

Defiance County Department of Job and Family Services

Ohio Works First (OWF) Time Limits: Good Cause Extension

Amendment - Revised - October 1, 2004

Per ORC 5107.18, an assistance group that has ceased to participate in Ohio Works First for at least twenty-four months, whether consecutive or cumulative, may reapply to participate in the program and be found eligible if "good cause" exists, as determined by the Defiance County Department of Job and Family Services, and all other eligibility factors are met. Application is made by submitting a written statement, signed and dated, indicating the reasons the applicant believes he is entitled to a Good Cause extension. Good cause may include losing employment, inability to find employment, divorce, domestic violence, and unique personal circumstances, as defined and/or described below.

Defiance County Good Cause Extension Criteria definitions and descriptions:

1. The individual has a loss of employment due to layoff because of lack of work or business closing, and not due to causing his own job loss. Exceptions include quitting a job due to extended (two months or more duration) illness or incapacity of the client or immediate family member, lack of supportive services, discrimination, unreasonable work demands, unsuitable conditions, or a personal family emergency, such as a family member being the victim of abuse or rape, and the client's presence is needed in the home where no other appropriate family member is available. Crise code 0120 corresponds to this extension reason.

Per ORC 5107.18 (B), "The assistance group must provide verification acceptable to the county department of whether any members of the assistance group had employment during the period the assistance group was not participating in Ohio Works First and the amount and sources of the assistance group's income during that period." Documentation shall sufficiently demonstrate that the assistance group was employed to the extent that gross earnings at least equaled the OWF payment standard for twelve of the previous twenty-four months.

Verification of the reason for the job loss is required. The client must also verify that he/she has applied for Unemployment Compensation and show documentation of the results.

2. Inability of the client to find employment due to documented barriers, such as lack of education, felony conviction, physical or mental impairment, drug or alcohol addiction, or domestic violence. The client must cooperate in overcoming these barriers. Documentation must establish a continuous causal

effect of the condition or fact as it pertains to long-term (three or more continuous months) unemployment. Incapacity must be verified by a licensed physician or psychologist. The agency reserves the right to secure and rely upon a second opinion. Crise code 0220 corresponds to this extension reason.

3. The assistance group documents loss of earned or unearned income due to divorce or marital separation occurring within the past three months, has no recent work history within the past 3 years, and barriers to employment which cannot be readily overcome. Verification of the divorce or legal separation, and of any long-term barrier to employment is required. Crise code 0320 corresponds to this extension reason.
4. The agency determines that a good cause extension is appropriate due to the assistance group's documented unique personal circumstances such as the loss of income or support due to the death of a spouse, and other viable income sources are not available to the assistance group. Crise code 0520 corresponds to this extension reason.
5. An AG's youngest parent or caretaker is over age fifty-five years of age and is a caretaker of a child under age six. Crise code 0620 corresponds to this extension reason.
6. Transfer in case with a non-comparable Defiance CDJFS good cause extension reason; crise code 9020 corresponds to this.

In two-parent households, both parents or caretakers must meet at least one of the "good cause" reasons in this plan in order to qualify for the additional 24 months of Ohio Works First.

After eligibility under Good Cause is established, no further determination of good cause will be made as long as all other OWF eligibility factors continue to be met. If an assistance group loses OWF eligibility while receiving a good cause extension due to a failure to comply with the terms of the Self-Sufficiency Contract, no new application, nor determination of good cause is necessary to re-establish OWF eligibility due to good cause once the assistance group complies and the minimum sanction period has expired.

If the assistance group loses OWF eligibility while receiving a good cause extension for any reason other than a self-sufficiency contract failure and there is at least a one-day interruption in assistance a new determination of eligibility for OWF under good cause must be made if the assistance group subsequently reapplies to participate.

Assistance groups who are determined to be eligible for OWF due to a good cause extension are OWF recipients and as such are subject to all OWF eligibility and reporting requirements.

