



# Applications

## Formal Diversion Programs

## Emergency Assistance

### Nebraska

#### Applications

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**Filing and Processing 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  
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 medical assistance  
Energy assistance; social services block grant (SSBG) assistance

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:  
After eligibility is determined

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:

- Individual exempt from work requirements
- Individual with a child under Three months
- Disabled caretaker
- Non-parent caretaker not receiving assistance

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
- 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

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

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The state does not operate a formal cash diversion program.

## Emergency Assistance

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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
- Medical assistance; other assistance for a non-recurring emergency

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

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.*