

Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services

**OWF GOOD CAUSE EXTENSION CRITERIA**

1. No member of the assistance group has voluntarily quit a job without good cause or caused his/her own dismissal in the past 6 months. Good cause reasons are specified in 5107.26 (C) of the Ohio Revised Code.
2. The individual is a victim of domestic violence.
  1. A minor head of household or adult must provide the county documented evidence that one or more members of the assistance group have been the victim of domestic violence and are in imminent danger of suffering continued domestic violence
  2. Documentation must be provided to the county that court appearances have been kept by the individual or will be developed which will have as the goal to remove the family from danger and maintain the members in a safe living environment.
  3. A protection order is in place.
3. The individual is a caretaker who is 55 years of age or older. The participant would be required to seek work through AARP.
4. The individual has an active case with the Scioto County Children Services Board and is working toward reunification or has a treatment plan which requires the parent's full participation to ensure the health and safety of the children.
5. The individual is a single custodial parent caring for a child who is not yet six (6) years of age and appropriate child care is not available as documented by the Social Services Administrator.
6. The individual has not been able to work due to a physical or mental incapacity.
  1. The illness must exceed 30 days and be verified by a licensed physician, psychiatrist or psychologist
  2. The individual must apply for SSI.
7. The individual has significant barriers to employment due to a previous felony conviction.
8. The individual has been screened and diagnosed as chemical and/or alcohol dependent and is actively engaged in a certified treatment program.
9. The individual has significant barriers to employment due to lack of transportation including public transportation.

10. The individual is attending a short-term education/training program that does not exceed 12 months and is directly related to employment. The individual must be in a classroom or clinical setting and maintaining passing grades.
11. The individual has been diagnosed with a learning disability and is actively participating with the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation or similar employment assistance agency.
12. The individual is a single custodial parent caring for a child under three (3) months of age or in their last trimester of pregnancy.
13. The individual is a single custodial parent caring for a severely disabled child.
  1. A statement must be provided from a licensed physician or psychologist that indicates the need for 24 hour care.
  2. All resources must be explored and applied for to meet the child's care and education need while enabling the adult caretaker to seek and maintain employment.
14. The individual is a single custodial parent providing care for a disabled adult.
  1. The disabled adult must be living in the home six (6) months prior to the application and be a member of the family. An exception will be made to the prior living arrangement if the disabled adult is 60 years of age or older and the new living arrangement was precipitated by a crisis situation.
  2. A statement from a licensed physician or psychologist is required which verifies the need for 24 hour care.
  3. All supportive services must be explored including the waiver program.
15. The youngest eligible child is age 16 or older and a high school student. The child will graduate before the age of 19. Home schooling does not meet this criteria.
16. Other reasons determined by the county.
17. Individual is an intercounty transfer receiving OWF due to a good cause extension.

## Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services (SCDJFS)

### Ohio Works First Good Cause Extension Fact Sheet

The Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services, pursuant to Section 5107.18 of the Revised Code, is responsible for establishing good cause extension criteria for Ohio Works First (OWF) participants due to the loss of OWF due to the 36-month time limit. Good cause extensions may be provided to an OWF assistance group for no more than a total of 24 months whether consecutive or not.

#### **Please note the following points regarding the good cause extension:**

- The months an assistance group received OWF due to a state hardship count toward the federal 60-month limit. Therefore, the potential 24 months available for OWF assistance under the good cause provision is reduced;
- 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;
- If an assistance group (AG) loses OWF eligibility while receiving a good cause extension due to failure to comply with the terms of a self-sufficiency contract, no new application, nor determination of good cause is necessary to re-establish OWF eligibility due to good cause once the AG complies and the minimum sanction period has expired;
- If an assistance group loses OWF eligibility while receiving a good cause extension for any reason other than a self-sufficiency contract failure and there is at least a one-day interruption in assistance, a **new** determination of eligibility under good cause must be made if the assistance group subsequently reapplies to participate; the AG does not lose OWF eligibility if the AG requests a state hearing due to the termination of OWF and wins the appeal.

#### **In order to apply for a good cause extension, the OWF applicant must:**

- 1) File a OWF Good Cause Extension Request, and
- 2) Provide documentation that reasonable efforts were made toward self-sufficiency during the period the AG was not participating in OWF, and
- 3) Verify all sources of income during the non-participating period, and
- 3) Meet one or more of the **SCDJFS** determined reasons for a good cause extension.