

**BROWN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB & FAMILY SERVICES OWF
HARDSHIP EXEMPTION CRITERIA
3-28-05**

Pursuant to Ohio Public Assistance Manual 5101:1-23-01 and Ohio Revised Code 5107.18 an Ohio Works First assistance group may be exempted from the thirty-six month time limit on the receipt of assistance due to hardship. The Brown County Department of Job & Family Services will consider the following factors on considering hardship exemptions:

The assistance group's adult caretaker is physically or mentally incapacitated as verified by a physician or other appropriate health care worker. If the incapacity has lasted or is expected to last for at least twelve months, the caretaker will be required to apply for SSI in order to be granted an extension of OWF assistance.

The assistance group's adult caretaker is providing care for a disabled family member, and no other acceptable arrangements are available.

The assistance group's adult caretaker is eight or more months pregnant or is caring for a child in the home under the age of six weeks.

The assistance group includes a special needs child under the age of twelve, and appropriate child care is not available.

The assistance group's adult caretaker's ability to retain employment is being hindered by domestic violence, and the caretaker is actively seeking help to resolve the situation.

The assistance group's caretaker is a teen parent currently attending high school or a GED program.

The assistance group composition is such that the cost of child care renders employment economically infeasible.

The assistance group's only or youngest caretaker is 55 year of age or older.

The assistance group has a catastrophic event disrupting the ability to obtain or retain employment, and OWF is necessary to re-establish stability at the discretion of the county department of jobs & family services

The assistance group's caretaker faces significant barriers to full-time employment such as labor surplus or high unemployment, and is currently employed less than thirty hours per week.

The assistance group's caretaker has not received the benefit of a meaningful self-sufficiency plan or was not given an opportunity in a work activity while receiving OWF.