

Champaign County Hardship Criteria for Ohio Works First (OWF) individuals that have reached 36 months of their time limit.

In order to be granted an extension of OWF benefits, due to reaching time limit eligibility, an applicant must first complete the hardship application and apply for OWF. Each application will be screened to determine if the individual applying for hardship has continually followed their self sufficiency contract (including any compliance issues) over the preceeding time period. Each applicant will be notified of their approval or denial for an extension. If approved, the extension will be for no more than a three month time period and then a new application will be required. Each application will be reviewed on a case by case basis to determine if the applicant meets one or more of the following categories.

1. The OWF assistance group (AG) contains a member that has a medical disability that prevents them from being gainfully employed at the time of application. This disability must be documented by a qualified medical or mental health provider (medical physician, psychiatrist or psychologist) and include a detailed treatment plan. This plan must contain an objective/goal for overcoming the presenting conditions, including benchmark dates of progress, responsibilities of disabled individual and provider and a resolution date to the condition.
2. An OWF AG member is the primary caretaker of a household member that meets the definition of an individual described in #1. This must also be documented by the providers described in #1 and also must include a statement as to why this individual is deemed the only appropriate caretaker. A treatment plan must also be included with the same information as in #1.
3. The OWF assistance group (AG) contains an adult member that is a victim of domestic violence and cannot be gainfully employed at time of application. The victim must be actively participating in an appropriate support or counseling program. The victim must be able to provide documentation to show an intent to make serious, permanent changes in his/her situation. This could include one or more of the following; police reports, an active civil protection order, pending charges, criminal conviction of the perpetrator and participation in family counseling. The victim must also provide a detailed treatment plan with benchmark dates of progress from their counseling or support program. This plan must also contain an objective/goal for overcoming the presenting condition, responsibilities of the victim and counselor and a resolution date to the condition.
4. The OWF assistance group (AG) contains an adult member that is currently enrolled in an education/training program that was previously approved by the Champaign County Department of Job and Family Services. The education or training must be related to local labor market demand occupations and will not end prior to the 36 month time limit. This extension can be granted only if: (a) education/training is at a minimum 75% completed (b) AG member is in full time student status according to the

educational/training institution (c) the AG member maintains a 2.0+ grade point average or be in good academic standing with the institution (d) the AG member must be attending on a full time basis (e) the AG member is working part time (at a minimum of 20 hours per week).

The AG member must provide verification of the duration of time remaining of the education/training program.

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