Pennsylvania: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

Description of Program and Relief

Pennsylvania’s Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program provides cash assistance to:

- Pregnant women,
- Dependent children and their parents who live with them, and
- Dependent children and other relatives who live with them and care for them.

TANF benefits may be used to help pay for items such as clothing and food, and for housing and work expenses. These offerings were previously in place, and have not changed in response to COVID-19.

Government or Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Human Services

Dates Available

Open indefinitely

Eligibility Requirements/Restrictions

There are several eligibility requirements that applicants must satisfy to receive Pennsylvania TANF benefits. Such requirements include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- The recipient must be a United States citizen and a resident of Pennsylvania. (Note, however, that non-citizens lawfully admitted for permanent residence may be eligible.)
- The recipient must look for work or participate in an employment or training program (subject to certain exceptions—for example, for disability).
- The recipient must help his or her caseworker complete an Agreement of Mutual Responsibility (AMR), which is a plan for what the recipient will do to avoid needing further cash assistance.
- If the recipient seeks cash assistance for a dependent child, the child must be under 18 or age 18 and a full-time student. The recipient must live with and care for the child, and must seek
assistance due to particular circumstances (for example, death, incapacity, or continued absence of
the child’s parent).

- The recipient’s resources must have a value of $1,000.00 or less. Resources that count toward this
total include property with cash value—for example, bank accounts or property (except for the
recipient’s primary residence).

**Contact for More Information**

Pennsylvania residents seeking further information about Pennsylvania’s TANF program should contact
their local county assistance office. A directory of all local county assistance offices in the Commonwealth
can be found here: [https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/CAO-Contact.aspx](https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/CAO-Contact.aspx)

**List of Additional Information**

Basic information about Pennsylvania’s TANF program can be found here:

[https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/TANF.aspx](https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/TANF.aspx)

Residents can apply online to receive TANF program benefits using COMPASS, available here:

[https://www.compass.state.pa.us/compass.web/Public/CMPHome](https://www.compass.state.pa.us/compass.web/Public/CMPHome)