

**LOGAN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY  
SERVICES  
GOOD CAUSE EXTENSION POLICY  
(Implemented November 1, 2002)**

The Logan County Department of Job and Family Services, in order to adhere to our mission statement and assure that the families of Logan County who are in need of Ohio Works First (OWF) assistance are not placed in undue hardship as a result of the 36 month time limit, has established the following guidelines for good cause reasons for extending OWF assistance.

Ohio Revised Code 5107.18 (B) reads in part... an assistance group that has ceased to participate in OWF for at least 24 months, whether consecutive or not, may reapply to participate in the program if good cause exists as determined by the county department of job and family services. Good cause may include losing employment, inability to find employment, divorce, domestic violence considerations, and unique personal circumstances. The assistance group must provide verifications acceptable to the county whether any members of the assistance group had employment during the period the assistance group was not participating in OWF and the amount and sources of the assistance group's income during that period. If the county is satisfied that good cause exists for the assistance group to reapply to participate in OWF, the assistance group may reapply.

If an assistance group applies for OWF assistance after the 24-month period has elapsed, the CDJFS must determine if the assistance group has good cause for reapplying for OWF. Neither state nor federal law define the term "good cause" for the purposes of this section. Since there is no statutory definition, the laws regarding statutory interpretation in RC 1.42 and 1.47 are applicable. Black's Law Dictionary defines "cause" as "something that produces an effect or result" and defines "good cause" as "a legally sufficient reason" and that "good cause" is often the burden placed on a litigant "to show why a request should be granted or an action excused".

If the good cause reason that an assistance group seeks a time-limit extension is due to losing employment, domestic violence considerations, divorce or legal separation the mere existence of one of the above factors does not establish good cause. Not every divorce or domestic violence situation leads to a loss of self-sufficiency and not every loss of self-sufficiency automatically results in a finding of good cause. The CDJFS needs to examine the totality of the assistance group's circumstances to determine whether good cause exists.

Once a CDJFS determines an assistance group to be eligible, no additional determination of good cause is required for the assistance group to remain eligible for OWF. If, however, the assistance group loses OWF eligibility after being determined eligible, a new application for OWF assistance would be subject to the good cause determination.

If an individual is on a sanction when they apply for a good cause extension, they must sign and meet compliance before they can be eligible to receive an extension.

The assistance group will not receive OWF cash assistance until the Logan County Department of Job and Family Services approves their application for good cause extension. If the application is approved, the benefits will go back to the date of application.

## GOOD CAUSE EXTENSION CRITERIA

The following is a list of potential reasons and situations which could warrant a Good Cause extension of OWF benefits. A household may qualify for an extension of OWF benefits by meeting one or more of these criteria.

- , The assistance group has experienced a verified loss of income from employment due to layoff, on-the-job injury, or company closing. The individual did not cause his/her own job loss.
- , The parent or caretaker in an AG is not self-sufficient due to a recent divorce or legal separation (within the last 3 months). The individual has not worked within the past 5 years, has barriers to employment, and was supported by the spouse. Verification of divorce or legal separation is required.
- , The parent provides verification by law enforcement or court order that they have been a recent victim (within the last 3 months) of domestic violence which disrupts their capacity to retain employment.
- , Unique personal circumstances – the family has experienced a catastrophic event that is a barrier to continued self-sufficiency.
- , The AG contains a child with a medical condition which requires special care as documented by a physician and there is no appropriate child care available.
- , The parent has recently experienced (within the last 6 months) a physical or mental illness or impairment, that renders them unemployable. Medical verification is required.
- , Cases transferred to Logan County with Good Cause already granted in the prior county.

Each case will be reviewed by a panel designated by the Director of the Logan County Department of Job and Family Services to determine if a good cause extension is justified. The final decision of extended eligibility will be determined by the panel or by the Director, at his discretion. A household will retain the rights to a state hearing if they feel the action taken by LCDJFS is incorrect.

**NOTE:**

**DURING THE PERIOD OF EXTENDED OWF BENEFITS, THE RECIPIENT SHALL CONTINUE TO BE GOVERNED BY THE COUNTY'S OWF WORK PROGRAM REGULATIONS AS THEY RELATE TO PARTICIPATION AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY.**

**NOTE:**

**IN ORDER FOR A 2 PARENT AG TO QUALIFY FOR "GOOD CAUSE", BOTH PARENTS OR CARETAKERS MUST MEET AT LEAST ONE (1) OF THE GOOD CAUSE CRITERIA IN THIS PLAN.**

**OWF Good Cause Reason Codes  
Logan County**

<b><u>State Cat.</u></b>	<b><u>Reason Code</u></b>	<b>Description</b>
01	46	Loss of Employment - verified lay-off due to lack of work, on-the-job injury, or company closing, individual does not cause own job loss.
03	46	Divorce/Legal Separation - parent/caretaker is not self-sufficient due to recent divorce or legal separation (in last 3 months). Individual has not worked in past 5 years, has barriers to employment and was supported by the spouse. Verification of divorce or legal separation is required.
04	46	Domestic Violence Considerations - individual has been subjected to domestic violence conditions (in last 3 months), which disrupts their capacity to retain employment. Must be verified by court documents or law enforcement.
05	46	Unique Personal Circumstances – the family has experienced a catastrophic event that is a barrier to continued self-sufficiency.
08	46	Dependent Care Barriers - a family is unable to secure adequate child care due to a verified medical condition of the child and there is no adequate child care available.
09	46	Disability/Medical Condition - medically verified within the previous 6 months as being either physically or mentally disabled or impaired, which renders them unemployable.
18	46	Transfer In - case transferred to this county with good cause already granted in prior county.
90	46	OWF Good Cause - intercounty transfer