

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS - TANF

SHOULD I APPLY?

The average benefit for a family with 2 children is \$185/mo.

ELIGIBILITY

There must be:

1. Biological, adoptive, or other relative children under 18 years of age living in the home & they must be Oklahoma residents
2. A loss of parental support due to absence, death, incapacity, or chronic unemployment of one or both biological parents

You must agree to:

3. Pursue child support from the absent parent unless you can show good cause as to why you can't do this
4. Submit to drug screening & testing policies
5. Participate in education or work training programs for at least 30 hrs./wk. (20 hrs./wk. for single parents with young children)

To determine if you qualify, you will discuss your income, household, & resources during an in-person interview at your local DHS office. They will confirm the following:

- That your assets are <\$1000
- That your income does not exceed the income standards for family size
- That you are giving your child support payments to the state of Oklahoma

Drug Screening Requirements

Oklahoma requires screening using a "Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory"

- A positive test means that you are ineligible for TANF for 1 year, but you can reapply after 6 mos. if you have completed a substance abuse program
- Dependent children may continue to receive benefits through a protective payee (person who can manage the benefits) and this person must also pass a drug test

TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES

TANF is a federally funded program that offers temporary cash assistance to families with low income for up to 60 months

BE AWARE!!!

- If you are arrested, you **CAN** apply to have the cash assistance you received sent to whomever is caring for the child/children
- You **CAN** apply for TANF if you have previous felony convictions

HOW TO APPLY

- You must know the SSNs of all people in the household
- You can find the application here: <https://www.okdhslive.org/Default.aspx>

Sources:

<https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42394.pdf>