoholism prevention, and basic biological and behavioral processes applicable to alcohol research.  
[Read More](#) | [Add to Favorites](#)

**American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) Leadership Development Programs**  
The American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) program focuses on international educational exchanges for young political leaders worldwide. The program provides in-depth exploration of the governance, politics, policy making, bilateral relations, culture, and geographic diversity of the host country. Participants are provided opportunities to strengthen their personal leadership skills and

**Benefits You May be Eligible For:**  
**24**

Agriculture Loans	1
American Indian/Alaska Native	1
Child Care/Child Support	1
Disability Assistance	2
Education/Training	4
Employment/Career Development Assistance	5
Energy Assistance	3
Food/Nutrition	3
Grants/Scholarships/Fellowships	4
Healthcare	1




# Share Results

## Benefit Finder

Answer Questions | **View Results** | Favorites

**View Results**

[Review Your Answers](#)

 [E-mail](#) [Print](#)

**Benefits You May be Eligible For:**  
**24**

Agriculture Loans	1
American Indian/Alaska Native	1
Child Care/Child Support	1
Disability Assistance	2
Education/Training	4
Employment/Career Development Assistance	5
Energy Assistance	3
Food/Nutrition	3
Grants/Scholarships/Fellowships	4
Healthcare	1

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# Homepage

What Type of Benefits Are You Looking For?

Healthcare/  
Medical  
Assistance



Housing and  
Public Utilities



Financial  
Assistance



Disaster Relief



[More Benefit Categories](#) →



- 1 Virginia Medicaid
- 2 Virginia Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- 3 National School Breakfast and Lunch Program for Virginia
- 4 Virginia Temporary Assistance for Needy Families



## Top 4


### Most Popular Benefits In

## Virginia

[Change Location](#) 📍

# Homepage

← → ↻ 🔒 https://www.benefits.gov 🔍 ☆ 🌐 🗑️ 👤 ⋮

 [BENEFITS](#) [NEWSROOM](#) [GET INVOLVED](#) [ABOUT](#) [HELP](#) 🔍





## Benefit Finder

Start the questionnaire to find the right benefits for you.

[Start](#)

Benefits.gov is an online resource to help you find federal benefits you may be eligible for in the United States. [About Us](#) →

















### What Type of Benefits Are You Looking For?

- [Healthcare/ Medical Assistance](#)  

- [Housing and Public Utilities](#)  

- [Financial Assistance](#)  

- [Disaster Relief](#)  


[More Benefit Categories](#) →


















# Categories

## Browse Benefits by Category

<p><b>Agriculture/ Environmental Sustainability</b> </p> <p>Example Categories: Agricultural Loans</p>	<p><b>American Indian/ Alaska Native</b> </p> <p>Example Categories: Youth</p>	<p><b>Disaster Relief</b> </p> <p>Example Categories: Disaster Relief Loans</p>	<p><b>Family and Children Services</b> </p> <p>Example Categories: Child Care/Child Support Death/Survivor Early Childhood Services</p>
<p><b>Education/ Training</b> </p> <p>Example Categories: Fellowships/Scholarships Education Loans</p>	<p><b>Employment/ Career Development</b> </p>	<p><b>Financial Assistance</b> </p> <p>Example Categories: Tax Assistance Living Assistance Insurance</p>	<p><b>Food/ Nutrition</b> </p>
<p><b>Grants</b> </p>	<p><b>Healthcare/ Medical Assistance</b> </p> <p>Example Categories: Children's Health Disability Assistance Medicaid/Medicare</p>	<p><b>Housing and Public Utilities</b> </p> <p>Example Categories: Energy Assistance Housing Loans</p>	<p><b>Immigration and Refugee Assistance</b> </p>
<p><b>Loans</b> </p> <p>Example Categories: Education Loans Housing Loans Loan Repayment</p>	<p><b>Military: Active Duty and Veterans</b> </p> <p>Example Categories: Veterans Education Veterans Health Veterans Loans</p>	<p><b>Social Security/ Retirement</b> </p> <p>Example Categories: Family Social Security Insurance Social Security Spouse &amp; Widower Social Security</p>	<p><b>Volunteer Opportunities</b> </p>

# Categories

**Browse Benefits by Category**

<p><b>Agriculture/ Environmental Sustainability</b> </p> <p>Example Categories: Agricultural Loans</p>	<p><b>American Indian/ Alaska Native</b> </p> <p>Example Categories: Youth</p>	<p><b>Disaster Relief</b> </p> <p>Example Categories: Disaster Relief Loans</p>	<p><b>Family and Children Services</b> </p> <p>Example Categories: Child Care/Child Support Death/Survivor Early Childhood Services</p>
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# Explore Benefits

## Education/ Training

Filter by State

All States

Filter by Subcategory

All Subcategories

Clear all Filters

Results:

97

### [1994 Institutions Endowment Fund](#)

An interest distribution earned on an invested corpus to all eligible 1994 Land-Grant Institutions. Provides funding for institutional development to support food, agriculture and the mechanic arts. Educational activities, facility construction and...

