

OWF TIME LIMITS AND GOOD CAUSE EXTENSIONS

Families who have received 36-months of OWF cash assistance, **and** for with whom 24 months have lapsed since receiving its 36th month of OWF, may reapply and be determined eligible for up to 24-months of additional cash benefits. Families must demonstrate that “good cause” exists, as determined by the County, and meet all other OWF eligibility factors.

The required “waiting period” begins the month after the 36th month of cash assistance is received and ends 24-months later. The receipt of a state hardship extension does not interrupt this waiting period or delay an assistance group’s potential eligibility for a good cause extension. However, any OWF assistance received due to state hardship reduces the number of months available under good cause provisions.

OWF extensions under the good cause provision do not affect the 20% statutory limit for hardship extensions. There is no limit to the number of families that can receive OWF due to good cause. However, OWF benefits received through both good cause and hardship extensions count toward the federal 60-month time limit.

Each County DJFS is required to formulate good cause criteria in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 5107.18. The Summit County OWF Good Cause Extension Criteria is attached.

Amended Effective: February 13, 2003

Summit County Department of Job and Family Services Ohio Works First (OWF) Good Cause Extension Criteria

Assistance groups, for whom twenty-four (24) months have lapsed since reaching their 36-months time limit for OWF, may reapply for additional OWF assistance under the good cause provision. The determination of whether good cause exists for the reinstatement of OWF cash benefits will be based on the criteria listed below.

- **The assistance group has lost employment.** The applicant must document employment in twelve (12) or more of the previous twenty-four (24) months with monthly earnings equal to the OWF payment standard. The applicant must demonstrate that any job quit was a result of discrimination, unsuitable working conditions, an absence/ loss of supportive services, or prolonged illness/ incapacity of an assistance group member.
- **The assistance group has lost financial support due to death, separation, or divorce.** Verification of income loss must be provided.
- **The assistance group has lost financial support due to termination of non-OWF benefits** – e.g., Child Support, Unemployment Compensation, Workers Compensation. Verification that the financial support was received in six (6) of the previous twenty-four (24) months must be provided.
- **The assistance group is participating in an active Child Protective Service case plan, which requires OWF reinstatement as a condition of reunification.** Verification of the case plan must be provided.

Each applicant for a good cause extension must provide verification of income received from all sources since last receiving OWF.

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.

Assistance groups who are determined eligible for good cause extensions are OWF recipients and subject to all OWF eligibility requirements. A good cause extension is limited to 24-months. An assistance group cannot receive OWF for more than 60-months unless it is determined eligible for a federal hardship extension.