

Family Changes

TANF REINVESTMENT

Caretaker Relative

Effective April 1st, 2016 – the definition (461-001-0000) of Caretaker Relative will expand to include:

- ▶ Any blood relative, including those of half-blood, and including first cousins, nephews or nieces, and individuals of preceding generations as denoted by prefixes of grand, **great, or great-great.**
- ▶ Stepfather, stepmother, stepbrother, and stepsister.
- ▶ Is or was a spouse of an individual listed above

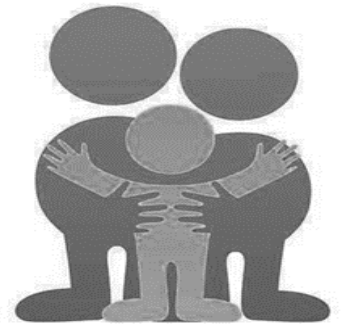
Caretaker Relative

- ▶ An individual who legally adopts the child and any individual related to the individual adopting the child, either naturally or through adoption
- ▶ Met the definition of “caretaker relative” before the child was adopted

Caretakers - adoption

For example:

- ▶ Maria and Santos adopt two children, their parents are now the children's grandparents.
- ▶ Child lives with biological parent rather than adopted parent



Questions?

HOUSEHOLD CHANGES

REMOVING DEPRIVATION AS AN ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Elimination of Deprivation

Effective April 1, 2016

- ▶ Deprivation is no longer a TANF eligibility requirement
- ▶ Include the other parent in determining eligibility if they are determined to be in the Household

What does this mean for parents?

- ▶ Children will get to spend time with both parents without impacting the grant

Current Policy - Adults

Individuals considered in the household:

- ▶ A Caretaker relative absent up to 90 days for treatment
- ▶ Two Caretaker relatives in the filing group- One gone for education, training or employment and the other remains in the home
- ▶ An individual who is out of the home for more than 30 days with a valid, documented reason and intent to return within an additional 30 days

Current Policy - Children

- ▶ Children gone for 30 days or more due to illness, social services, or educational reasons
- ▶ Children In foster care but expected to return in next 30 days

Household group changes

A caretaker relative is still considered in the household for up to 60 days if the filing group includes more than one caretaker relative and the individual is gone solely due to:

- ▶ The regulations of a homeless or domestic violence shelter or
- ▶ Other circumstances beyond the individual's control but who would otherwise be included in the household.

Household group changes

Mom and the children are able to stay in a homeless shelter and Dad is not allowed.

- ▶ they are still parenting as a family
- ▶ they are intending to live together
- ▶ they are unable to currently reside together for reasons outside their control



Absences greater than 30 days

- ▶ Mary went to California to care for her elderly aunt
- ▶ The children were left with her neighbor so the kids could attend school
- ▶ Documentation was received from the medical provider, her aunt will need a full time caregiver.
- ▶ Mary's plan is to find her aunt a caregiver to take over within the next 30 days.
- ▶ Mary to still be considered in the household group and Mary's TANF case would remain open

Adding an absent parent or spouse

Adding a person can start with phone call, DHS 943, DHS 415F, DHS 415X, or DHS 7882 (TANF Supplement Interview Guide):

Worker will send a 210A, due in ten days or by the 10th of the next month for:

7823A

Earned and Unearned income

7819 Rights and Responsibilities

Resources

Employment Separation

Citizenship

Shift in Conversation

It will be important to change the way we talk to parents:

- ▶ What are the parenting arrangements?
- ▶ Benefits of having interaction with both parents
- ▶ Benefits of the family applying together as a Household



Questions?

Employment Separation

Employment Separation Current

Ongoing TANF recipients who accept employment or begin working and are terminated or quit a job without good cause

- ▶ are not subject to the employment separation rule (application and redetermination only)
- ▶ could be disqualified through the re engagement process if good cause does not exist

Effective April 1st 2016

Workers will determine if the employment met the conditions of the employment separation rule and if it does is there good cause.

- ▶ The worker must send a timely TANF closure notice for employment separation and close the TANF case
- ▶ The family must serve a 120 days penalty for the last day employed

PENALTY

Example: 1

Paul, his wife Elizabeth and their four children are currently receiving TANF.