Federal

Education/ Training

### [Advanced Education Nursing Traineeships](#)

The Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship program meets the cost of traineeships for individuals in advanced nursing education programs. Traineeships are awarded to individuals by participating educational institutions offering masters and doctoral...

Federal

Education/ Training

Employment/ Career Development

### [Alcohol National Research Service Awards](#)

The Alcohol National Research Service Awards support training in clinical research, treatment assessment research, problems of health promotion and alcoholism prevention, and basic biological and behavioral processes applicable to alcohol...

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### [American Council of Young Political Leaders \(ACYPL\) Leadership Development Programs](#)

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# Next Steps: How to Apply

## Job Accommodation Network (JAN)

Benefit Categories > Employment/ Career Development

### Program Description

The Job Accommodation Network (JAN) provides free, expert and confidential technical assistance to both employees and employers regarding workplace accommodations and disability employment issues.

### Program Requirements

Anyone can receive information from JAN. JAN programs are targeted towards employers and employees requiring workplace accommodations for disability or health related issues.

### Application Process

JAN offers several ways to obtain confidential, personalized assistance:

- **By Phone:** From 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET, customers can call JAN toll-free to speak with a workplace accommodation expert at 1-800-526-7234 or 1-877-781-9403 (TTY).
- **Via the Web:** [AskJAN.org](http://AskJAN.org) offers more than 300 disability-specific publications, as well as the [Searchable Online Accommodation Resource \(SOAR\)](#), which enables users to explore accommodation options for different disabilities and workplace settings.
- **On Demand:** JAN's online service provides customers with individualized e-mail responses to questions about accommodations and the ADA.
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- **Through In-Person Trainings:** JAN delivers training workshops at events sponsored by corporations, organizations, and Federal, state, and local governments.

### Contact Information

For more information about this program go to:  
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# Subscribe to Benefit Updates

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# Newsroom

The screenshot shows the homepage of Benefits.gov. At the top, the navigation menu includes 'BENEFITS', 'NEWSROOM', 'GET INVOLVED', 'ABOUT', and 'HELP'. A red arrow points to the 'NEWSROOM' link. Below the navigation is a search bar and a 'Español' language selector. The main content area features a large banner for 'Benefit Finder' with the text 'Start the questionnaire to find the right benefits for you.' and a 'Start' button. Below the banner is a descriptive sentence: 'Benefits.gov is an online resource to help you find federal benefits you may be eligible for in the United States. [About Us](#) →'. At the bottom, there is a section titled 'What Type of Benefits Are You Looking For?' with four category buttons: 'Healthcare/ Medical Assistance' (with a heart icon), 'Housing and Public Utilities' (with a building icon), 'Financial Assistance' (with a wallet icon), and 'Disaster Relief' (with a lightning bolt icon). A 'More Benefit Categories →' button is located at the bottom right of this section.



# Newsroom Articles

## Articles



### VA Marks One Year Since Signing of the Historic Appeals Modernization Act

*October 17, 2018*

August 23, 2018, marked one year since the president signed in to law one of the most significant legislative changes in decades, affecting the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Veterans it...



### Housing 101 with Benefits.gov

*October 17, 2018*

Housing can be hard to come by or unaffordable for some Americans. A Harvard study revealed nearly 40 million Americans cannot afford housing. Benefits.gov provides information on many resources that can help eligible individuals and families in...



### Mental Health Series: Practice Healthy Behaviors

*October 17, 2018*

The beginning of a new school year can be an exciting time but can also bring new stress and anxiety. It is important to be proactive about taking care of your mental health.



### Breast Cancer Awareness: Tips on "Thinking Pink and Living Green"

*October 17, 2018*

According to Breastcancer.org, one in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer over the course of their lifetime. After skin cancer, breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among American women.



