



Important Information for TANF Recipients

New laws have been passed that may affect your TANF benefits starting in October 2016; if you have been receiving TANF for more than 60 months (5 years), you may no longer be eligible to receive TANF and your assistance will end. Below is information you need to know about your TANF benefits.

1. What happens to my TANF benefits after 60 months?

If you have been receiving TANF benefits for 60 months or longer, your benefits have been reduced by 65%. After September 30, 2016, your benefits will likely stop unless you qualify for a hardship extension.

2. When will my benefits stop?

On October 1, 2016, all of your TANF cash assistance payments may completely end if you have received TANF for 60 months or longer.

3. What should I do to prepare for my benefits stopping?

You should connect with your TANF service provider or vendor right away. They will help you develop an Individual Responsibility Plan (IRP), help you find employment and connect you with other services that you may need.

4. How do I get in contact with my TANF Vendor or Service Provider?

If you are assigned to a vendor or service provider, please go to their office to start working on your IRP. If you don't know who your service provider is, please call the Office of Work Opportunity (OWO) at (202) 698-1860 to find out. You may also email us at dhs.owo@dc.gov or go to our website at <http://dhs.dc.gov> for more information.

5. What will happen if I do not participate in or complete the TANF program requirements?

If you do not follow your Individual Responsibility Plan (IRP), you will be subject to a sanction, which will decrease your TANF check even more. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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 pay check 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

**You can earn up to \$1,250 a year in bonus funds if you get and keep the job.*

8. 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.

9. What can I expect from the TANF Vendor or Service Provider?

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.

10. What if I need a child care voucher?

You will be able to apply for a child care voucher after completing your orientation and assessment/interview. You will be given specific information on where to go at that time. You are only eligible to receive a child care voucher if you participate and meet the goals of your IRP.

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12. 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. OWO is located at 2100 Martin Luther King, Jr., Ave., SE, 4th Floor.