



Applications

Formal Diversion Programs

Emergency Assistance

Pennsylvania

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 "general assistance"
- State medical 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:

Cooperate with child support activity:

Provide information; make a personal appearance at county Domestic Relations Section (waived in some counties)

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:

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

Non-parent caretaker not receiving assistance

Assistance group member who is age 18 or older

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

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

Maintain employment

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

The sanction for refusing to sign a contract is:

Needs of individuals required to sign removed from 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 does not operate a formal cash diversion program.

Emergency Assistance

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

- Eviction prevention
- Emergency housing assistance
- Temporary shelter for homeless families
- Foreclosure prevention

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

- Eviction prevention
- Emergency housing assistance
- Temporary shelter for homeless families
- Foreclosure prevention

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

- Eviction prevention
- Emergency housing assistance
- Temporary shelter for homeless families
- Foreclosure prevention

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.