



Applications

Formal Diversion Programs

Emergency Assistance

Alaska

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.

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

The statewide application is a joint application for:

- Food Stamps
- Medicaid
- 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 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:

- 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

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

- Disabled caretaker
- Non-parent caretaker not receiving assistance
- Minor parent

The following obligations can be included in the contract:

- Agreement to participate in work activities
- Participation in specific work activities
- Participation in life skills or parenting classes
- Drug or alcohol provisions
- 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.

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.

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 two months' worth of benefits.

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

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

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 another diversion payment for 12 months.

If a family receives cash assistance during the period of ineligibility, the diversion cash payment is recouped as follows:

The payment will be counted as income if the family reapplies for ATAP within three months.

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.

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

1.3 percent

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.