

## **Shelby County Department of Job and Family Services**

### **Ohio Works First – Good Cause Extension Criteria Implemented October 1, 2002**

Section 5107.18 (B) of the Ohio Revised Code provides that an assistance group that has ceased to participate in OWF due to the 36 month state time limit for at least a 24 month waiting period may be eligible to participate in Ohio Works First if the family is determined to have “good cause”. The 24 month “waiting period” does not mean that the assistance group must have a 24 month break in receipt of OWF cash assistance between the loss of OWF eligibility due to the 36 month time limit and the extension of OWF due to good cause, as a state hardship extension during the 24 month waiting period does not interrupt the 24 month waiting period or delay the subsequent approval of good cause.

Good cause extensions are not countable toward the 20% limit for hardship extensions set forth in both state and federal law. Extensions due to good cause and/or hardship count toward the 60 month federal time limit. Families receiving these extensions cannot receive more than 60 months of Ohio Works First.

#### **APPLICATION FOR GOOD CAUSE EXTENSION**

A family may apply for a good cause extension by submitting an application for Ohio Works First, 24 months after they have exhausted their 36 months state time limit of receiving OWF cash assistance. The assistance group will not receive OWF cash assistance until the Shelby County Department of Job and Family Services approves their application for good cause extension. If the application is approved, the benefits will go back to the date of application.

#### **GOOD CAUSE EXTENSION CRITERIA**

The following is a list of potential reasons and situations which could warrant a Good Cause extension of OWF benefits. A household may qualify for an extension of OWF benefits by meeting one or more of these criteria.

A household may be eligible for an extension of OWF benefits if:

- an individual has a loss of employment due to reasons beyond their control
- an individual is unable to find employment due to the following reasons: lack of skills, diploma/GED, job availability in the community, or criminal barriers

- an individual has recently separated or divorced from their spouse and is experiencing financial hardship
- an individual has been subjected to domestic violence conditions
- a family is participating in a child protective services caseplan
- a family is unable to secure adequate childcare due to a medical condition of the child
- a family is experiencing financial hardship due to a disability or serious medical condition
- a family is currently homeless
- an individual is undergoing substance abuse treatment
- a family group consists of no one over the age of 20
- an individual has no access to readily available transportation
- a family is experiencing unique personal circumstances

Supervisory approval is needed to grant a good cause extension. 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, as set forth in paragraph (B)(2) of rule 5101: 1-23-01 of the Administrative Code.