

Clermont County Dept. of Human Services

OWF Hardship Determination

Section 5107.18 of the Revised Code provides that a CDHS may exempt not more than 20% of the average monthly number of OWF participants from the time limit law due to hardship. The determination of hardship is solely a CDHS decision.

Clermont County Department of Human Services has defined hardship for our citizens by using criteria in 3 broad categories: “Demographic”, “Physical, Social or Psychological” and “Employment Related Challenges”. There is one universal condition that will be applied to each hardship criteria; each assistance group must have satisfactorily complied, or has not failed without good cause, to comply with the provisions contained in the self-sufficiency contract. The assistance group member(s) has not failed without good cause to participate as assigned, and has not been sanctioned within the past 6 months. To exempt a family from this criteria would require dual approval from the Clermont County Works First One Stop and ESC Administrators.

The following conditions will define “Hardship” in Clermont County:

Demographic Challenges

- ▶ The individual is a single, teen parent head of household who has not yet received 12 months of OWF cash assistance since receiving a High School Diploma or GED.
- ▶ The individual is a single adult caring for a disabled family member and no other acceptable arrangements are available. *(This will be a temporary exemption.)*
- ▶ The caretaker is providing care for a family member and is over 55 years of age.
- ▶ The individual is a single parent and has 3 or more children under the age of 12 and child care is economically unfeasible.
- ▶ The individual is a single parent of a child with special needs under 12 years old and appropriate child care has not been available.

Physical, Social or Psychological Challenges

- ▶ The individual is physically or mentally incapacitated as verified by a physician and has not been able to participate in an assigned work activity.
- ▶ The individual is a victim of domestic violence which disrupts the individual's ability to retain employment. The individual is engaging in support services.
- ▶ The individual has been ***actively*** pursuing SSI.
- ▶ The individual has significant challenges to employment due to: homelessness, transportation, chemical dependency, felony conviction, unavailability of personal support (family, friends, community, etc.).
- ▶ A family has experienced a catastrophic event that ends or prevents continued employment, and the family is in need of additional OWF assistance until stability can be re-established.

Employment Related Challenges

- ▶ The individual is not employed and has not been given an opportunity to participate in a work activity.
- ▶ The individual has significant challenges to employment such as labor surplus, high unemployment and is employed less than 30 hours per week.
- ▶ The individual has been actively participating in work activity assignments for the past 18 months, has not been sanctioned, is working on a GED, a certification program or a 2 or 4 year degree program but has not yet been able to obtain employment.

Thomas J. Albers, Director

Date