

## **OWF Time Limits and Good Cause Criteria for Seneca County**

Section 5107.18(B) 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”. Extensions due to good cause count toward the 60-month federal time limit. Any months of receipt of state hardship after the 36-month time limit count toward the federal 60-month limit, and reduce the amount of potentially available months under good cause.

1. A parent or caretaker receiving OWF cash assistance who has serious physical/mental illness or condition rendering them incapacitated for employment. A physician must verify the incapacity. SSI/SSD must be pending. Seneca County DJFS reserves the right to secure and rely on a second opinion from a medical provider of its choice.
2. A parent or caretaker receiving OWF cash assistance that must provide medically necessary full-time care for an immediate family member (child or spouse) residing in their home. The medical necessity of remaining in the home to care for the disabled individual must be verified by a physician’s statement. Seneca County DJFS reserves the right to secure and rely on a second opinion from a medical provider of its choice.
3. A parent or caretaker receiving OWF cash assistance whose capacity to retain employment is being disrupted by domestic violence and is actively seeking help, as evidenced by residence in a spousal abuse shelter, a current protective court order, a police report or sworn affidavit coupled with steps to resolve the situation (such as retention of an attorney).
4. A parent or caretaker receiving OWF cash assistance, who has been diagnosed with an identified learning disability by a professional licensed learning disabilities diagnostician. Seneca County DJFS reserves the right to secure and rely on a second opinion from a provider of its choice. The adult or caretaker must be successfully performing any self-sufficiency assignments.

Once eligibility for good cause is established, no subsequent determination of good cause is required as long as all other OWF eligibility requirements continue to be met.

When the Seneca County DJFS receives an application for a good cause extension, a committee comprised of management and caseworkers will review the application and family circumstances in order to determine if these groups meet the criteria for good cause. An application must be completed, and Director approval is needed for individuals granted a good cause extension.

Director \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Effective Date of Policy \_\_\_\_\_