



Applications

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Ohio

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 statute

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

The statewide application is a joint application for:

Food Stamps

Medicaid

State disability assistance; refugee cash assistance;
refugee medical assistance

State policy sets standards of timeliness for processing applications:

Applications must be acted upon within:

30 days to process; 45 days for denial or actual receipt
of assistance

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
- Cooperate with child support activity:
 - Attend interview; provide documents

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:
While the application is pending

The personal responsibility contract is:

- A standard form listing obligations
- The product of individualized assessment or worker discretion

The contract identifies specific employment activities.

The following people must sign the contract:

- Head of household
- Both parents in "two-parent" families
- Adult or minor head of household in the assistance group

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
- Cooperation with child support enforcement
- Participation in life skills or parenting classes
- Drug or alcohol provisions
- Teen parent living arrangement
- Agreement to reach self-sufficiency within a set period of time

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

Food stamp sanction:
Individual who failed or refused to sign a contract is
denied or terminated

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

Counties have discretion to decide whether to operate a formal diversion program.

Current cash assistance recipients may participate in the cash diversion program, as follows:

OWF recipients can apply for the Contingency part of this program.

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

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

Asset and income tests vary by county; no state-established maximum or minimum

Eligibility for a cash diversion payment is decided based upon:

Objective written criteria
County discretion

A family that receives a diversion payment:

May be ineligible for another diversion payment or for ongoing cash assistance for a period of time, at county discretion

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:
As eligible under state rules

Case management services at county discretion

Employment services at county discretion

Education and training services at county discretion

Transportation and other services at county discretion

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

Very few, but referrals are increasing. Program began October 1997.

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
- Others at county discretion

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
- Others at county discretion

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
- Others at county discretion

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.