

**Carroll County Job and Family Services**  
**OWF extension due to “GOOD CAUSE” Plan effective 10/01/02**  
**(Per 5101:1-23-01 and OWF/PRC Guidance Letter 48)**

Section 5107.18(B) of the Ohio Revised Code states that an Assistance Group (AG) that has ceased to participate in Ohio Works First due to the 36 month time limit for at least 24 months may reapply to participate in the program if good cause exists as determined by the Carroll CDJFS.

A hardship extension granted to an AG does not interrupt the 24 month waiting period or delay the subsequent approval of good cause, but every month of receiving cash assistance under the county hardship criteria does count toward the 24 additional months of OWF granted under good cause. The time limit applies regardless of whether the 24 months are consecutive. Assistance Groups may receive no more than 60 months of Federal lifetime cash assistance.

An AG may apply for a good cause extension by completing an application for Ohio Works First 24 months after they have exhausted their 36 months of Ohio Works First cash assistance. If good cause is established, the AG will be approved for an extension of benefits for any remaining months within the Federal 60 month time limit. The benefits will be effective the date of application. The AG will be required to adhere to the Self Sufficiency Contract and Plan during the period of the extension.

Once eligibility under good cause is established, no subsequent determination of good cause shall be made as long as all other OWF eligibility requirements continue to be met, as set forth in paragraph (B) (2) of rule 5101:1-23-01 of the Administrative Code. If an AG loses OWF eligibility and there is at least a one day interruption in assistance, a new good cause determination must be made.

If an AG is denied an extension of OWF benefits the Eligibility and Referral Worker II will review the case for continued Food Stamp and Medicaid benefits. The Work Activities Case Manager will review the case for possible referral to other programs for assistance, including child care. Assistance Groups not considered eligible under good cause will be advised of the agency's decision in writing using a Notice of Denial and will be afforded all ODJFS state hearing rights.

An assistance group may be granted an extension of OWF assistance under “Good Cause” provisions after at least 24 months have passed since reaching Ohio’s 36 month time limit if the AG meets one or more of the following criteria established as the CCDJFS Good Cause Reasons:

- 0101 The Assistance Group lost employment that maintained its self-sufficiency due to closing or downsizing. The reason for termination was not a job quit or the fault of the employee. Required documentation includes check stubs, tax forms, statement from the employer, WARN notice, lay-off slip and an Unemployment Compensation approval or termination letter.
- 0301 An Assistance Group lost earned income from employment due to legal separation, divorce or death in the assistance group.
- 0401 The Assistance Group is involved in a domestic violence situation which resulted in a loss of income/support to the household. The victim of domestic violence is actively seeking help from an established support provider which prevents him or her from pursuing, obtaining and/or maintaining employment. Required documentation includes a statement from the court system, a police report, documentation from a medical provider verifying the abuse, and documentation from a support provider assisting the client through the process.
- 0501 The Assistance Group has other unique personal circumstances that may be accepted at the discretion of the Carroll CDJFS Director, Assistant Director or Supervisor after consideration of all the facts in the case.
- 0701 An open case plan exists with Carroll County Children Services that prohibits the Assistance Group from working. Coordination must occur between the Work Activities Case Manager and the Children Services Worker to determine if the case plan prevents the applicant from working or if it could be revised to include employment.
- 0901 The Assistance Group adult or minor head of household has a documented physical or mental illness or condition which renders him or her incapacitated for employment. Documentation from a licensed physician or psychologist is required.
- 0902 The Assistance Group has documentation from a licensed physician or psychologist that the adult in the home is required to care for an immediate family member living in the home who is diagnosed with a medical or psychological disability. Documentation from a licensed physician or psychologist is required. Alternative care must be researched, application completed, care accepted if approval granted.

1801 The Assistance Group transfers to Carroll County with good cause already established.  
Carroll CDJFS does not have a corresponding good cause code.

9010 Intercounty transfer.

This Carroll CDFS OWF Good Cause 24 Month Extension Plan is effective beginning October 1, 2002 and will remain in effect until amended in writing by the director of CCDJFS.

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Kate Offenberger, Director

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Date

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James Griffeth, President, Board of Commissioners  
Carroll County, Ohio

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Date

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Robert Herron, Commissioner, Carroll County, Ohio    Date

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Terry Wagner, Commissioner, Carroll County, Ohio    Date