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### Housing 101 with Benefits.gov

October 17, 2018

Housing can be hard to come by or unaffordable for some Americans. A Harvard study revealed nearly 40 million Americans cannot afford housing. Benefits.gov provides information on many resources that can help eligible individuals and families in...



### Mental Health Series: Practice Healthy Behaviors

October 17, 2018

The beginning of a new school year can be an exciting time but can also bring new stress and anxiety. It is important to be proactive about taking care of your mental health.



### Breast Cancer Awareness: Tips on "Thinking Pink and Living Green"

October 17, 2018

According to Breastcancer.org, one in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer over the course of their lifetime. After skin cancer, breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among American women.



# Newsroom Articles



October 17, 2018

## Breast Cancer Awareness: Tips on "Thinking Pink and Living Green"

According to [Breastcancer.org](http://Breastcancer.org), one in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer over the course of their lifetime. After skin cancer, breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among American women. Studies have shown that there are steps that women can take to help lower their risk of being diagnosed with breast cancer, including:

- **Conduct monthly self-exams:** In addition to medical screenings, the [National Breast Cancer Foundation](http://National Breast Cancer Foundation) (NBCF) and medical professionals recommend a monthly self-exam. To learn how to conduct a breast self-exam, check out [this guide](#) offered by NBCF. If you feel something, say something. Early detection is a key factor in the successful treatment of breast cancer.
- **Modify your diet:** Diet and nutrition have been proven contributors to about 30-40 percent of cancer diagnosis. Eliminating high sugar, salt, and fat options from your diet will help keep your energy high and your body healthy.
- **Quit smoking:** According to the [National Cancer Institute](http://National Cancer Institute) (NCI), smoking is a significant risk factor for breast and many other types of cancer. Eliminating tobacco from your life lowers your risk regardless of your age or how long you have been a smoker.
- **Monitor alcohol intake:** Research shows that drinking alcoholic beverages increases your risk of breast cancer and may damage DNA in your cells.
- **Exercise more:** Regular exercise of 30 minutes or more can also lower your risk factors for breast cancer.

To learn more about prevention tips, understanding your risks, post-diagnosis support, and treatment options, check out the Thinking Pink and Living Green column on [BreastCancer.org](http://BreastCancer.org). If you are looking for additional resources, we encourage you to complete our [Benefit Finder](#) questionnaire to see what benefits you or a loved one may be eligible to receive.

### Tags

[Healthcare/ Medical Assistance](#)




# Compass eNewsletter



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[A Message from the Benefits.gov Program Leadership](#) →



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Compass eNewsletter  Quarterly eNewsletter About the Benefits.gov Program



