

Williams County Department of Job & Family Services
Ohio Works First
Hardship Exemption Criteria

OWF recipients are notified in writing on a monthly basis of the number of months that they have received countable benefits. Warning notices are mailed when they have six, four, and two months remaining. When an OWF recipient has reached the end of the 36-month time limit, a notice is mailed approximately 45 days before the OWF is terminated. OWF recipients who have received 36 countable months of benefits may receive up to an additional 24 months of OWF if they meet a hardship exemption. To request a hardship exemption, a recipient must apply for one at the WCDJFS using the form attached to this plan.

The primary responsibility for approving or denying a request for an exemption will rest with the Work Activities case manager responsible for the case. Hardship exemptions will be determined on a case-by-case basis. The length of time for which an exemption will be granted will depend on the continued existence of the hardship claimed. Exemptions will be reviewed at a frequency determined by the agency, but not less often than six months.

Recipients who are granted a hardship exemption will be expected to comply with all requirements of the OWF program in order to continue an exemption. OWF benefits will be terminated prior to the end of the exemption period if the recipient fails to comply with program requirements.

The exemption criteria are:

1. Medical condition of assistance group member with verification of incapacity from doctor*
 - a. Physical incapacity
 - b. Mental/emotional/behavioral incapacity
 - c. Pregnant women with medical issues which threaten the life of the mother or the unborn child.
 - d. Disabled minor child(ren) in the home.
2. Substance abuse and/or alcohol abuse
 - a. Must be in a treatment program approved by the Ohio Department of Alcohol & Drug Addiction Services.
3. Victims of domestic violence and/or child abuse
 - a. Verifications to include at least one of the following: police report, social services referral, or court order.
 - b. Family must be working acceptably with Children Services to complete a court-ordered case plan and/or re-unification plan.

* The county reserves the right to obtain a second medical opinion.

Effective: 10/01/00