



## PolitiFact: Sen. Rubio's claims on poverty and welfare benefits

Florida's U.S. Senator Marco Rubio is looking to his political future. The Republican's recently released book, *American Dreams*, makes a claim about the lower class and government benefits. Rubio claims:

*"If (low-income) people work and make more money, they lose more in benefits than they would earn in salary."*

[PolitiFact Florida](#) rated the claim for its truthfulness. Writer [Joshua Gillin](#) says the claim rates **MOSTLY FALSE**. According to Gillin, the problem is with the metrics.

"What (Sen. Rubio) is saying is people will not want to work above a certain level because they lose too many benefits versus how much they're making," Gillin said.

Government benefits vary for low-income individuals and families. Programs like housing assistance, health care and even assistance through local programs. The more income a family makes, the fewer benefits those recipients will receive.

In 2013, the Cato Institute, a libertarian policy shop, released a study tallying the total federal and state benefits a person could receive. In nine states, assistance payouts were valued at more than \$35,000 a year. According to the Cato Institute, in those states, welfare paid better than a minimum wage job in more than half of the U.S.

The study took a look the benefits a single mom with two children may be eligible for. The report assumes that a typical family would receive seven different kinds of public assistance.

But, there's a problem with that assumption. According to the Congressional Budget Office, most families don't receive assistance from more than one program.

Because it appears the report from the Cato Institute is plausible, but extremely rare, PolitiFact Florida rated it **MOSTLY FALSE**.