

TANF Analyst Hour

04/18/19

Topic: TANF Time Limit Hardship Extensions

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Q: Who would be the one coding the hardship extension, BEW or FC?

A: Usually your Family Coaches will be handling these cases, so they would be the ones to code the extension. If the participant is requesting a hardship extension at an eligibility intake and has documentation with them, depending on the branch process the BEW may staff and code or notify the FC at handoff to code.

Q: How long is a hardship extension coded?

A: They are coded for the length of time as stated by the licensed or certified professional providing the documentation not to exceed 12 months. If it's listed as indefinite or longer than 12 months, we need to verify at minimum every 12 months, this can be done via a phone call to the provider.

For the extension not requiring documentation (TLD – victim of domestic violence), it is coded for an amount of time based on conversations with the participant but must be re-evaluated a minimum of every 6 months.

Q: What do TRJ & TRH stand for?

A: TRJ = Time Reach Jobs (doesn't qualify for extension)

TRH = Time Reach Hardship (does qualify for extension)

Q: Would we re-evaluate a TLA after completion of treatment if they are over 60 months?

A: Have a conversation with their Alcohol & Drug treatment provider, because some programs slowly start to introduce work or education activities toward the end of their treatment, so it depends on what it looks like for that person.

If the provider decides while they are in treatment that they are unable to look for work, we can code the extension through the end of the treatment plan and re-evaluate as it comes to the end of that.

Remember, hardship extensions are based on participants inability to obtain or maintain employment that would provide earnings in excess of the TANF income limit. Participants in a treatment plan who slowly start to engage in work activities may still meet the hardship extension criteria.

Q: Would we still leave the TLA coding if the participant transitions to outpatient treatment?

A: If the documentation is still valid then have a conversation with the participant when they transition to see if they are ready to take on employment that would take them in excess of TANF.

If there is a new treatment provider, have a conversation with them as well.

Q: What would we do with someone who is in outpatient treatment and has already had a 6 month extension, and they request another 6 month extension?

A: It really comes down to their ability to obtain and maintain employment that would provide earnings in excess of the TANF income limit. Even though they're in outpatient treatment, if they cannot maintain employment then we will continue the extension.

We want to make sure they have time to be solid in their recovery before they take on more.

Participants should always have a plan that reflects the hardship extension criteria that you've granted. They need case plans and steps that are geared around the particular challenges they've been granted a hardship for.