

TABLE 17.2

OTHER PROGRAMS TO HELP THE POOR OR UNEMPLOYED IN THE UNITED STATES

PROGRAM NAME	DESCRIPTION
Earned income tax credit	Supplements the incomes of working people with low or moderate incomes. Those eligible for the credit receive a payment from the government or a rebate on their taxes that effectively raises their take-home pay.
Housing assistance	Subsidizes rents for families whose income falls below a certain level. Program is federally funded, with monies allocated directly to the cities and towns that administer the funds.
School lunch/ breakfast programs	Provide nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free meals to schoolchildren whose families are income eligible.
State child care subsidies	Subsidize working families receiving TANF and other low-income working families. Funded by the federal government but distributed by states. Programs vary by state, but generally states will reimburse the family for the cost of child care up to a maximum amount.
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	Makes cash payments to poor people who are old, disabled, or blind. Originally part of the Social Security Act of 1933, SSI benefits today are given to people with low income or capital who are 65 or older, disabled people with an impairment that would keep them from working, or disabled children who are also poor. The program is paid for by the general revenues of the United States and, in states that supplement SSI, from state funds.
Unemployment insurance	Provides economic security to workers who become unemployed through no fault of their own (e.g., when they are laid off). Monthly benefits depend on length of employment, base pay, and average weekly wage. The program is funded by a tax on employers and is run by states, which can set the amount of benefits, the length of time that workers can receive benefits, and eligibility requirements.