



Applications

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Kentucky

Applications

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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 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 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:
With filing of application

The personal responsibility contract is:

The product of individualized assessment or worker discretion

An assessment form discussed by the worker and recipient

The contract identifies specific employment activities.

The following people must sign the contract:

Head of household

Both parents in "two-parent" families

Minor teen parent signs a separate plan that includes school attendance and living arrangement provisions.

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

No exemptions specified

The following obligations can be included in the contract:

Agreement to participate in work activities

Participation in specific work activities

Immunization or preventative health requirements

Cooperation with child support enforcement

Participation in life skills or parenting classes

Drug or alcohol provisions

Agreement to reach self-sufficiency within a set period of time

Minor teen parent has separate plan that includes school attendance and living arrangement provisions.

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

The sanction for refusing to sign a contract is:

Denial of application or termination of grant

The sanction lasts until compliance.

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 \$1500.

The size of the diversion payment is calculated as follows:

Based on an identified need, such as rent, child care, etc., up to the maximum; payment generally is a two party check or a vendor payment

The income and asset eligibility criteria for the diversion program differ from those applied to applicants for ongoing cash assistance as follows:

K-TAP gross income limit is used for eligibility for the diversion program. (The net "standard of need" is used for regular K-TAP.)

Eligibility for a cash diversion payment is decided based upon:

Objective written criteria
Caseworker discretion

A family that receives a diversion payment is ineligible for ongoing cash assistance for 12 months.

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

Inability to provide care through loss of employment without fault; non-receipt of ongoing cash assistance would result in abuse or neglect of child; and circumstances beyond the household's control such as illness, desertion, incapacity, inability to care for child

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:

Child care services:

Application taken or referral made on "as needed" basis

Employment services:

Referrals made "as needed"

Education and training services:

Job search, job readiness, and life skills offered

Other:

Referrals made "as needed" to child support enforcement, social services agency, health services, and charitable agencies.

Emergency Assistance

The state does not have an emergency assistance program.

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.