

Workforce Services

Welfare Transition Program



March 2021

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996 eliminated the open-ended federal entitlement program known as "Aid to Families with Dependent Children" (AFDC) and replaced it with the time-limited Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant. TANF provides cash assistance to needy individuals and families in exchange for their participation in work activities. There are four purposes of TANF which are listed below:

1. Provide cash assistance to needy families so that children can be taken care of in their homes.
2. Reduce the dependence of these families on government aid.
3. Reduce the number of out-of-wedlock births.
4. Increase the formation of two-parent families.

Florida's Welfare Transition (WT) program is designed to provide Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) recipients with training, education, support services, and skills, needed to gain unsubsidized employment. Work eligible TCA recipients are referred to the WT program in the local area by the Department of Children and Families. Staff of the local area assess participants' skills, work history, and employability. They also assess participants for hidden disabilities, domestic issues and mental health and substance abuse issues. Participants are then engaged in work activities that will enhance their work skills via job training at work sites or additional education. These activities are designed to help program participants gain skills and obtain employment needed to increase the likelihood of self-sufficiency. Work eligible program participants are required to participate in a certain number of work activity hours per week to continue to receive TCA. Families and individuals interested in applying for TCA should do so by visiting <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/access/>. job fairs; taking and placing job orders from employers; testing, pre-screening and referral of job applicants; and providing assistance using Employ Florida.

AVAILABLE BENEFITS AND SERVICES

Participants may receive support services to assist them with barriers to employment. This includes childcare, transportation, and diversion services. Diversion services are available to families and individuals who are in emergency situations and who meet the diversion criteria. Diversion services are provided only to those families and individuals who would be better served by up-front support rather than on-going cash payment. Transitional services, including training and education, childcare, transportation, and support services, are also available for families and individuals who have transitioned into employment and are no longer receiving TCA.

Relocation Assistance Program

The Relocation Assistance Program was developed to assist families who have significant barriers to finding and retaining employment to relocate to communities where there will be greater opportunity for attaining self-sufficiency.

Relocation Assistance Program, continued

Relocation assistance is available for applicants requesting TCA who meet Up-front Diversion relocation eligibility criteria and for participants currently receiving temporary cash assistance (TCA) who meet the relocation eligibility criteria (section 445.021, F.S.).

The Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB) staff will determine if a family qualifies for relocation assistance. Relocation assistance may be approved if the participant:

- Is located in an area with limited employment opportunities
- Is geographically isolated.
- Has formidable transportation barriers
- Is isolated from their extended family
- Has experienced past incidences of domestic violence that interfere with the participant's ability to maintain self-sufficiency.

The Relocation Assistance Program requires that the LWDBs complete the following five steps, in cooperation with the Department of Children and Families (DCF).

1. Determine that the family is receiving temporary cash assistance or that all requirements for diversion services would likely be met;
2. Determine that there is sufficient information to ensure that the relocation will assist the individual in attaining self-sufficiency. For victims of domestic violence, this plan must include provisions to protect them and their families, as well as identify programs in the new community that may assist them;
3. Establish a written relocation plan that includes a relocation budget;
4. Verify in writing that a community (in or out of the State of Florida) receiving a relocated family has the capacity to provide needed services and employment opportunities; and
5. Monitor the family's relocation (90) after the relocation has been provided. It requires, at a minimum, that a survey be completed, via telephone or mail to the family. The survey must be completed within the three months or sooner, at the discretion of the LWDB case manager.

Cash Assistance Severance Benefit Program

A Cash Assistance Severance Benefit payment is available to temporary cash assistance (TCA) recipients who meet specific criteria and choose to receive a one-time lump-sum payment of up to \$1,000 in lieu of on-going TCA. The cash assistance severance benefit program is an alternative to receiving TCA (section 445.026). The LWDB Career Manager is responsible for determining potential eligibility for a cash assistance severance benefit and the Department of Children and Families (DCF) is responsible for verifying and issuing the cash severance payment. A TCA participant may choose to receive a lump-sum payment in lieu of on-going cash assistance provided the individual meets the following criteria:

- Is employed and receiving earnings
- Has received cash assistance for at least six consecutive months in the state of Florida since 10/1/96
- Expects to remain employed for at least six months
- Chooses to receive a one-time lump-sum payment instead of ongoing TCA
- Provides employment and earnings information to the RWB designee, so that the family's eligibility for severance benefits can be evaluated
- Signs an agreement not to apply for or accept cash assistance for six months after the receipt of the one-time payment unless an emergency is demonstrated

To find out more information about services available in your area, please contact your local career center using the directory located online at: <http://www.floridajobs.org/onestop/onestopdir/>



Ron DeSantis, Governor
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For additional information call: 1-866-352-2345