

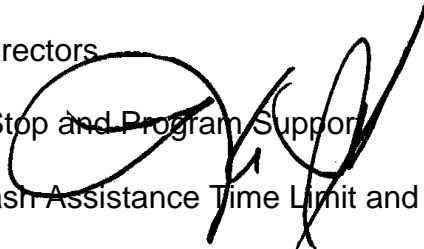


Jeb Bush
Governor
Susan Pareigis
Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 08, 2005

TO: Regional Workforce Board Executive Directors

FROM: Lois A. Scott, Program Manager, One-Stop and Program Support 

SUBJECT: Florida Statute 414.105: Temporary Cash Assistance Time Limit and Hardship Extension Changes

Please share this memorandum with staff of the Welfare Transition (WT) program.

The Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI), in collaboration with the Department of Children and Families (DCF), has researched the implications and impact on current time limit processes as a result of changes in Florida Statute 414.105. Recently, [Senate Bill 408](#) was signed into law, and the bill includes several changes to Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) time limits, which impact the Regional Workforce Boards (RWBs) and WT program providers. *Generally*, the time limit changes affect how participants in the WT program are engaged in work activities and other assignments related to self-sufficiency. *Specifically*, the changes impact the implementation of the hardship extension review and eligibility process. The changes in the law are described below.

Changes in Florida Statute 414.105:

1. Individuals receiving time limited cash assistance will no longer be assigned a periodic time limit (i.e.: 24 out of 60 or 36 out of 72 months) by DCF. Individuals will be eligible to receive 48 months consecutively without a required periodic break.
2. The restrictions regarding hardship extension review panels no longer apply. The following language was removed from the law. *“The composition of any review panel must generally reflect the racial, gender, and ethnic diversity of the community as a whole. Members of a review panel shall serve without compensation but are entitled to receive reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses as provided in s. [112.061](#)”.*

Regional Workforce Board Executive Directors

Agency for Workforce Innovation

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3. The law retains the same criteria for granting an extension to TCA time limits through a hardship extension. The hardship extension criteria may still be located under 414.105 (4) (F.S.).
4. The DCF is still responsible for recommending an extension for a family that has reached the end of TCA time limits but is determined that the termination would likely result in the child being placed into emergency shelter or foster care 414.105 (1)(e) (2005 F.S.). The current statutory section is 414.105 (4)(e) (2004 F.S.)
5. The RWB staff is required to interview and assess the employment prospects and barriers of each participant who is within six months of reaching the 48 month lifetime limit. Previously, the employability review was required to be initiated/conducted within six months of the participant meeting their periodic time limit of 24 or 36 months.
 - The DCF staff is required to provide the appropriate RWB with the CF-ES 2082 Hardship Extension Review Form within six months of the participant meeting the TCA time limits of 48 months.
 - The RWB staff or provider must assist the participant with identifying actions necessary to become employed prior to reaching the end of the lifetime limit for TCA.
 - The RWB staff or provider must assist the participant in identifying actions necessary to become employed prior to reaching the benefit time limit for TCA and, if appropriate, shall refer the participant for services that could facilitate employment.
6. As a result of the elimination of periodic time limits, the ability to accumulate earned income months has been eliminated. The TCA recipients will no longer be able to earn months of cash assistance by working and receiving cash assistance simultaneously. Additionally, TCA recipients will no longer be able to earn months of cash assistance by participating in and successfully completing a substance abuse/mental health treatment program.

Program providers should be aware of each participant's time limits and time remaining as the self-sufficiency plan is being developed and updated. In light of time limit changes, timely engagement in a self-sufficiency plan to move the participant to economic independence is critical.

As a result of the changes in the time limit statute, the Hardship Extension Guidance paper and the Substance Abuse Mental Health Memorandum will be updated. The updated documents are forthcoming. Additionally, the DCF will revise the Hardship Extension Regional Workforce Board Executive Directors

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Review Form (CF-ES 2082) and the Substance Abuse/Mental Health Treatment Verification Form (CF-ES 2299). These forms will be disseminated by both the AWI and the DCF.

Please direct questions to Erica Mott at (850) 245-7429 or Erica.Mott@awi.state.fl.us .

LAS:eam

cc: Barbara Griffin
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