



Applications

Formal Diversion Programs

Emergency Assistance

Tennessee

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 statute

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:
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
Minor parent who is not head of household
Non-parent caretaker not receiving assistance

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:

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
Teen parent living arrangement

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.

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 does not provide emergency assistance to families that are receiving TANF cash assistance.

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

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

- Eviction prevention
- Prevent utility shutoff or restore service

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.