

WARREN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
GOOD CAUSE DETERMINATION EXTENSION PLAN

Ohio Revised Code Section 5107.18 limits participation in the Ohio Works First (OWF) Program to thirty-six (36) months of benefits which do not have to be consecutive. Once the Assistance Group (AG) has ceased to participate for twenty-four (24) months, whether consecutive or not, the AG may only reapply to participate in the OWF Program if “ Good Cause”, as defined by the Warren County Department of Human Services (CDHS), exists. The CDHS determines Good Cause reasons for OWF benefits to be reinstated and establishes the beginning date of eligibility for the extension. Good Cause benefits may not be approved for more than twenty-four (24) months. The Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) law provides for a sixty (60) month time limit for receipt of TANF cash assistance of which OWF is part. The sixty (60) months do not have to be consecutive. Each month of receipt of OWF under the state limit of thirty-six (36) months, state/county hardship and good cause count toward the federal sixty (60) month time limit.

The AG must apply to receive OWF due to a Good Cause reason. The AG must provide the CDHS with employment verification for all AG members who were employed during the period the AG was not in receipt of OWF benefits as well as verification of any other sources of income received by the AG during the time in which OWF was not received to demonstrate that they made reasonable effort toward becoming self-sufficient.

The AG must cease to participate in OWF, due to the thirty-six (36) month state time limit, for at least a twenty-four (24) month period of time. Any months in receipt of OWF due to a “hardship extension” or TANF benefits received in another state, will reduce the total additional months assistance can be received under this “good cause” provision.

An AG may apply for a good cause determination for any of the following reasons:

The AG member is a single parent caring for a disabled person who is a member of that AG and no other acceptable arrangement can be made for the care of that disabled AG member. The disability must be established by Social Security/ SSI regulations or County Medical Services Division of State. (Code 0801)

The adult participant has a disability decision pending or a denial that is under appeal with the Social Security Administration, up to, but not beyond the Administrative Law Judge Level. If a Good Cause extension is granted, OWF benefits can continue until the AG has received a total of sixty (60) months of OWF benefits. (Code 0901)

There has been a loss of all employment by the AG who can document/verify they were employed twelve (12) or more months, working thirty (30) hours or more per week and earning at least the minimum wage since OWF benefits were discontinued due to the thirty-six (36) month time limit for OWF. The AG is required to participate in Job Search and apply for unemployment compensation benefits. If the loss of employment is due to a job quit, the reason for the quit must be listed in the Just Cause for Job Quit determination in the current Prevention, Retention, and Contingency (PRC) Plan. (Code 0101)

Intercounty transfer case to CDHS with good cause already established. CDHS does not have a corresponding good cause reason code for extended benefits. (Code 1801)

Once eligibility under Good Cause Criteria is established, no subsequent determination of good cause shall be made as long as all other OWF eligibility requirements continue to be met, unless an AG loses OWF eligibility for any reason other than a self-sufficiency contract failure and there is at least a one day interruption in assistance. A new good cause determination must be made if the AG reapplies to participate after at least a one day interruption in benefits.

If an AG loses OWF eligibility while receiving a good cause extension due to a failure to comply with the terms of the self-sufficiency contract, no new application nor determination of good cause is necessary to re-establish OWF eligibility due to good cause once the AG complies and the minimum sanction period has expired.

AG's not considered eligible under Good Cause Criteria will be advised of the agency's decision in writing and are afforded all ODJFS state hearing rights.

This Warren County Department of Human Services OWF Good Cause Extension Policy is adopted effective October 1, 2002 and shall remain in effect until amended in writing by the Director of Warren County Department of Human Services.

Director, Warren County Department of Human Services

Date