



Applications

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New Jersey

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
- Child care
- Emergency Assistance

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 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:

- Sign personal responsibility contract
- Complete an assessment
- Conduct job search
- Agree to cooperate with child support enforcement

No applicants are exempt from pending application requirements.

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:

- A standard form listing obligations
- The product of individualized assessment or worker discretion
- Developed by the department with the participant; includes an employability assessment component

The contract identifies specific employment activities.

The following people must sign the contract:

- Head of household
- Both parents in "two-parent" families
- Minor parent who is not head of household

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
- Child school attendance requirements
- Minor parent school attendance requirements
- Immunization or preventative health requirements
- Drug or alcohol provisions
- Teen parent living arrangement

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 \$1271.

The size of the diversion payment is calculated as follows:

Case-by-case basis, up to a maximum of \$750 for job search/placement activities while family seeks a job, and up to a maximum lump sum payment of \$521 when employment is secured

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

A family that receives a diversion payment:

Is considered to have been on basic assistance since receipt of payment, and payments are treated as unearned income for eligibility and benefit determination, if the family applies for cash assistance within 60 days of receiving the diversion payment.

A diversion payment does not use up any months of family's time-limited assistance if the family does not receive ongoing cash assistance within 60 days of receiving a diversion payment. If a family receives ongoing cash assistance within 60 days, the time back to the date of the diversion payment is counted.

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:

For up to two years, as needed

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

Less than 15 percent

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

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

- Eviction prevention
- Prevent utility shutoff or restore service
- Emergency housing assistance
- Temporary shelter for homeless families

The state does not provide emergency assistance to families that are not eligible for TANF cash 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.