October 2018

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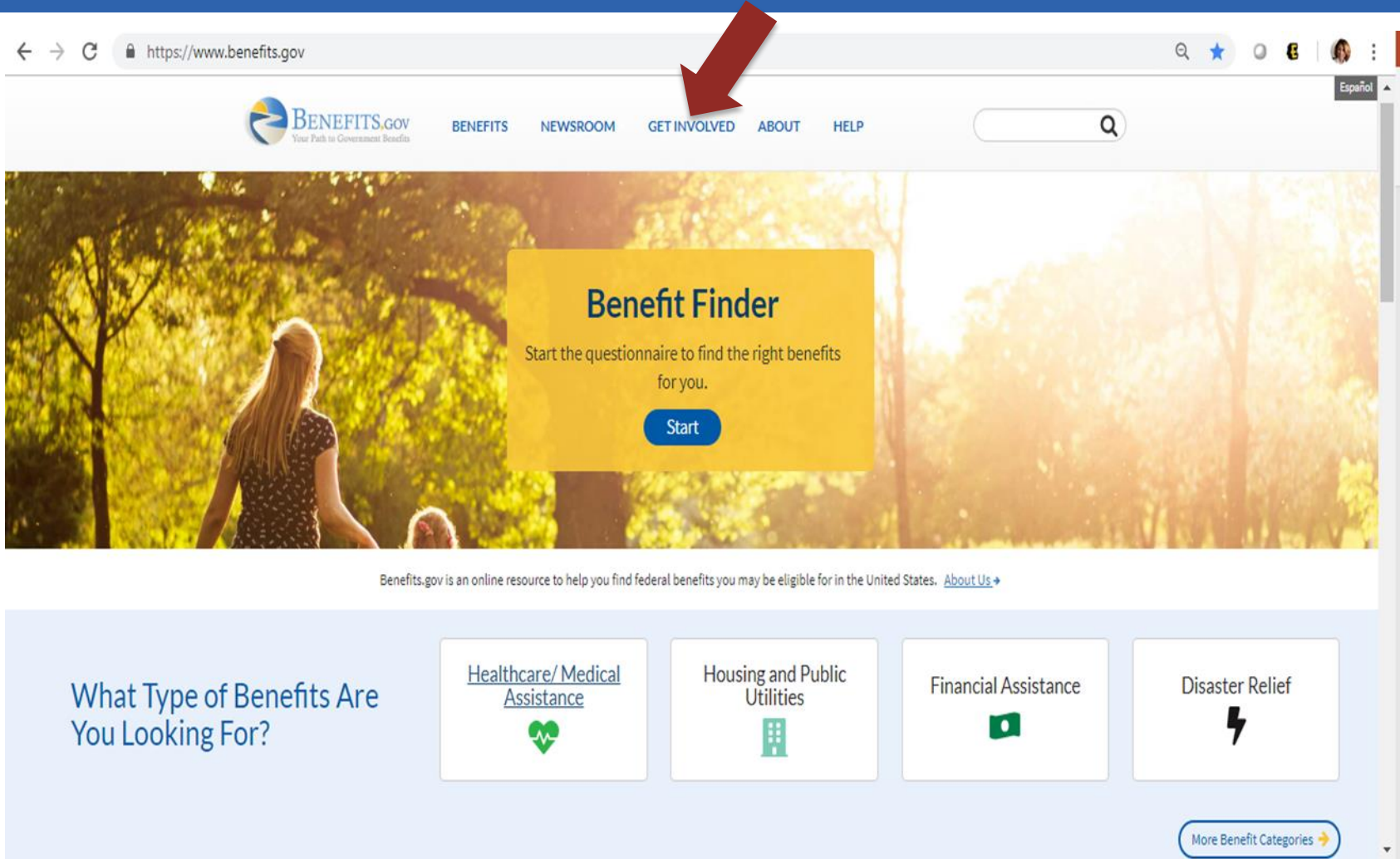
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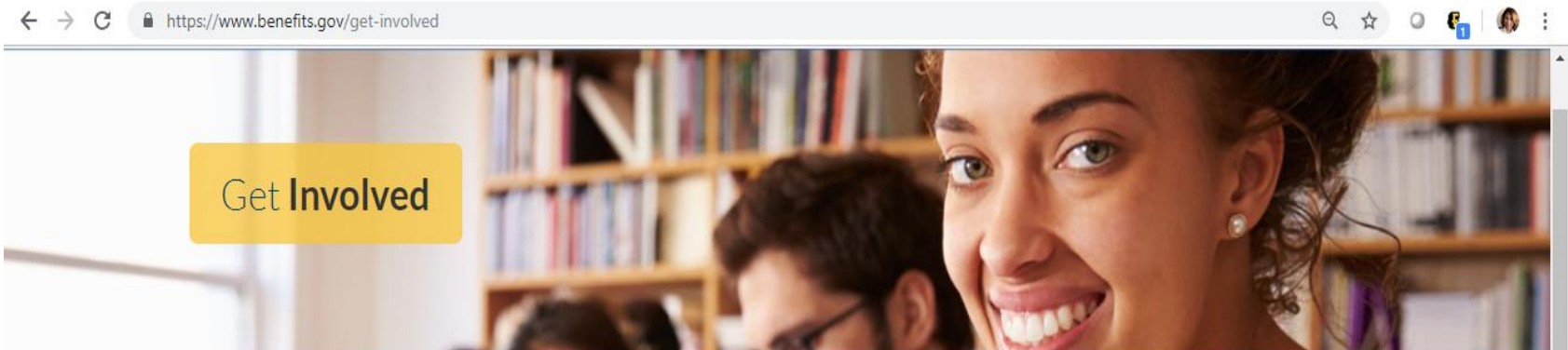
# Get Involved



The screenshot shows the Benefits.gov website interface. At the top, the browser address bar displays "https://www.benefits.gov". The navigation menu includes "BENEFITS", "NEWSROOM", "GET INVOLVED", "ABOUT", and "HELP". A red arrow points to the "GET INVOLVED" link. Below the navigation is a search bar and a language selector set to "Español". The main content area features a large banner with a background image of a woman and child in a park. A yellow box in the center of the banner contains the text "Benefit Finder" and "Start the questionnaire to find the right benefits for you." with a blue "Start" button. Below the banner, a line of text states: "Benefits.gov is an online resource to help you find federal benefits you may be eligible for in the United States. [About Us](#) →". At the bottom, a light blue section titled "What Type of Benefits Are You Looking For?" contains four category buttons: "Healthcare/ Medical Assistance" (with a heart icon), "Housing and Public Utilities" (with a building icon), "Financial Assistance" (with a dollar sign icon), and "Disaster Relief" (with a lightning bolt icon). A "More Benefit Categories →" button is located at the bottom right of this section.



