

Temporary Family Assistance (TFA)

Description:

Jobs First Temporary Family Assistance:

The Jobs First Temporary Family Assistance Program (TFA), which is administered by the Department of Social Services (DSS), provides cash assistance to eligible families with children under the age of 18, including caregivers who provide care for dependent children. Parents and caregivers who apply for TFA must meet the program's income and asset requirements. These requirements as well as the amount of assistance that is granted vary depending upon the region in which the family resides. Non-parent caregivers' income and assets are not considered for determining eligibility when they seek TFA only for the child for whom they provide care. Generally, there is a 21-month lifetime limit for the receipt of TFA assistance and a requirement for adult recipients to participate in employment services activities. Recipients can be exempt from participating in employment services activities that are designed to help them become employed, if they care for a child under the age of one, have an incapacity that prevents employment or are age 60 or older. Grandparents and other relative caregivers who only receive TFA assistance for the child are exempt from the 21-month time limit.

TFA recipients may be eligible for medical assistance under the Husky program, specifically, Husky A, which provides medical insurance coverage for services allowed under Medicaid. Families that lose Husky eligibility due to employment may continue to receive Husky for up to one year following ineligibility regardless of their income. Childcare and transportation assistance may be available to individuals who participate in activities that may lead to employment. Priority for this assistance is given to families that are subject to the 21-month time limit.

Temporary Family Assistance Diversion Program:

The TFA Diversion Program is for TFA eligible families whose needs are short term and do not require on-going cash assistance. The Diversion Program provides cash assistance for up to three months in any 12-month period. Benefits can be used to pay for such expenses as shelter, work-related expenses and car registration, insurance or repair. Recipients cannot receive these benefits more than three times in their life. Participants of the TFA Diversion program may also be eligible for Medicaid, childcare assistance, employment services and food stamps. If participants are eligible, they may continue to receive Medicaid, childcare and food stamp assistance after the three-month program period.

Eligibility Requirements, Service Areas and Program Year:

Eligibility Requirements:

- Must be a needy family with children age 18 or younger, a related adult caring for dependent children, children living with an unrelated adult who has filed for guardianship through probate court or children living with a non-parent relative, regardless of guardianship and the non-parent relative's income.
- Must meet income requirements. Non-parent relative caregivers' income and assets are not counted in determining eligibility if assistance is only requested for the child.
- Must have no more than \$3,000 in assets. The following assets are not counted when determining eligibility: the cash surrender value of life insurance policies, pension plans that are not accessed, bonds that are valued at \$1,000 or less, automobiles with an equity value below \$9,500 and home property, however, a lien is placed on the home at the time TFA is granted.
- Must be a Connecticut resident or a legal alien residing in the state.

Service Areas:

Statewide

Program Year:

July 1 – June 30

Contact Information:

For more information or to apply for TFA contact the local DSS Regional Office listed in [Appendix H](#).

Website: www.ct.gov/dss

Related Information:

[*Earned Income Tax Credit \(EITC\), refer to page VI – 3.*](#)

[*Healthcare for Uninsured Kids and Youth \(HUSKY\), refer to page III – 10.*](#)

[*National Family Caregiver Support Program, refer to page III – 18.*](#)