
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES

Financial Assistance Benefits for Families with Children



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 the result of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996.

There are four (4) TANF purposes:

TANF Purpose 1

“To provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives.”

- ❖ Direct cash assistance payments to families
- ❖ Self-sufficiency program
- ❖ Income disregard
- ❖ Financial counseling

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

TANF Purpose 2

“To end the dependence of parents on government assistance benefits by promoting job preparation, work and marriage.”

TANF applicants and recipients are referred to the Department’s First-To-Work (FTW) program to prepare for financial independence.

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

- ❖ Job search and job preparedness
- ❖ Subsidized / Unsubsidized employment
- ❖ Preparation for GED or high school equivalency
- ❖ Job skills training
- ❖ On-the-job training
- ❖ Domestic violence advocacy services
- ❖ Ongoing counseling and support

Supportive services:

- ❖ Child care subsidies
- ❖ Transportation assistance
- ❖ Work- and education-related expenses

TANF Purpose 3

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

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

- ❖ After-school programs
- ❖ Youth abstinence and pregnancy prevention programs
- ❖ Positive youth development programs
- ❖ Youth mentoring services

TANF Purpose 4

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

Programs provided by DHS and community-based agencies that teach the skills necessary to build strong families. Services include:

- ❖ Fatherhood services
- ❖ Family strengthening programs
- ❖ Marriage / Couples counseling
- ❖ Parenting skills
- ❖ Home-based parenting and family counseling

WHERE TO APPLY?

You may apply for TANF financial assistance benefits at a *DHS Processing Center*.

For a list of centers, please visit the DHS website at

<https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/blog/processing-centers-and-first-to-work-units/>.

You may call the *Public Assistance Information Line* at

1-855-643-1643.

You may apply for assistance online through the *Public Assistance Information System (PAIS)* at

<https://pais.dhs.hawaii.gov/PAIS/#!/>.



Department of Human Services
Benefit, Employment and Support Services Division