# Get Involved



## Become An Advocate

As a community advocate, you dedicate your time to serving those in need. Benefits.gov can be a key resource on your path to help others. On Benefits.gov, you can:

### Search

Search a public database of more than 1,200 government benefits. From anywhere on the site, you can browse by category.



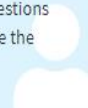
### Create, print and email

Empower your clients to help themselves by informing them of Benefits.gov and teaching them how to use the site.



### Personalize

Personalize the benefits search by using the free and confidential Benefit Finder prescreening tool. Find out which benefits your client may be eligible to receive, as well as information on how to apply. Answer questions on behalf of your client or show them how to use the Benefit Finder.

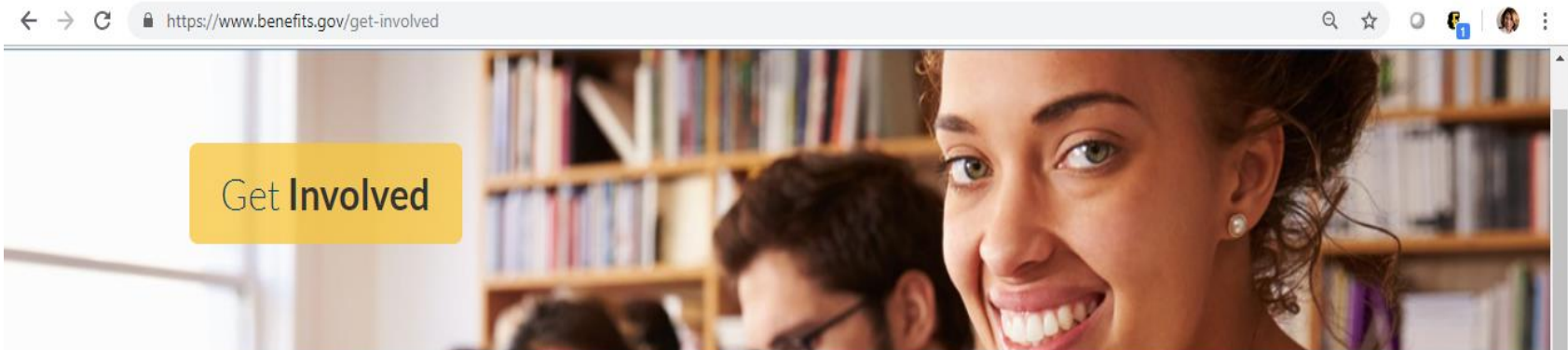


### Empower

Create, print, and email a customized list of benefits that address your clients' unique circumstances. Add benefits you're interested in to the "Your Favorites" list and share it with your clients.



