

Meigs County Department of Job and Family Services
OWF Time Limit and Determination of Hardship

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 5107.18, the Meigs County Department of Job and Family Services may exempt assistance groups from the thirty-six month time limit on the grounds that the Meigs County Department of Job and Family Services determines that the time limit is a hardship.

The Meigs County Department of Job and Family Services will determine that the time limit is a hardship for assistance groups having exhausted the thirty-six month time limit and meeting at least one or more of the following conditions:

(1) The disability of an OWF parent. In two-parent OWF assistance groups, if one parent meets this condition, the other parent must meet either this condition or that of (2) below. In order for the time limit to be considered a hardship for this OWF assistance group, the disabled parent must have an application for SSI currently in pending or appeal status with the Social Security Administration. An SSI application in pending status must have been filed within six months prior to the issuance of the 36th OWF cash benefit or within 60 days of the onset of a disabling accident or illness or within thirty days upon notice of denial by the Appeals Council. Denied SSI claims must be in current appeal status. The disabled parent must be cooperating with the County Medical Services disability determination process. An extension to the time limit set forth in ORC Section 5107.18 will be granted to the OWF assistance group containing the disabled parent through the Appeals Council decision of the SSI disability determination process provided all other conditions of eligibility for OWF continue to be met. In order to receive an extension of OWF cash assistance beyond the thirty-six month limit in the case of an SSI denial upheld by the Appeals Council, the disabled parent must have either a disability determination currently pending with CMS or a current CMS disability approval. Extension of OWF cash assistance beyond the thirty-six month limit due to this condition will be redetermined no later than every six months.

(2) An OWF parent caring for a disabled immediate family member residing in the same home of the OWF assistance group. An immediate family member is defined as a parent, sibling, child, spouse, grandparent, grandchild, mother-in-law or father-in-law of the OWF parent. In two-parent OWF assistance groups, if one parent meets this condition, the other parent must meet condition (1) above. In order to establish the existence of the disabling condition, the assistance group of the disabled family member must provide verification of a current pending application or receipt of a source of income for which the basis of eligibility or benefit level is dependent on the existence of a disabling condition (e.g., SSI, SSD, VA, Worker's Compensation, etc.). The OWF parent must also provide a statement from the most current treating medical doctor and/or mental health professional of the disabling condition and that the disabling condition of the family member requires in-home care of no one other than the OWF parent to the extent that such care prevents the parent from being able to obtain/retain employment. An extension to the time limit set forth in ORC Section 5107.18 will be granted as long as the assistance group continues to provide the verifications as stated above and all other conditions of eligibility for OWF continue to be met. Extension of OWF cash assistance beyond the thirty-six month limit due to this condition will be redetermined no later than every six months.

(3) The OWF parent is a single custodial parent with a child under the age of three months.

(4) The OWF parent is a single custodial parent who has been a victim of domestic violence within the most recent six months prior to a request for extension of OWF cash assistance and as verified by a **court filing**, and available evidence demonstrates that the condition impacts the ability to obtain/retain employment. Extension of OWF cash assistance beyond the thirty-six month limit due to this condition will be redetermined no later than every six months.

(5) The OWF assistance group has a barrier to employment due to total lack of transportation services. Only one extension of OWF cash assistance beyond the thirty-six month limit due to this condition will be granted and will not exceed three months.

(6) The OWF child(ren) has been removed from the assistance group by the Children Services Division of the Meigs County Department of Job and Family Services and the caretaker is actively cooperating with the Children Services Division case plan (as determined by the Children Services Division) toward reunification. Applicable assistance groups must still meet the provisions set forth in ORC Section 5107.10 (E) in order to receive OWF cash assistance beyond the thirty-six month limit under this condition. Extension of OWF cash assistance beyond the thirty-six month limit due to this condition will be redetermined no later than every three months.

The Meigs County Department of Job and Family Services will determine eligibility for OWF cash benefits beyond the thirty-six month time limit in accordance with all applicable law, departmental rules, policies and procedures.

The Meigs County Department of Job and Family Services reserves the right, under ORC Section 5107.18, to add, delete, or modify conditions of hardship at its discretion.