WHERE TO APPLY?

You may apply for TANF benefits at a Benefit, Employment and Support Services Office. Call the Public Assistance Information Line.

1-855-643-1643
WHAT IS TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES?

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is a federal and state funded program run by the Department of Human Services (DHS), Benefit, Employment and Support Services Division (BESSD).

The program was first implemented in 1997 as a result of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996.

There are four TANF purposes:

**PURPOSE ONE**

“To provide assistance to needy families”

- Direct cash payment to the family
- Self-Sufficiency Program
- Income Disregard
- Financial Counseling

All programs are subject to established eligibility criteria that will be explained to you by your DHS worker.

**PURPOSE TWO**

“To end dependence of needy parents by promoting job preparation, work and marriage”

TANF applicants and recipient are referred to the Department’s First-to-Work program to prepare for self-sufficiency.

An assigned case manager will help you reach your employment goals with any of the following activities and supportive services:

- Job Search and Job Preparedness
- Subsidized/Unsubsidized Employment
- GED Prep
- Job Skills Training
- Vocational Education
- On-the Job Training
- Domestic Violence Services
- On-Going Counseling & Support

Supportive Services:

- Child Care Subsidies
- Transportation Assistance
- Work-Related Expenses

**PURPOSE THREE**

“To prevent and reduce out-of-wedlock pregnancies”

DHS has partnered with a wide variety of community agencies to provide Hawai‘i families with programs designed to help prevent teen and out-of-wedlock pregnancies. These programs include:

- After-School Programs
- Youth Abstinence and Pregnancy Prevention
- Positive Youth Development
- Youth Mentoring

**PURPOSE FOUR**

“To encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.”

Programs intended to teach the skills necessary to build strong families are made available by DHS and include:

- Fatherhood Services
- Family Strengthening
- Marriage/Couples Counseling
- Parenting Skills
- Home-Based Parenting & Family Counseling