

**CLERMONT COUNTY DEPT. OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES**  
**Office of Adult, Child and Family Stability**  
**OWF Hardship Criteria**

Section 5107.18 of the Ohio Revised Code provides that a CDJFS 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 CDJFS decision.

Clermont County DJFS has defined hardship for our citizens by using criteria in 3 categories: Demographic, Physical, Social or Psychological and Employment Related Challenges. There are two universal conditions that will be applied to each hardship consideration:

1. Each assistance group must have satisfactorily complied with, and have not failed without good cause, the provisions set forth in their Self Sufficiency Contract during the 12 months prior to their need to apply for a hardship extension.
2. The combined incomes, from any source, of the adults and children in the assistance group must not exceed the OWF payment standard for the assistance group size.

Each hardship application will be thoroughly reviewed by the case manager, the supervisor and the Deputy Director. Any unique conditional circumstances may be considered. All claims of hardship are subject to the verification process.

The following conditions will define "Hardship Criteria" for Clermont County OWF applicants and recipients:

**Demographic Challenges**

1. The parent is a single minor head of household who has been pursuing a high school diploma or GED for a minimum of the last 6 months of their OWF receipt. **\*1301**
2. The parent is a single adult actively pursuing a GED and has been for a minimum of the last 6 months of their OWF receipt. Maximum 6 month extension. **\*0601**
3. The parent is a single adult caring for a disabled family member and there are currently no other acceptable arrangements available. **\*0401**
4. The individual is a single parent of a child under 12 years of age and due to the child's behavioral/mental/physical challenges, appropriate child care is not available. All attempts to arrange for child care or enrollment in a service oriented facility have failed. **\*0301**
5. The caretaker or specified relative of a minor child is over the age of 55 and is unable to obtain employment. They must continue to comply with the requirements of the SSC, participate in their work activity assignments and seek employment. **\*0102**

### *Physical or Psychological Challenges*

6. The parent is a victim of domestic violence which disrupts the individual's ability to keep or retain employment. The individual is engaging in supportive services. **\*0501**
7. The parent has provided extensive, detailed documentation to confirm a significant physical or mental disability. They are actively pursuing SSI and have been for a minimum of 6 months prior to their OWF hardship application date. Their SSI is pending. **\*0403**
8. The family has experienced a catastrophic event, such as an unexpected serious physical impairment (injury or car accident) or death of a spouse or child that ends or postpones continued employment; the family is in need of OWF assistance until stability can be re-established. Maximum 6 month extension unless another criteria is met. **\*0901**

### *Employment Related Challenges*

9. The geographic area is experiencing a high unemployment rate as determined by the ODJFS, Bureau of Employment Services. The customer is actively seeking employment. **\*1501**
10. The parent has significant, yet temporary, challenges to employment and based on the labor market, is unable to obtain employment within a reasonable distance from their home (40 miles). Maximum 6 month extension unless another criteria is met. **\*1101**

The 4 digits at the end of each listed criteria is the CRISE code for that specific hardship. They are listed on TLRI.

Clarification: The term "parent" could also represent a "specified relative in need" who has received 36 months of OWF benefits.