Paul has been working 25 hours a week for Radio Shack for six months.

Paul informed his worker he quit Radio Shack on May 8th because they wouldn't give him full time hours.

Example: 1

If no good cause is found:

- ▶ The worker must send a timely TANF closure notice for employment separation and close the TANF case
- ▶ The family must serve a 120 days penalty from the last day employed

Example: 2

Tiffany and son have been receiving TANF for the past 4 months.

Tiffany reports employment at the local bread company 40 hours per week at minimum wage.

Two weeks later Tiffany reports she quit her job on June 20th.

Example: 2

If no good cause is found:

- ▶ The worker must send a timely TANF closure notice for employment separation and close the TANF case
- ▶ The family must serve a 120 days penalty for the last day employed



Questions?

Re Engagement Changes

JOBS DQ – Policy prior to 04/01/2016

Currently if a TANF recipient had a break in benefits while actively disqualified the DQ would end.

- ▶ Staff were confused when applicants with past disqualifications would reapply for TANF
- ▶ Inconsistent sanction application between participants

Effective April 1st 2016

A participant re-applying for TANF within 3 months of an active disqualification must complete a 2 week cooperation period before TANF eligibility is met and TANF opened

Worker will first:

- ▶ Determine if the applicant would be exempt from JOBS participation and JOBS disqualification.

Effective April 1st 2016

If JOBS mandatory continue to next steps:

- ▶ Review applicant's TANF case for DQ history
- ▶ Determine if the DQ was active (when the case closed) within the last 3 months
- ▶ If active DQ, Pend case for the 2 weeks cooperation period before opening TANF

DQ- no break in benefits

The last week of May the department attempted, unsuccessfully, to re-engage Sammy in JOBS services. Her case was coded with a DQ1 effective 06/01/2016.

Sammy requested that her TANF be closed on 05/31/2016.

The worker closed the TANF case 05/31/2016.

On 06/01/2016 Sammy reapplied for TANF benefits.

DQ- no break in benefits

- ▶ Develop a new JOBS case plan (PDP) with Sammy.
- ▶ Open TANF (providing all eligibility is met) and leave Sammy as a NO on the case with the correct DQ coding.

Once Sammy meets her 2 weeks participation worker will:

- ▶ Supplement Sammy's portion of the TANF grant back to the day she met her 2 weeks participation.

Re-applying for TANF DQ- break in benefits

In the month of October Kenneth was re engaged due to non corporation in the JOBS program, his case coded with a DQ1 effective 11/01.

Kenneth's case closed 10/31/16 as his redetermination was not received.

On 11/3/16 Kenneth reapplied for TANF benefits.

Re-applying for TANF DQ- break in benefits

Worker must determine if Kenneth is currently exempt from JOBS participation and JOBS disqualification. If Kenneth is not exempt

Worker will:

- ▶ Pend Kenneth's case for a 2 week cooperation period based on an appropriate number of hours.
- ▶ UCMS will stay in “Pend” status



Re-applying for TANF DQ- break in benefits

Kenneth agrees to work with a DHS JOBS contractor and start sheltered work, orientation is next Tuesday.

- ▶ Kenneth's 2 week cooperation period starts the day he signs the plan
- ▶ Any events outside his control are excused

Once Kenneth meets his 2 week cooperation period worker will:

- ▶ Open TANF back to the filing date

During two weeks participation

While Kenneth is meeting the 2 week cooperation period

- ▶ his UCMS case needs to be in “pend” status to allow for support service payments.
- ▶ the department must provide support services necessary to engage in the JOBS activities outlined in his case plan.

Denying the application

If an applicant:

- ▶ doesn't complete the 2 week cooperation period
- ▶ refuses to sign a updated PDP
- ▶ or fails to engage in JOBS services

the case will stay pended and be denied on the 45th day.



Questions?

What's Next?

- ▶ Participate in weekly TANF Reinvestment conference calls
- ▶ Watch for communications
 - Director's messages
 - Transmittals
 - Family Service Manual updates
 - Updated and additional staff tools
- ▶ Questions – follow local process
 - Staff with lead, as a team, and send questions to tanf.policy or [tanf.reinvestment policy box](mailto:tanf.reinvestment.policy)

