

3905 Administration of “Good Cause” for Restoration of Benefits

After not receiving OWF assistance for twenty-four months, a parent can reapply and become eligible for up to twenty-four additional months if HCJFS determines that “good cause” exists. Any months in receipt of OWF due to a “hardship extension” (or TANF assistance from another state) will reduce the number of additional months that can be received under this “good cause” provision. When a parent reapplies after not having received OWF for 24 or more months (since the expiration of the original 36-month time limit), HCJFS will consider the Assistance Group for benefits under the “good cause” provision. These criteria will be employed in determining whether good cause exists for OWF benefits to be reinstated and establish the beginning date of eligibility for OWF:

- ! The parent must demonstrate that they have made reasonable efforts toward self-sufficiency by documenting:
 - gross earnings at least equal to the OWF payment standard for nine of the previous twenty-four months; or
 - participation in orientation plus any combination of five workshops or five days in Intensive Services at the local Workforce Investment Act agency within the previous thirty days; and

- ! The parent must provide verification of any income from employment and other sources during the most recent continuous period in which the assistance group was not receiving OWF cash assistance.

3905.1 Applicability of Hardship Provisions to Good Cause for Restoration of Benefits

If an AG that has received 36 or more months of OWF and qualifies under the provisions of Section 3904 for a hardship extension, reapplies for assistance after 24 or more months since the expiration of the 36-month time limit, it shall be treated as having good cause for restoration of OWF benefits. When the full 60 months of benefits have been exhausted, the eligibility of the AG for an extension (under the hardship provisions of Section 3904) shall be determined.