

Licking County Department of Job & Family Services (LCDJFS)

OWF Good Cause Extension Criteria

1. **Loss of Employment**

Due to a business closure and/or downsizing.

No member of the assistance group has voluntarily quit a job without good cause or caused his/her own dismissal in the past 12/24 months. Good cause reasons are specified in 5107.26 (C) of the Ohio Revised Code.

Provide pay verification for the last thirty (30) days.

2. **Domestic Violence (Child or Adult)**

Must be documented (Police Report, Emergency Room, Domestic Violence Shelter, etc.)

Must be current occurrence (last six months)

Must be attending counseling

3. **Active Children Services Case**

Must have written recommendation from Children Services Worker to continue benefits

All additional extensions must also be recommended by Children Services Social Worker

Must be complying with Children Services plan

4. **Homeless**

Must meet HUD definition of homelessness - sleeping in places not meant for human habitation (cars, parks, sidewalks, abandoned buildings, etc.); sleeping in emergency shelters; living in transitional or permanent supportive housing for the homeless (but who originally came from streets or emergency shelters); evicted within the week from private dwelling units (court-ordered eviction) and have no subsequent residence identified and lack of resources to obtain housing; or discharged within the week from institutions in which they have been residents for more than thirty (30) days and have no subsequent residence identified and lack of resources to obtain housing.

5. **Provides care for a severely disabled family member**

Disability must be documented by a physician of ODJFS 7302 Basic Medical or ODJFS 7308 Mental Functional Capacity Assessment as well as a statement from the physician that 24-hour care is needed.

No other care is available (thirty (30) days will be given to seek care and documentation must be provided.)

Must apply for Medicaid waiver as an option for care

6. **Physical Disability**

The individual has not been able to work due to a physical or mental incapacity.

The illness must exceed thirty (30) days and be verified by a licensed physician, psychiatrist or psychologist for short term disability.

Must have current (within last sixty (60) days) Basic Medical stating unemployable nine (9) months or more

Must be actively pursuing SSI or RSDI and working with LCDJFS SSI Case Manager

Must be assigned and cooperating with appropriate program/provider such as Licking/Knox Goodwill

7. **Mental Health Disability**

Must have current (within last sixty (60) days) Mental Functional Capacity Assessment stating unemployable nine (9) months or more

Must be actively pursuing SSI or RSDI and working with SSI Case Manager, Vocational Transitions Program and/or other structured program

Must be receiving regular counseling and complying with treatment

8. Educational/Training Barriers

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. Does not currently have a degree.

9. Inter County Transfer

Individual is an intercounty transfer receiving OWF due to a good cause extension.

John D. Fisher, Director
LCDJFS

Date

Albert Ashbrook
Licking County Board of Commissioners

Date

Jay Baird
Licking County Board of Commissioners

Date

Marcia Phelps
Licking County Board of Commissioners

Date

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:

Licking County Prosecutor

Date

Licking County Department of Job & Family Services (LCDJFS)

Ohio Works First Good Cause Extension Fact Sheet

Section 5107.18 (A) of the Ohio Revised Code limits an assistance group to participate in Ohio Works First to thirty-six (36) months. The assistance group must include one of the following: an adult head of household, spouse of an adult head of household, minor head of household or spouse of the minor head of household. The thirty-six (36) months do not have to be consecutive.

Section 5107.18 (B) of the Ohio Revised Code states an assistance group that has ceased to participate in Ohio Works First pursuant to 5107.18 (A) for at least twenty-four months may reapply to participate in the program if good cause exists as determined by the CDJFS.

Procedure for requesting a good cause exemption

Assistance groups shall submit in writing their request for a good cause extension upon submitting an application. The request must include the circumstances why they are requesting good cause to reapply for Ohio Works First. The application will be processed within thirty (30) days of the filing date.

The assistance group seeking the good cause extension must provide the County with any required documentation and must cooperate with the self sufficiency plan for the duration of the good cause extension. The assistance group must provide verification 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 source of the assistance group's income during that period.

The assistance group may not participate in Ohio Works First for more than twenty-four (24) additional months. The twenty-four (24) month time limit applies regardless of whether the twenty-four (24) months of the good cause extension are consecutive. Once good cause is initially determined to exist, and an assistance group is determined eligible under the good cause provision, a subsequent determination of good cause is not required, unless the assistance group become otherwise ineligible for Ohio Works First. If the assistance group becomes ineligible for Ohio Works First due to the imposition of a sanction for failure to comply with the terms of the self-sufficiency contract, the assistance group is not required to reapply for Ohio Works First, or enter into a new self-sufficiency contract. In this situation, a new good cause determination is not necessary.