

TANF

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Question: May TANF funds be used for mortgage assistance?

Answer: No, TANF funds may not be used for mortgage assistance.

Question: If the client/family has two children but one of them is in the home less than 50% of the time, how many of the children count as family members?

Answer: Children that are with the family less than 50% of the time do not count as family members when determining income guidelines.

Question: Must the family have income to receive TANF benefits?

Answer: There should be, at minimum, a decent prospect of income. The family should be reasonably expected to be sustainable.

Question: Can clients reapply after receiving TANF benefits?

Answer: There should be a relevant break between episodes and good indication that the funds provided will make more than a short term difference that can help get the family permanently out of the situation. Agency must ask: Is this a new occurrence or repeat behavior? Does the family demonstrate the ability to resolve the issue that has created more need?

Question: Can TANF funds be used to clear up bad debt and credit problems?

Answer: Yes, agencies may choose to use TANF funds for these purposes. One caution: Agencies could use their TANF money quickly and serve fewer families if they decide to use this option.