

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND FACTS ABOUT TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)



## WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN OR COMPLETE THE TANF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS?

If you do not participate and follow your Individual Responsibility Plan (IRP), you will be subject to a sanction, which will decrease your TANF check. Failure to comply with your IRP will ultimately result in a complete termination of your cash assistance. A sanction is the action of last resort. If you are having difficulty following your IRP, contact your TANF vendor or service provider.

## CAN ATTENDING SCHOOL BE A PART OF THE WORK REQUIREMENTS

Yes! Attending school for GED classes, Adult Basic Education, Vocational Education, College and Job Skills Training can all be counted towards meeting the goals of your plan. Talk to your vendor or service provider for more details.

## WILL MY TANF BENEFITS DECREASE WHEN I GET A JOB?

If you work, it means more money in your pocket. Your TANF cash assistance may decrease, but the combination of TANF bonuses\*, your TANF cash assistance and your paycheck will always amount to more than your TANF check. Please see the example below:

Example for Family of 3	TANF Check (without job)	Job Paycheck	TANF Check (with Job)	Total Received: Job Paycheck and TANF Check
	\$441	\$600	\$275	\$875

## HOW DO I EARN TANF BONUSES?

When you get a job and keep it for at least two weeks you will receive a bonus of \$150. For the next five months, you will receive a bonus of \$120 for each month that you keep your job. If you keep your job for six months you will receive a bonus of \$500.

## WHAT IF I NEED A CHILD CARE VOUCHER?

TANF vendors provide specialized services. “Work Readiness” vendors will help you to improve your education; job skills and other abilities to get you ready for employment, and find a job. “Job Placement” vendors will provide services to help you find and keep your job.

## CAN I JUST WALK IN WITHOUT SCHEDULING AN APPOINTMENT FOR A TANF ORIENTATION OR ASSESSMENT?

No, you cannot walk in without scheduling an appointment. To better meet your needs, please call **OWO** at 202.698.1860 to schedule an appointment which helps you avoid long wait times or email us at [dhs.owo@dc.gov](mailto:dhs.owo@dc.gov). **OWO** is located at 2100 Martin Luther King, Jr., Ave., SE, 4th Floor.



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