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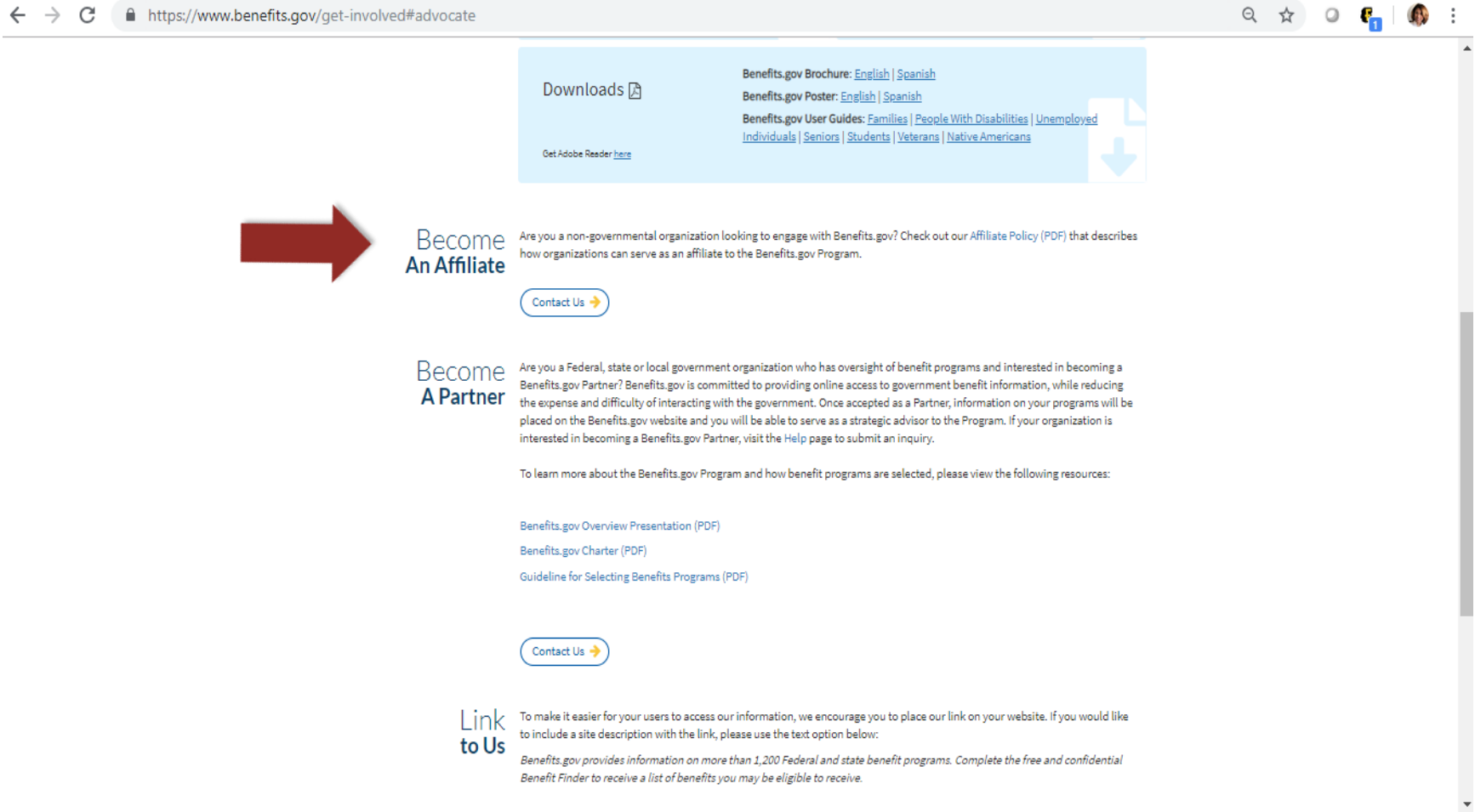
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# Become an Affiliate





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 **Become An Affiliate**

Are you a non-governmental organization looking to engage with Benefits.gov? Check out our [Affiliate Policy \(PDF\)](#) that describes how organizations can serve as an affiliate to the Benefits.gov Program.

[Contact Us](#) →

**Become A Partner**

Are you a Federal, state or local government organization who has oversight of benefit programs and interested in becoming a Benefits.gov Partner? Benefits.gov is committed to providing online access to government benefit information, while reducing the expense and difficulty of interacting with the government. Once accepted as a Partner, information on your programs will be placed on the Benefits.gov website and you will be able to serve as a strategic advisor to the Program. If your organization is interested in becoming a Benefits.gov Partner, visit the [Help](#) page to submit an inquiry.

To learn more about the Benefits.gov Program and how benefit programs are selected, please view the following resources:

- [Benefits.gov Overview Presentation \(PDF\)](#)
- [Benefits.gov Charter \(PDF\)](#)
- [Guideline for Selecting Benefits Programs \(PDF\)](#)

