

Highland County Hardship Criteria Amended: August 1, 2009

The Ohio Revised Code provides that a CDJFS may exempt up to 20% of the average monthly number of families receiving OWF assistance from the 36 month time limit, if it has been determined that there is a hardship. The determination of hardship is the decision of the CDJFS.

Highland County Department of Job and Family Services (HCDJFS) has determined that the following situations would qualify for hardship:

- Individuals currently enrolled in education and training who have completed at least 50% of their degree program and are in good standing with their academic program. The maximum extension allowed would be 12 months. The individual must be participating and fulfilling their self sufficiency contract.
- A teen parent who is required to participate in LEAP, and is enrolled and in good standing in high school or a GED program. The teen must be cooperating with the LEAP requirements. The maximum extension would be for 12 months.
- Domestic Violence or Family Crisis: A new barrier emerges that would be more difficult to overcome without OWF assistance. The assistance group must be working with another social service agency or criminal justice system to overcome the barrier. The assistance group must be cooperating with the provisions of their self sufficiency contract.
- A disability or medical condition rendering the caretaker incapacitated for employment. The medical condition must be verified by a Basic Medical or Mental Assessment form. A disability claim must be pending with Social Security and the assistance group must be cooperating with the provisions of their self sufficiency contract.
- A single parent or caregiver is caring for a severely disabled child or adult and is unable to secure dependent care. The parent must be participating and cooperating with any/all treatments and plans submitted by health care staff, mental health staff, and/or school.

If the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services notifies Highland CDJFS that exceeding the 20% limit is imminent, continued assistance will be given to those assistance groups with the least number of hardship months received.

Approved by:
Deborah Robbins, Director