

**Henry County
Department of Job and Family Services**

**OWF Good Cause Extension Criteria
Effective October 1, 2002**

Section 5107.18 of the Ohio Revised Code provides that an assistance group that has ceased to participate in Ohio Works First (OWF) due to the 36-month state time limit for at least a 24-month waiting period may be eligible to participate in OWF if the family is determined to have good cause. The county department of Job and Family Services has the responsibility to determine good cause.

The receipt of a state hardship extension does not interrupt the 24-month waiting period or delay an assistance group's potential eligibility for a good cause extension. Any OWF assistance received due to state hardship does, however, reduce the number of months available under the good cause extension. OWF benefits received through both good cause and hardship extension count toward the federal 60-month time limit. Assistance groups who are determined eligible for good cause extensions are OWF recipients and subject to all OWF eligibility requirements.

Procedure for requesting a good cause extension

How to apply - An assistance group may apply for a good cause extension by submitting an application for OWF benefits. The OWF case manager will review the application and case record to ensure the assistance group has exhausted their 36-month OWF time limit, there has been 24 months since the termination of the assistance group's 36 months of OWF, and the assistance group has not exceeded the federal 60-month time limit.

Application processing - Upon reapplication for OWF after the 24-month waiting period, the assistance group will be required to provide acceptable verification 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 source of the assistance group's income during that period. The assistance group will also need to provide verification of their claim for good cause as requested by the county department of Job and Family Services.

Approval and thereafter - Supervisory approval is needed to grant a good cause extension. Once eligibility under good cause is established, no subsequent determination of good cause will be made as long as all other OWF eligibility requirements continue to be met, as set forth in rule 5101:1-23-01(B)(2) of the Administrative Code.

If an assistance group does lose OWF eligibility while receiving a good cause

extension and there is at least a one day interruption in assistance, a new determination of eligibility for an OWF good cause extension must be made when the assistance group reapplies for cash assistance. However, 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 reestablish OWF eligibility once the assistance group complies and the minimum sanction period has expired.

OWF Good Cause Extension Criteria

In accordance with Ohio Administrative Code 5101:1-23-01 the Henry County Department of Job and Family Services has developed the following Good Cause criteria.

- **Loss of employment due to plant closing or terminating business operations. TLGI code 0101.**
- **There is a labor surplus or a high unemployment rate or other economic condition that prevents the parent from obtaining employment. TLGI code 0201.**
- **The assistance group has lost financial support due to death, separation or divorce. TLGI code 0301.**
- **The assistance group is a victim of domestic violence and is engaging in supportive services to assist in establishing family stability. TLGI code 0401.**
- **The assistance group is experiencing a unique personal circumstance as determined by the county department of job and family services. TLGI code 0501.**
- **The assistance group is satisfactorily participating in an active Child Protective Service case plan and reunification or prevention of removal is reliant upon continued OWF benefits. TLGI code 0701.**
- **Intercounty transfer case for which Henry County does not have a corresponding good cause extension code. TLGI code 1801.**
- **Intercounty transfer. TLGI code 9001.**

Connie M. Schuette, Director
Henry County DJFS
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