

Appendix

Program Checklist

Dramatic declines in the Ohio Works First (OWF) program caseloads have shown promise in moving families from welfare to work. In our attempts to assist families, we must make sure they are aware of valuable support services that are available to help them maintain stability as they enter the workforce. Informing families about the availability of Food Stamps, Medicaid, and Child Care can play a major role in supporting working families as they strive to attain self-sufficiency.

The attached chart illustrates the “risk points” for families moving in and out of the OWF/PRC system and can be used as a tool to ensure families are adequately informed of the availability of these key benefits.

Program Checklist

Where are program “risk points” for families moving in and out of the OWF/PRC system?

Risk Points”	Procedures/Strategies	Policy Cites
<p>Are families that are diverted from OWF cash assistance discouraged from filing an application for Medicaid, Food Stamps, and Child Care Assistance?</p>	<p>Families must be given the opportunity to apply for Medicaid, Food Stamps, or Child Care “without delay”. Even if families are discouraged from applying for OWF or are required to meet certain OWF requirements before they file an application for OWF, families must be allowed to apply for Medicaid, Food Stamps, or Child Care. Diversion from OWF should include the exploration of Food Stamps, Medicaid and Child Care Assistance as family supports.</p>	<p>Medicaid: OAC 5101:1-2-01 and 5101:1-2-10</p> <p>Food Stamps: OAC 5101:4-2-01</p> <p>Child Care: OAC 5101:2-16-30 and 5101:2-16-35</p>
<p>Are families not following through with their applications because of OWF requirements?</p>	<p>All applicants should be informed that not all OWF rules and procedures apply to Medicaid, Food Stamps, and Child Care assistance. Families should be advised of what they need to do to complete the application process for all programs.</p>	<p>Medicaid: OAC 5101:1-40-01 and 5101:1-40-021</p> <p>Food Stamps: OAC 5101:4-2-01</p> <p>Child Care: OAC 5101:2-16-30 and 5101:2-16-35</p>
<p>Are there delays in processing a joint application that are due to OWF program rules or requirements?</p>	<p>Eligibility for Medicaid, Food Stamp and Child Care applications must be determined promptly, generally within 30 days. OWF delays should not cause a delay in the Medicaid, Food Stamp or Child Care eligibility determination.</p>	<p>Medicaid: OAC 5101:1-2-01 and 5101:1-2-10</p> <p>Food Stamps: OAC 5101:4-2-11</p> <p>Child Care: OAC 5101:2-16-30 and 5101:2-16-35</p>

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Where are program “risk points” for families moving in and out of the OWF/PRC system?

“Risk Points”	Procedures/Strategies	Policy Cites
<p>When OWF benefits are denied or terminated based on a joint application, is Medicaid and Food Stamp eligibility separately evaluated? Is the family given the opportunity to apply for Child Care Assistance?</p>	<p>The CDHS must determine Medicaid and Food Stamp eligibility based on the CAF, applying Medicaid and Food Stamp — not OWF rules. Medicaid and Food Stamp eligibility doesn't necessarily depend on eligibility for OWF. Child Care eligibility is evaluated separately, using Child Care rules, not OWF rules.</p>	<p>Medicaid: OAC 5101:1-40-01</p> <p>Food Stamps: OAC 5101:4-2-01 and 5101:4-6-17</p> <p>Child Care: OAC 5101:2-16-30 and 5101:2-16-35</p>
<p>How can families that do not want to apply for OWF apply for Medicaid, Food Stamps, and Child Care Assistance?</p>	<p>A family can decline OWF cash and still have eligibility for Medicaid and Food Stamps explored. Families can also apply for Healthy Start by completing the Combined Programs Application (CPA) and for Child Care Assistance by completing the ODHS 1138, “Child Care Application”.</p>	<p>Medicaid: OAC 5101:1-40-021</p> <p>Food Stamps: OAC 5101:4-2-01</p> <p>Child Care: OAC 5101:2-16-35</p>

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"Risk Points"	Procedures/Strategies	Policy Cites
<p>What happens to the family's Medicaid, Food Stamp and Child Care benefits when the family loses OWF benefits due to a failure to comply with the Self-Sufficiency Contract (SSC) requirements?</p>	<p>The 3-tier OWF sanction policy applies differently to Low-Income Families (LIF) Medicaid. The only sanction allowed is at a 3rd tier work activities failure. The sanction is not for a minimum period for LIF; the sanctioned individual requalifies upon compliance. The work activity sanction applies only to the adult causing the failure; the children are not subject to any sanction.</p> <p>If an adult or minor head-of-household is sanctioned (removed from the food stamp assistance group) due to not complying with a provision of the SSC or a work requirement, the remaining members of the food stamp assistance group may continue to qualify for benefits.</p> <p>Income Eligible Employment and Training Child Care benefits are available for families who are sanctioned under OWF in order to participate in employment or training, and the family's gross monthly income does not exceed the maximum per cent of the federal poverty level for eligibility as established by administrative order.</p>	<p>Medicaid: OAC 5101:1-40-01 and 5101:1-40-021</p> <p>Food Stamps: OAC 5101:4-2-03 and 5101:4-3-09</p> <p>Child Care: OAC 5101:2-16-30</p>
<p>Are families that lose OWF benefits due to OWF time limits also losing Medicaid, Food Stamps, and Child Care Assistance?</p>	<p>The OWF cash assistance time limits do not apply to Medicaid, Food Stamp and Child Care eligibility. Families may still qualify for these benefits.</p>	<p>Medicaid: OAC 5101:1-40-021</p> <p>Food Stamps: OAC 5101:4-2-03</p> <p>Child Care: OAC 5101:2-16-30</p>

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"Risk Points"	Procedures/Strategies	Policy Cites
<p>What happens to Medicaid, Food Stamp, and Child Care eligibility when families lose eligibility for OWF due to earnings?</p>	<p>Families need to be informed that Medicaid, Food Stamp and Child Care coverage does not necessarily stop if the parent finds work. This will help prevent families from simply closing "their case" when they have earnings, not knowing that they may continue to qualify for these other benefits. Families gaining employment and/or earning minimum wage may still qualify for these other benefits.</p> <p>Medicaid coverage cannot be terminated unless the CDHS determines that the children and other family members are not eligible for Medicaid under any eligibility category. If the family has earnings, the children and the parents will be eligible for Transitional Medicaid Benefits (TMB). The children may be eligible under the "Healthy Start" category. If the CDHS knows the family has earnings, it does not need verification of the exact level of earnings the family will receive in order for the family to continue to qualify for Medicaid under TMB; there is no earnings limit for the first six months of TMB.</p> <p>Transitional or Income Eligible Employment and Training Child Care benefits are available for families to participate in employment or training as long as the family's gross monthly income does not exceed the maximum for eligibility as established by administrative order.</p>	<p>Medicaid: OAC 5101:1-40-01 and 5101:1-40-05</p> <p>Food Stamps: OAC 5101:4-4-11, 5101:4-4-19, 5101:4-4-23 and 5101:4-4-27</p> <p>Child Care: OAC 5101:2-16-30 and 5101:2-16-35</p>