

OWF Time Limits and Good Cause Criteria for Morrow County

It is the intent of The County Department of Job and Family Services to assure that all families who have received 36 months of OWF have been afforded the opportunity to realize self-sufficiency in that time frame. Under ORC Section 5101.18, an assistance group that has received 36 months of OWF; then has been off of cash assistance for 24 months, may apply for a Good Cause Extension to receive an additional 24 months of OWF cash assistance. The County Department of Job and Family Services shall establish criteria for determining whether an assistance group is eligible to receive the Good Cause Extension.

In order for an individual to be eligible for a Good Cause Extension they must; in addition to meeting all other eligibility requirements set out in the Cash Assistance Manual, meet one of the following criteria:

1. A parent or caretaker receiving OWF cash assistance who has a serious physical/mental illness or condition rendering them incapacitated for employment. The incapacity must be verified by a physician. SSI/SSD must be pending. The County DJFS reserves the right to secure and rely on a second opinion from a medical provider of its choice.
2. A parent or caretaker receiving OWF cash assistance who must provide medically necessary full-time care for an immediate family member (child or spouse) residing in their home. The medical necessity of remaining in the home to care for the disabled individual must be verified by a physician's statement. The County DJFS reserves the right to secure and rely on a second opinion from a medical provider of its choice.
3. A parent or caretaker receiving OWF cash assistance whose capacity to retain employment is being disrupted by domestic violence and is actively seeking help, as evidenced by residence in a spousal abuse shelter, a current protective court order, a police report or sworn affidavit coupled with steps to resolve the situation (such as retention of an attorney). This extension is not to exceed 6 month intervals and the adult caretaker must be performing any self-sufficiency assignment they are given.
4. Unique Personal Circumstances beyond the control of the assistance group such as recent loss of employment, inability to find employment or divorce.

Those granted a Good Cause exemption would have their exemption status reviewed every 6 months. A thorough review of the assistance group's situation including progress toward self-sufficiency and verification of compliance with all assignments of the self-sufficiency contract will be made. During the exemption period, the participant will be working with the agency in order to prepare for self-sufficiency.

When The County Department of Job and Family Services receives an application for exemption consideration, a committee comprised of management and case workers will review the application and family circumstances in order to determine if these assistance groups meet the criteria for exemption status. An application must be completed, approval by the Director, Administrator, or their designee is needed for individuals granted a Good Cause exemption.