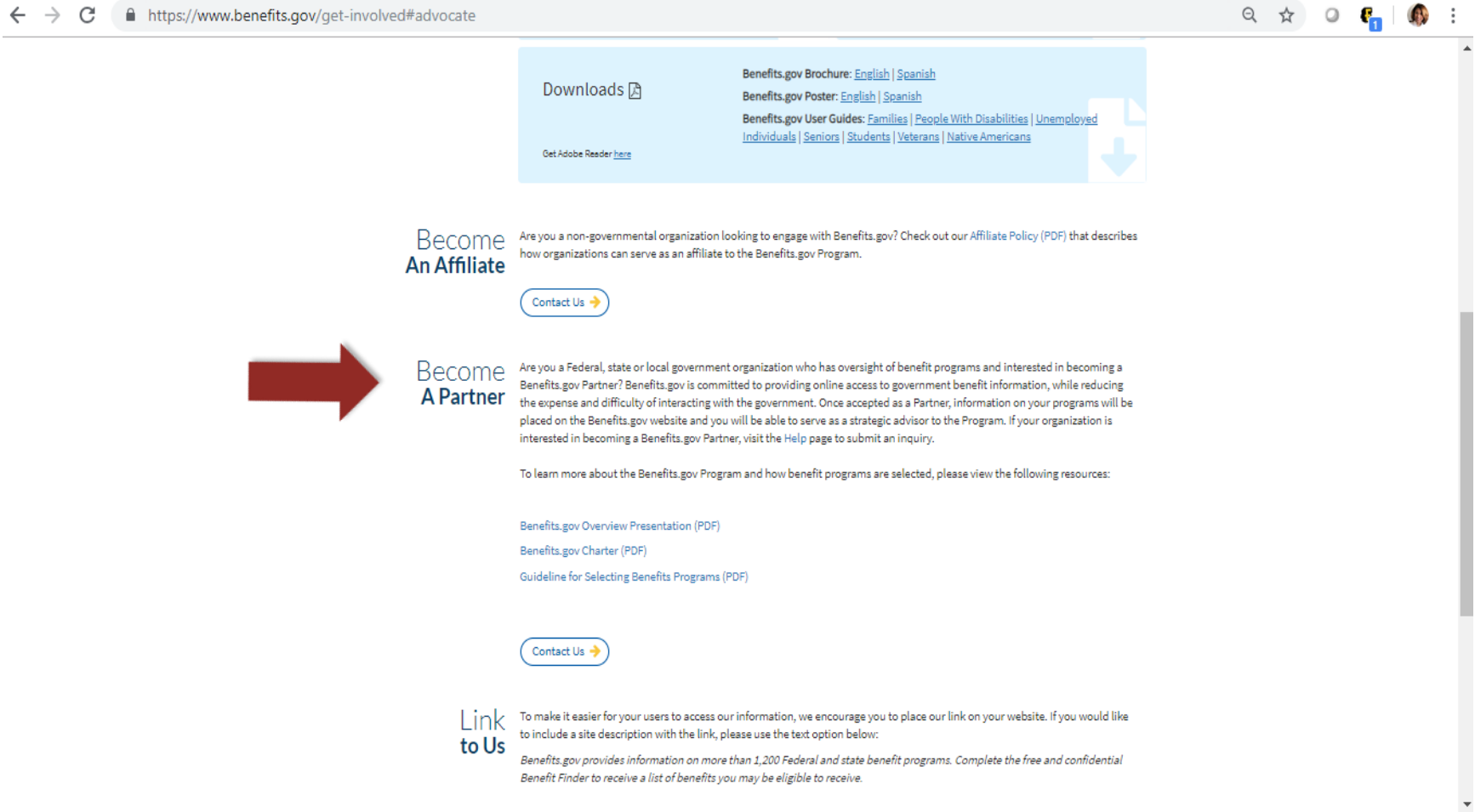
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**Link to Us**


To make it easier for your users to access our information, we encourage you to place our link on your website. If you would like to include a site description with the link, please use the text option below:

*Benefits.gov provides information on more than 1,200 Federal and state benefit programs. Complete the free and confidential Benefit Finder to receive a list of benefits you may be eligible to receive.*

