

# TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)

*Know Your Rights: A Fact Sheet from Nevada Legal Services, Inc.*

## What is TANF?

TANF provides temporary assistance to low-income families. To be eligible, you must meet income and asset limits. You may be required to participate in work programs. If you are eligible for TANF, you are also eligible for medical benefits through Medicaid. You can receive Medicaid but choose not to receive TANF payments. In order to remain eligible for Medicaid, you must remain eligible for TANF unless otherwise noted.

### Income Limits

TANF is available to individuals at 130% of the poverty level or below. As of 2020, the maximum monthly income limits are:

Household Size	Income Limit
1	\$1,354
2	\$1,832
3	\$2,311
4	\$2,790
5	\$3,269
6	\$3,748

### Asset Limits

The maximum amount of real and personal property in the TANF household cannot exceed \$10,000 (*excluded assets include: Two vehicles, a home that you own, and household goods/personal items*).

## How long can I continue to receive benefits?

**Federal:** You cannot receive cash benefits for more than 60 months (5 years). This time includes benefits you have received from any state.

**State:** Once you have received benefits for 2 years, you cannot receive benefits again for one year (if you remain financially eligible you can continue to receive Medicaid). You can ask for a hardship exemption from the state time limit.

## What if I get a job?

If you begin working, you are still eligible for TANF assistance for at least three months.

For an additional nine months, 50% of your earnings are not counted as income. If you remain eligible for TANF, by counting half of your income from work, you will continue to receive assistance.

You can also continue to receive childcare and Medicaid for 12 months after you no longer receive cash benefits.



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## Other Requirements

- Personal Responsibility Plan

This is a contract between you and the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services. It sets out steps for you to meet to become self-sufficient so you will no longer need TANF assistance. If you do not meet the goals set out in the plan, you may become ineligible for TANF. The plan is signed within 60 days of TANF approval and includes a date, not more than 24 months later, when it expires.

- Work Activities

Before your application is approved, you may have to participate in Applicant Job Search. After approval, you will need to participate in the New Employees of Northern Nevada (NEON) Program. NEON provides assistance in education, training, and searching for a job. Support services, like childcare and transportation should be provided. In certain circumstances, you may be eligible for an exemption.

- Child Support Enforcement

You must cooperate with Child Support Enforcement to pursue child support awards/collections. To reimburse the state for providing assistance, the rights to child support are assigned to Nevada. You may be exempt from cooperating if you can show good cause (such as domestic violence). If the prosecuting attorney does sign the Stipulation, you will want to submit a proposed order to the judge so it can be signed without a hearing.

### What if my application is denied or my assistance is terminated?

You should receive written notice stating why your assistance has been denied/terminated.

If you disagree with the decision, you can file an appeal. The form should be attached to the notice. On the form you can mark whether you want a pre-hearing conference, a hearing, or both.

### What is a pre-hearing conference?

This is an informal meeting with a supervisor to discuss whether your benefits should have been terminated/denied. If you have any paperwork that should have been turned in or witnesses or documentation showing the decision is incorrect, you will want to bring them with you.

### What happens at a hearing?

This is more formal. The hearing will be in person or could be by phone or other electronic means depending on where you live. The supervisor you had the pre-hearing conference with will present the reasons why the decision should not be changed. The Agency may also be represented by an attorney from the Attorney General's Office. You will be able to present the reasons why you believe you are entitled to benefits. You will want to explain why you are required to receive benefits and the that denial is wrong.

### Overpayments

If you are found to be ineligible for benefits for a time period you were receiving benefits, you may have to pay back the benefits you received.

If the overpayment was not your fault and you did not have reason to know you should not be receiving the amount of benefits you received, you should not have to pay the overpayment.

## Resources

You can access additional information on the NLS website at [nlslaw.net](http://nlslaw.net).

For more information and to apply online go to: [https://dwss.nv.gov/TANF/Financial\\_Help/](https://dwss.nv.gov/TANF/Financial_Help/)