

## **Pickaway County Job and Family Services**

### **Good Cause Extension Criteria Effective 4-1-14**

Ohio Revised Code section 5107.18 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 as determined by the county department of Job and Family Services.

Pickaway County's good cause policy is delineated below.

1. Upon reapplication for OWF after the 24 month waiting period, the assistance group will be required to provide acceptable verification of whether any members of the assistance group had employment during the period the assistance group was not participating in OWF and the amount and sources of the assistance groups income during that period.
2. The OWF caseworker, along with their program manager and the Case Manager, will review with the assistance group steps they have taken over the 24-month waiting period toward self-sufficiency. This review will also include any sanctions that have been imposed against the assistance group for self-sufficiency contract failures during the 24-month waiting period, as well as any recent changes that may have prompted the application.
3. Provided that the assistance group has complied with the verification requirement stated in paragraph 1 and that the agency is satisfied that the assistance group has taken appropriate steps toward self-sufficiency as stated in paragraph 2, the following criteria will also be considered in determining if there is good cause to reapply.
  - A. Single custodial parent of a special needs child and childcare is not available.
  - B. An assistant group has a single caretaker who is required in the home full-time to care for another household member who is disabled, and other arrangements for the care of the disabled person is not available. (Medical documentation is required.)
  - C. Individual is over age 60.
  - D. Mental, physical, or psychological incapacity prevents the individual from working or participating in Work Activities or LEAP. (Medical documentation is required. Must be keeping all medical and/or counseling appointments and complying with treatments recommended by physician or mental health provider.)
  - E. An assistant group whose parent or caretaker's 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 a sworn affidavit, coupled with steps to resolve the situation (such as counseling or retention of an attorney).
  - F. Has an active case with the Children Services and is satisfactorily participating in

the Children Services' case plan, as verified by Children Services. This would include OWF assistance groups whose OWF assistance has been continued because of a 180-day reunification plan.

Based on all items above, the agency will determine if there is good cause for the assistance group to reapply for OWF. If it is determined that there is good cause, the assistance group may not participate in Ohio Works First for more than 24 additional months, which takes into consideration the 60 month federal time limit. Any month of receipt under the county hardship criteria for extension beyond the 36 month time limit, will count toward the 24 additional months granted under good cause criteria.

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, unless an assistance group loses OWF eligibility for any reason other than a self-sufficiency contract failure and there is at least a one-day interruption in assistance. A new good cause determination must be made if the assistance group reapplies to participate.