



CHILD CARE AND THE TANF WORK REQUIREMENT

To receive TANF cash benefits, you must work or take part in activities that prepare you for work for at least 30 hours per week. Teen parents must go to high school or GED classes. If you need child care to do this, we want to be sure you have it.

\$ YOU CAN GET HELP TO PAY FOR CHILD CARE YOU HAVE OR FIND CHILD CARE YOU NEED

Ask your caseworker for child care referral and application forms if you are not getting child care help now.

To get help paying for child care, complete the application and contact the agency on the referral.

- * If you are applying for TANF, you can get short-term help paying for child care from the Front Door contractor (community partner).
- * If you receive TANF, your caseworker can issue a payment for up to one month of child care and the Child Care Resource & Referral Agency (CCR&R) can help with ongoing child care payments.
- * The CCR&R can also help pay for child care if you are employed and not on TANF.

To get help finding child care, contact the CCR&R. They will help you choose appropriate child care that:

- * meets your child's needs;
- * is dependable;
- * meets State requirements for legal care;
- * doesn't cost more than the State rate; and
- * is close enough that your travel time isn't more than 25% of your work or activity time.

If you can't find such child care, we will not reduce or stop your benefits for refusal or failure to work or take part in activities. Tell your caseworker right away if you have problems with child care. Ask for a referral to the CCR&R if you don't have one.

The months you are unable to work because you cannot find appropriate child care count against your 60-month limit on TANF cash benefits. When your time is gone, your cash benefits will stop. So you need to keep looking for child care.

Here are the steps you can take to get help with child care:

- * tell your caseworker that you need help finding or paying for child care. Your caseworker will give you a referral to the CCR&R and/or community partner and a child care application;
- * contact the CCR&R and/or the community partner. If you have a legal child care arrangement, they will help you pay for it. If you don't have a legal child care arrangement, the CCR&R will give you the names, addresses, and phone numbers of child care providers who may care for your child.
- * call and/or visit these providers, and choose one that is appropriate for your child;
- * if none of the providers you are referred to is appropriate, tell your caseworker;
- * check with the CCR&R for new referrals at least once a month;
- * ask trusted family, friends, and neighbors to care for your child or help you find someone who can;
- * put your child's name on the waiting list with one or more child care providers; and
- * keep trying until you find appropriate child care.

Contact your caseworker at your local DHS office if you have any questions about this notice.