The DHR Family Investment Administration provides assistance to low-income families so that they can cover basic needs such as food, shelter and clothing while preparing them for independence through work.

More people returning to work. Job creation plays an important role in lifting families out of poverty.

- DHR placed a record 37,743 welfare recipients in jobs since September 2011.
- Starting wage at $10 or more remains 37%.

Welfare rolls are shrinking. As the economy improves, the number of individuals seeking temporary cash assistance (TCA) has decreased.

- In September 2013, there were 8,942 TCA recipients who were work eligible. This is a 11% decrease from September 2012, when 10,085 such TCA recipients received benefits.
- Maryland has seen a 25% reduction since December 2010 when this caseload reached its highest level.
- The overall caseload decreased 13% from a peak of 29,637 in December 2010 to 25,752 in October 2013.

180,000 fewer children go hungry. Governor O’Malley set a goal of eliminating childhood hunger by 2015. Since 2007:

- We’ve increased Food Supplement Program enrollment from approximately 146,500 low-income families to more than 400,000.
- The total number of children served grew from 148,352 to 329,340.
- Overall, 94% of families with children who are eligible for food stamps in Maryland receive them.

Improved customer service. DHR is helping families get assistance faster while improving our accuracy.

- Applications for social safety net services for 900,000 Marylanders -- including food, health care and cash assistance -- were processed on time.
- Maryland’s food stamp accuracy rate is the most improved in the nation (80% decrease since 2010).