

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

**OWF Good Cause Plan
Effective October 1, 2003**

Section 5107.18 (A) of the Ohio Revised Code limits an assistance group to participate in Ohio Works First to thirty-six months. The assistance group must include one of the following: an adult head of household, pregnant minor head of household, spouse of an adult head of household, minor parent head of household or spouse of the minor parent head of household. The thirty-six 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. If the CDJFS is satisfied that good cause exists the assistance group's face-to-face interview will be conducted within five days of the date of application. The application will be processed within 30 days of the filing date.

The assistance group seeking the good cause extension must provide the County with any required documentation and cooperate with the self sufficiency plan as long as the good cause extension is granted. 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 additional months. The twenty-four month time limit applies regardless of whether the twenty-four 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 becomes 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 order to resume Ohio Works First participation and as a result may resume participation in Ohio Works First without a new good cause determination.

Good Cause Reason

Loss of Employment: Verified layoff due to lack of work or company closing. Parent/caretaker did not cause job loss.

Inability to find Employment: There is a labor surplus or a high unemployment rate or other economic condition that prevents the parent from obtaining employment.

Divorce: The parent/caretaker has not worked within the last 2 years, has barriers to employment and was supported by the spouse.

Domestic Violence: The parent/caretaker submits verification of being a victim of domestic violence and is cooperative with supportive services in establishing family stability.

Unique Personal Circumstance: Any other reason the Putnam County Department of Job and Family Services Director or Designee determines to be good cause or a transfer in case that does not meet Putnam County's good cause reason.

Aged: Over the age of 65 and a parent/caretaker of a child/children.

Disability/Medical Condition: The parent/caretaker has a verified physical or mental illness. They must have an active application for SSI, Social Security Disability, Worker's Compensation or any other potential source of income.

Educational Barriers/Training: The parent/caretaker is enrolled and in good standing in an education or training program and has completed 50% or more of the program.

Felony/Criminal Barriers: The parent/caretaker can not find employment due to their criminal background.

Homelessness: Loss of housing due to court ordered eviction.

Pregnancy/Childbearing: Verified high risk pregnancy or verified the adult to be 6 or more months pregnant, or is caring for a child under 3 months of age.

Program Compliance Problems: The parent/caretaker is unable to work with others due to mental or physical problems.

Substance Abuse: The parent/caretaker lost employment because of a diagnosed drug or alcohol dependency

Teen Parents: Teenage parents and their children, not otherwise exempt by state rules and is enrolled and in good standing in high school or GED classes.

Transportation Barriers: The parent/caretaker has no access to readily available transportation.

Child Protective Services Plan: The parent/caretaker is cooperating with reunification case plan.

Dependent Care Barriers: Unable to secure adequate child care due to a verified medical condition of the child.

Intercounty Transfer: Good cause determined OWF case transferred in from another county