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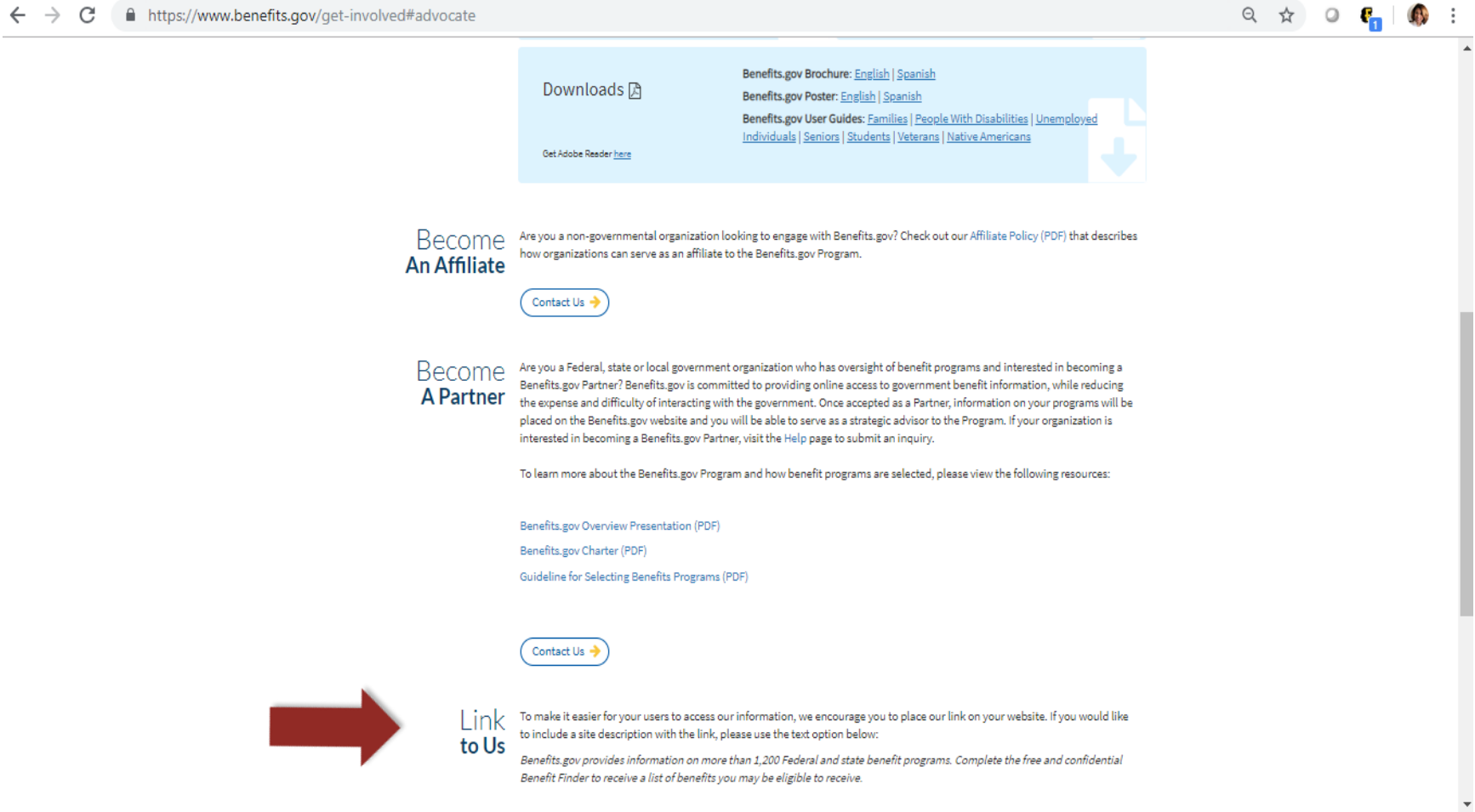
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## Help Center

### General Questions

- + [What is Benefits.gov?](#)
- + [How often should I use Benefits.gov?](#)
- + [How do I apply or check my application status for a benefit program?](#)
- + [What if I am helping someone else?](#)

### Benefit Finder

- + [How does Benefits.gov determine which benefits I may be eligible to receive?](#)
- + [Why does Benefits.gov say I "may" be eligible to receive benefits in my Results list?](#)
- + [How much time will it take to complete the Benefit Finder questionnaire?](#)
- + [Will my benefit results stay on the website for future reference?](#)

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- + [How does the Search function work?](#)
- + [How do I view "popular benefits" in my area?](#)
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Questions?

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# Open Forum Q&A

- Thank you for joining us today!
- Connect with us on Social Media



- Or reach out to us directly:
  - Myung Moon – [Moon.Myung@dol.gov](mailto:Moon.Myung@dol.gov)
  - Tyler Bryant – [Bryant.Tyler.M@dol.gov](mailto:Bryant.Tyler.M@dol.gov)
  - Ellery Rush – [Rush.Ellery.M@dol.gov](mailto:Rush.Ellery.M@dol.gov)
  - Maddy Weingast – [Weingast.Madelyn.M@dol.gov](mailto:Weingast.Madelyn.M@dol.gov)

Any questions?