

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS)

OVERVIEW

Program helps pregnant women and families with one or more dependent children with monthly cash assistance and other benefits. TANF can be used for any purpose including shelter, utilities, and household items.

- Cash assistance for basic needs, such as food, clothing, housing, etc. Participants can receive TANF for a total of 5 years as an adult over their lifetime.
- Transitional services to help families become independent, such as GED preparation, vocational training, postsecondary education, vocational rehabilitation, classes in basic English, help with child care, work stipends, job retention services, etc.
- Screening for issues related to substance abuse, mental health, and domestic violence, and referrals for available services to address them

WHO IS SERVED?

Population(s)/Age Group:

Families with children under the age of 19(including pregnant women)

Eligibility Criteria and Screening Tools:

To qualify for TANF, a person must:

- Be pregnant or have a child under age 19 who lives with them. A child who is 18 must be a full-time high school student. A pregnant woman (and her husband, if he lives with her) may qualify for help, even if they don't have any other children.
- Live in Illinois. Client can be homeless and still qualify.
- Be a U.S. citizen or meet certain immigration status requirements.
- Develop a plan (Responsibility and Services Plan) for becoming self-sufficient and follow it.

HOW ARE SERVICES DELIVERED?

Local Service System:

TANF applicants may apply for TANF (as well as SNAP and medical assistance) online using the [Application for Benefits Eligibility \(ABE\)](#) or at a local IDHS Family and Community Resource Center.

Regardless of how application is made, the client will be asked to come to the FCRC for an interview. At the interview a caseworker will ask questions, enter answers into a computer and print application. The caseworker will ask to see proof of the information, such as the children's birth certificates Social Security cards for everyone, paycheck stubs and proof of other income. The caseworker may also ask for proof of other things and is available to assist the client. DHS will make a decision on the application and notify applicant in writing within 45 days.

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Referrals into Program:

Self, Case managers

Data Systems Used:

Information not available

STATE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR OR CONTACT

Bureau of Customer Support and Services
Illinois Department of Human Services
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Program Website:

<https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=30358>

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