

# TANF FAQs

Our grant initiatives are funded through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding provided by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

## **What does TANF stand for and who is it for?**

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

**Families** are defined by federal regulation and state law as follows:

- A minor child who resides with a parent, specified relative, legal guardian, or legal custodian (a child may be temporarily absent from the home provided certain requirements are met);
- An individual who is pregnant;
- A non-custodial parent who lives in the state but does not reside with his/her minor child(ren).

## **What are some of the guidelines that you need to know?**

- Funding must fall under one of the four purposes for TANF. See below for TANF purposes.
- Funding to non-profits must be for non-assistance.
- Funding is not paid up front. It is reimbursable only.

## **What is “Non-assistance?”**

Non-assistance is benefits or services that are not designed to meet a family’s ongoing basic needs.

- Short-term
- Non-recurrent
- Examples: work subsidies, supportive services to employed individuals, transportation, incentives, counseling, case management, peer support, childcare information and referral, transitional services, job retention, job advancement, and other employment-related services that do not provide basic income support
- Please see 45CFR 260.31 for reference

## **What are the purposes of TANF?**

- Purpose 1: Provide assistance to families in need so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives.
- Purpose 2: End the dependence of parents in need on government benefits by promoting job preparation work and marriage.
- Purpose 3: Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and establish annual numerical goals for preventing and reducing the incidence of these pregnancies.
- Purpose 4: Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

## **What are the requirements of TANF?**

- A family must include a minor or a woman must be pregnant.
- Households must earn 200% of the federal poverty line or less.
- A non-custodial parent may qualify for non-assistance if their minor child is in state.

Social Security numbers are required.

# TANF FAQs

## Who qualifies as a minor child according to TANF?

- (1) Has not attained 18 years of age; or
- (2) Has not attained 19 years of age and is a full-time student in a secondary school (or in the equivalent level of vocational or technical training)

## Who qualifies as "Needy" according to TANF?

Needy is defined as low-income families whose households are at or below 200% Federal Poverty Level

## What are the U.S. Citizenship Requirements for TANF?

Non-Citizenship eligibility is also available to qualified immigrants or protective refugee status.

A list of exceptions is available if funding is granted.

## **What cannot be funded by TANF?**

- Medical services
- Any entertainment expenses (sports tickets, movie tickets, etc.)
- Juvenile justice services
- Regular IV-D child support services
- Regular IV-E services
- Foster care maintenance payments
- Constructing or purchasing buildings or facilities or purchasing real property
- Public education
- Satisfying a cost sharing or matching requirement of another federal program unless specifically authorized by federal law
- Supplanting (replace or displace) current funding
- Please see 2CFR part 200 for more details

## **What are the requirements to get started?**

- Must have an OAKS vendor ID with the state (If not, apply right away)
- Must submit your Federal Tax ID
- Must have a 501c3 status or Ohio non-profit verification
- Must submit your DUNS Number
- Must fill out a Location of Business form (supplied by the state)
- Must have a budget for the program for which funding is requested
- Must be able to wait for reimbursement of funds
- Must have deliverables (goals and objectives) for your program
- Submit Electronic Funds Transfer form if you wish to receive direct deposit

## **How long is the timeline to receive funding once approved?**

- Once all documentation is submitted an agreement will be developed.
- Once the agreement is developed it is sent out to vendor for approval. (If approved, it is signed by vendor. If not, it goes back for revisions.)
- Once signed by the vendor, the agreement goes back to the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives for signature and then is submitted to the director of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (JFS) for signature.
- Once signed by JFS Director, a purchase order is created. This can take several weeks.
- Work does not start until that purchase order is created.
- Funding cannot be used to pay for prior expenditures!