

**RESOLUTION**

**Approving a time limit extension policy for transitional assistance in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 5107.18, effective October 1, 2002.**

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**WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Board of County Commissioners in administrating Ohio Works First (OWF) has taken the approach that every adult has aptitude and can work;**

**WHEREAS, the goal of Cuyahoga County's OWF program is for parents to attain employment through concurrent job search and work preparation.**

**WHEREAS, Ohio's welfare reform law established that families can receive OWF cash assistance for a maximum of 36 months. The law assigns counties responsibility to define hardship and good cause extension criteria whereby under certain circumstances eligible families may receive additional cash assistance;**

**WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County offers a mix of work-focused post-time limit services for parents in their continued effort to achieve self-sufficiency, including job search assistance, access to training, specialized programs which combine employment preparation with services, and time limit extensions only under limited circumstances;**

**AND WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Board of County Commissioners, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 5107.18, developed criteria for the County's good cause extension (Transitional Assistance) and revised the County's existing hardship extension (Short-term Transitional Assistance) criteria as detailed below;**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, the Cuyahoga County Board of County Commissioners will adopt the following revised time limit policy, effective October 1, 2002:**

**Work-first remains the goal for every family. The operating policy of Cuyahoga County is that all citizens will work to become self-sufficient. Short-term Transitional Assistance and Transitional Assistance are provided only under limited circumstances, as listed. Parents receiving any type of extension are required to comply with their Self-Sufficiency Plan and cooperate in gaining employment. Receipt of Short-term Transitional Assistance or Transitional Assistance is contingent upon meeting eligibility requirements as determined by an employability assessment and/or an assessment of family circumstances conducted by a provider, as well as verification from medical or legal documents as necessary.**

**SHORT-TERM TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE (HARDSHIP EXTENSION): provides a short-term time-limited extension of cash assistance, renewable if circumstances persist, for families that have exhausted their 36 months of OWF and qualify under the following categories:**

- Parent is caring for a child under 12 weeks of age: Participation in Self-Sufficiency Plan is required and includes parenting activities such as Early Start and work preparation activities such as securing childcare. At the end of the 12 weeks, the parent is expected to return to the workforce. Eligibility: Applicant must be caring for a child who is under 12 weeks of age and living with the applicant. The Self-sufficiency Coach verifies birth certificate. Eligibility spans will last no more than three consecutive months.**

- **Teen parent, head of household:** Participation in Self-Sufficiency Plan is required and includes attending high school or approved GED program to complete education and better position the young parent to support their family. **Eligibility:** The applicant must be under 20 years of age and designated as the head of household for the assistance group. The applicant must be enrolled in and attending an accredited high school or approved GED program. Self-sufficiency Coach reviews documentation provided by the school to verify enrollment. Eligibility spans will last no more than 6 consecutive months or until the end of the school semester, whichever is shorter.
- **Parent is caring for a physically disabled or mentally ill family member that requires parental care in the home :** Participation in Self-Sufficiency Plan is required and includes activities to establish care services for the family member and job search/job readiness for the parent to prepare for the transition into employment. **Eligibility:** Eligibility is contingent on medical documentation and an employability assessment conducted by a designated community agency that indicates that the care services that would enable the parent to work out of the home more than 20 hours a week are not yet in place. Current assessment agencies are Cuyahoga County Help Me Grow Collaborative regarding children with special needs and Department of Senior and Adult Services regarding adults. Eligibility spans will last no more than 6 months.
- **Parent has a disability, mental illness, short-term debilitating medical crisis, or chronic debilitating condition:** Participation in Self-Sufficiency Plan is required and includes specialized job search/job readiness activities to accommodate the individual's situation. **Eligibility:** Eligibility is contingent on medical documentation and an employability assessment conducted by a designated community agency that indicates that the personal and workplace accommodations that would enable the parent to work out of the home more than 20 hours a week are not yet in place. Current assessment agencies are Metrohealth Medical Center regarding persons with physical disability or medical crisis and Spectrum Career Advantage regarding persons with mental illness. Eligibility spans will last no more than 6 months.
- **Parent laid-off:** Participation in Job Search as part of Self-Sufficiency Plan is required. **Eligibility:** In order to qualify, the parent must have worked at least 3 out of the last 6 months for 20 or more hours per week. If the unemployment is due to job quit, the applicant must show that the job quit meets just cause criteria in Ohio law. The Self-Sufficiency Coach reviews verifications such as paycheck stubs. Eligibility spans will last no more than 6 months.

**TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE (GOOD CAUSE EXTENSION):** provides an extension of cash assistance for up to 24 months to families that have exhausted their 36 months of OWF, have completed the mandatory 24 month waiting period, and qualify under the categories below:

- **Parent is caring for a family member with a physical disability or mental illness that requires the applicant to provide care in the home ;** Participation in Self-Sufficiency Plan is required and includes activities to establish care services for the family member and job search/job readiness for the parent to prepare for the transition into employment. Eligibility: Eligibility is contingent on medical documentation and an employability assessment conducted by a designated community agency that indicates that the care services that would enable the parent to work out of the home more than 20 hours a week are not yet in place. Current assessment agencies are Cuyahoga County Help Me Grow Collaborative regarding children with special needs and Department of Senior and Adult Services regarding adults.
- **Parent has a disability, mental illness, or chronic debilitating condition;** Participation in Self-Sufficiency Plan is required and includes specialized job search/job readiness activities to accommodate the individual's situation. Eligibility: Eligibility is contingent on medical documentation and an employability assessment conducted by a designated community agency that indicates that the personal and workplace accommodations that would enable the parent to work out of the home more than 20 hours a week are not yet in place. Current assessment agencies are MetroHealth Medical Center regarding persons with physical disability or medical crisis and Spectrum Career Advantage regarding persons with mental illness.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Clerk of the Board be, and she is, hereby instructed to transmit a copy of this resolution each to Tom Hayes, Director, Ohio Department of Job & Family Services; Joel Potts, Deputy Director of County Operations, Ohio Department of Job & Family Services; Bette Meyer, Deputy County Administrator and Joseph Gauntner, Director, Employment & Family Services.

**On Motion of Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Dimora,**  
the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

**Ayes: Jones, Dimora, McCormack.**

**Nays: None.**

**Resolution Adopted.**

**Penelope M. Hughes,  
Clerk of the Board pro tem**

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