

Guernsey County Department of Job & Family Services
OWF Good Cause Extension Criteria
Effective July 1, 2006

ORC Section 5107.18

An assistance group that has ceased to participate in Ohio Works First (OWF) pursuant to division (A) of this section for at least twenty-four (24) months, whether consecutive or not, may reapply to participate in the program if good cause exists as determined by the county department of job and family services. Good cause may include losing employment, inability to find employment, divorce, domestic violence considerations, and unique personal circumstances. The assistance group must provide a county department of job and family services 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 OWF and the amount and sources of the AG income during that period. If a county department is satisfied that good cause exists for the assistance group to reapply to participate in OWF, the assistance group may reapply. Except as provided in divisions (C), (D) and (E) of this section, the assistance group may not participate in OWF for more than twenty-four additional months. The time limit applies regardless of whether the twenty-four months are consecutive.

The Guernsey County DJFS, in accordance with ORC 5107.18, developed the County's Good Cause Extension Criteria listed below:

1. **Loss of employment:** Verified business closure and/or downsizing, lay-off due to lack of work. Client must be currently registered with an employment agency with a two (2) week job search completed. Documentation will be required.
2. **Domestic Violence:** The individual has been a victim of Domestic Violence within the past 3 months as verified by a police report and this condition impacts the ability to be employed. The assistance group must provide verification from law enforcement or court.
3. **Disability/Medical Condition:** Individual suffers from physical or mental impairment which prevents him/her from gaining basic employment in a national economy. The individual must be keeping treatment appointments and complying with treatment recommendations. Physician statements will be required.
4. **Substance Abuse:** Actively participating in a treatment plan in a licensed drug/alcohol program and provide a statement from the treatment provider indicating the individual is temporarily unemployable, at the time of application. Documentation will be required.
5. **Education Barriers/Training:** The individual is attending a short-term education/training program that does not exceed six (6) months and is directly related to employment. The individual must be in a classroom or clinical setting and maintaining passing grades as per the specific program guidelines and does not currently have a degree or certificate that would lead to employment. Documentation will be required.

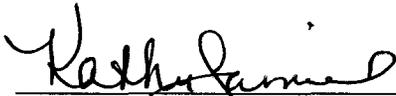
In the case of a two (2) parent household, both adults will be required to meet the good cause criteria on an individual basis.

The county retains the discretion to determine whether assistance group members satisfy a listed GOOD CAUSE provision.

An assistance group applying for an OWF Good Cause Extension will need to complete the Guernsey County OWF Good Cause Extension Request Form with their OWF application.

Once eligibility under good cause is established, no subsequent determination of good cause shall be made as long as all other OWF eligibility requirements continue to be met, as set forth in (B)(2) of rule 5101:1-23-01 of the OAC.

The above Guernsey County Department of Job and Family Services OWF Good Cause Extension Policy is adopted effective July 1, 2006 and will remain in effect until amended in writing by the Director the Guernsey County Department of Job and Family Services.



Kathy Jamiel, Director

9/28/09

Date