

FAYETTE COUNTY HARDSHIP EXTENSION

3904 Administration of the Hardship Extension

A county may declare up to 20% of its average caseload (during a prior Federal Fiscal Year) under “hardship” and continue the assistance on a month by month basis for no less than one month and no more that 24 months. Fayette County D.H.S. has identified hardship situations based on input from county agencies, employers, OWF recipients, and the general public.

OWF cash will not be extended to families with other income in the home.

NOTE: Fayette County DHS is in no way committed to give extensions after a client exhausts the 36 month time limit even if conditions justify the “hardship” criteria as noted below. Prior to closure all assistance groups due to close under the 36 month time limit will be reviewed by a panel consisting of supervisors, income maintenance workers, and work activities workers. If “hardship” conditions exist, Fayette County D.H.S. may grant an extension. This extension would be evaluated monthly, and could be terminated at any time based on the number of slots available for the 20% exemption and current conditions of the AG.

OWF may be extended for individuals who qualify under the following conditions and/or circumstances.

Priority A

- ! A serious physical/mental illness or condition rendering the caretaker incapacitated for employment. The incapacity must be verified by a physician on a completed Basic Medical form (ODHS 7302). SSI must be pending and the individual must be participating in an Alternative or Developmental Assignment.
- ! Medically necessary full-time care of a child or non-ambulatory spouse residing in the home. The medical necessity of remaining in the home to care for the disabled individual must be verified by a physician’s statement on a completed Basic Medical form (ODHS 7302)

Priority B

- ! An adult caretaker who is medically verified to be six or more months pregnant and unable to work due to medical complications.

Priority C

- ! The caretaker is enrolled and in good standing in an education or training program that, by itself or in combination with other assignments, meets their

work participation requirements. The participant must have completed at least 50% of the program. The maximum extension allowed for this would be one year.

! A teen parent as long as they are enrolled and in good standing in High School or a GED program.

If and when ODHS notifies Fayette Co. D.H.S that exceeding the 20% tolerance is imminent, continued assistance will be given first to those with a “Priority A,” secondly to those with a “Priority B” and finally to those with a “Priority C.” When not all Assistance Groups in any priority group can be given an extension due to operation of the 20% limitation, priority within that group will be given to those who have the lesser number of months of assistance received since 10/1/97.

For those individuals who are not approved for extended cash benefits, the agency will provide supportive services (ie child care, budgeting classes, transportation, food stamps, medicaid, etc.) to those who qualify.

In addition referrals to other agencies and/or private organizations will be made for families in need of outside services.