



Applications Formal Diversion Programs Emergency Assistance

Iowa

Applications

Filing and Processing Applications

Pending Application Requirements

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

State policy sets standards of timeliness for processing applications:

Applications must be acted upon within 30 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 does not impose requirements (other than verification of information concerning eligibility) that a family must meet in order for its cash assistance application to be processed and approved.

Personal Responsibility Contracts

Applicants and/or recipients are required to sign a personal responsibility contract.

Applicants must sign a personal responsibility contract:
After eligibility is determined

The personal responsibility contract is:

The product of individualized assessment or worker discretion

The contract identifies specific employment activities.

The following people must sign the contract:

- Both parents in "two-parent" families
- Minor parent who is not head of household
- Non-parent caretaker included in the grant; child who is mandatory PROMISE JOBS participant

The following applicants and recipients are exempt from developing and signing a contract:

- Individual exempt from work requirements
- Disabled caretaker

The following obligations can be included in the contract:

- Participation in specific work activities
- Child school attendance requirements
- Minor parent school attendance requirements
- Participation in life skills or parenting classes
- Drug or alcohol provisions
- Agreement to reach self-sufficiency within a set period of time
- Participation in Family Development and Self Sufficiency or other Family Development programs; education and training; and activities to overcome barriers

The contract includes a state or county agreement to provide services, and lists the services.

A sanction is imposed if an applicant or recipient refuses to sign a contract. The sanction is the same as the sanction for non-compliance with work requirements.

Employability Plans

Applicants and recipients are not required to sign an employability plan, i.e. a plan that covers only work requirements.

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 determined locally by each project.

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:

- Local staff determination of who is "likely for success" in the program

A family that receives a diversion payment:

- Is ineligible for ongoing cash assistance for a period equal to two times the number of days' cash benefits the diversion payment is made

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:

- Local projects determine what services to provide.

The estimated scale of the diversion program in terms of the proportion of TANF applicants receiving diversion payments is:

- In 1997 the diversion project was a pilot operating in three counties, funded at \$100,000. The number of participants was small (less than 20 families). In 1998, the project began expanding to nine sites covering 16 counties. By September 1998, less than 200 families participated.

Emergency Assistance

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

- Eviction prevention
- Short-term rental assistance
- Prevent utility shutoff or restore service
- Emergency housing assistance
- Temporary shelter for homeless families
- Foreclosure prevention; purchase and repair of heating equipment

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

- Eviction prevention
- Short-term rental assistance
- Prevent utility shutoff or restore service
- Emergency housing assistance
- Temporary shelter for homeless families
- Foreclosure prevention; purchase and repair of heating equipment

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

- Eviction prevention
- Short-term rental assistance
- Prevent utility shutoff or restore service
- Emergency housing assistance
- Temporary shelter for homeless families
- Foreclosure prevention; purchase and repair of heating equipment

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.