

Ohio Works First (OWF) Cash Assistance

What is Ohio Works First?

Ohio Works First is a time-limited cash assistance program for eligible families through the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program, which emphasizes Employment, Personal Responsibility, and Self Sufficiency.

If you qualify, the amount of assistance you'll receive will be based on the number of people in your family and your family's income. OWF cash benefits are limited to thirty-six (36) months. For "child only" cases there is no time limit. Click here for more information regarding [OWF Cash Assistance](#)

To apply for OWF Cash Assistance benefits you can submit an [application](#) to our office or apply online at <https://odjfsbenefits.ohio.gov/SelfServiceSplash.jsf>

An agency representative will contact you for an interview to process your application. Certain items such as citizenship, household composition, income, resources and expenses must be verified. Normal processing requires that benefits be issued or the application be denied within 30 days.

Once approved for OWF cash benefits, you will be required to participate in a Work Activities for a specific number of hours per month to continue receiving your benefits. Those activities include Job Search Assignments, OhioMeansJobs registration, and also may include a Work Experience Program (WEP) assignment where you will report to a worksite and perform your required number hours of work each month. Your Worksite participation may then be listed as experience on your resume which will help you find employment. You may also develop professional relationships at your worksite that may provide you valuable resume references.

Recipients under the age of 25 that are determined work-eligible, will be required to participate in the [Comprehensive Case Management Employment Program \(CCMEP\)](#). This involves a separate application process that must be completed within 10 days of your OWF Cash Assistance approval. Failure to participate in CCMEP will result in termination of OWF benefits. The CCMEP application process includes a comprehensive assessment/interview, basic skills testing, and development of an Individual Opportunity Plan (IOP). The IOP will include the participant's strengths and barriers to employment and identify both short-term and long-term goals toward self-sufficiency. The IOP will also include activities for the participant (at least 20 hours per week), along with appropriate services to help participants attain identified goals.

NOTE: You cannot receive child support AND cash assistance at the same time. If you receive case assistance the State will keep any child support payments you are receiving.

Seneca County DJFS is committed to investigating Public Assistance Fraud in our county. This includes Individuals who mislead eligibility caseworkers, lie on applications, or buy/sell/trade SNAP Benefits. If

you suspect someone is fraudulently receiving assistance, please report it by calling 419-447-5011, ext. 303 or submit a complaint online at www.jfs.ohio.gov/fraud

