



Applications Formal Diversion Programs Emergency Assistance

Florida

Applications

Filing and Processing Applications
Pre-Application Requirements
Pending Application Requirements
Personal Responsibility Contracts
Employability Plans

Filing and Processing Applications

All persons have a right to file an application for cash assistance.

Right provided for in regulation

The same application for cash assistance is used throughout the state.

The statewide application is a joint application for:

Food Stamps
Medicaid
Emergency Assistance

State policy sets standards of timeliness for processing applications:

Applications must be acted upon within 45 days.

The agency is required to issue a written decision on applications.

Pre-Application Requirements

The state does not impose requirements that must be met before a family can submit an application for cash assistance.

Pending Application Requirements

The state imposes pending application requirements that a family must meet while its cash assistance application is pending. Failure to meet these requirements results in denial of the application.

The pending application requirements are:

- Attend orientation session
- Conduct job search
- Begin work activity participation
- Agree to cooperate with child support enforcement
- Cooperate with child support activity:
 - Attend any scheduled appointment with child support enforcement

The following applicants are exempt from pending application requirements:

- Individuals exempt from work requirements

Personal Responsibility Contracts

Applicants and recipients are not required to sign a personal responsibility contract.

Employability Plans

Applicants must sign an employability plan, i.e. a plan that covers only work requirements for the individual, after eligibility is determined.

An individual develops an employability plan with:

- A worker at an office separate from the TANF office:
 - WAGES Coalitions or their contracted providers

The following people must sign an employability plan:

- Head of household

The following applicants and recipients are exempt from developing and/or signing an employability plan:

- Individual exempt from work requirements
- Individual with a child under age:
 - Three months
- Disabled caretaker
- Non-parent caretaker not receiving assistance
- Caring for a disabled family member

Employability Plans

Employability plans include a state or county agreement to provide services, and the services are listed.

There is no sanction for refusal to develop or sign an employability plan.

Formal Diversion Programs

The state operates a formal diversion program.

Current cash assistance recipients may not participate in the diversion program.

The maximum cash payment is two months' worth of benefits.

The size of a diversion payment is calculated on a case-by-case basis up to the maximum.

The income and asset limits used to determine diversion program eligibility are the same as those applied to applicants for ongoing cash assistance.

Eligibility for a cash diversion payment is decided based upon:

- Objective written criteria
- Agency policy and rules

A family that receives a diversion payment is ineligible for another diversion payment for 60 months.

A family that receives a diversion payment is ineligible for ongoing cash assistance for 3 months.

A family can receive cash assistance during the period of ineligibility under the following circumstances:

- If there is a demonstrated emergency

If a family receives cash assistance during the period of ineligibility, the diversion cash payment is recouped as follows:

- The diversion payment is subtracted from the cash assistance payment.

A diversion payment does not count as using up any months of time-limited assistance.

When a family receives a diversion payment, its child support rights are not assigned to the state.

Families that receive diversion payments are eligible to receive:

Employment services:

May be referred to the state Jobs and Benefits program, Americorps, or PIC/JTPA for assistance in finding employment or securing a better job.

Other:

Referrals made for child support enforcement, emergency housing assistance, county social service agencies, and local community services.

Emergency Assistance

The state provides emergency assistance to families that are receiving TANF cash assistance as follows:

Eviction prevention
Emergency housing assistance

The state provides emergency assistance to families that are eligible for but not receiving TANF cash assistance as follows:

Eviction prevention
Emergency housing assistance

The state provides emergency assistance to families that are not eligible for TANF cash assistance as follows:

Eviction prevention
Emergency housing assistance

Note: Information on exemptions from work requirements and sanctions for noncompliance with work requirements will be available in the Work and Sanction Provisions sections later this year.