

Colorado Works aka TANF

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Colorado Works aka TANF

- Colorado Works is the State of Colorado's name for the TANF program
- TANF – Temporary Assistance for Needy Families is the Federal reference.
- Block Grants – no entitlement
 - Allows Counties to be innovative in their approach for assisting families
- Time Limited to 60 months in an adult life time
 - Includes individuals that are non citizens
 - Extensions past 60 months depends on County Policies
 - Differs from State to State



General Eligibility

- Applications must be processed within 45 days
 - Interview required
 - Application good for all programs
 - Food Assistance
 - Medical Assistance
 - Cooperate with Child Support
 - Cooperate with Work Force
- Specified Caretaker (can be a parent)
 - Does not have to be within the 5th degree of relationship
 - Demonstrate responsibility



General Eligibility

- Household Composition
 - Single or 2 parent households
 - Children under age 18
 - Between 18 & 19 and will graduate by 19th birthday
 - Pregnancy
 - SSI Child
- Child Only
 - SSI parent
 - Non-Citizen
 - Specified Caretaker
 - Not requesting
 - Denver County Caretaker Payment



General Eligibility

- Household Composition:
 - Non Parent applying for child under 18 years old
 - Mother applying for 2 children under 18 years old who have different fathers, oldest child receives child support
 - Mother applying for 2 children and has remarried



General Eligibility

- Countable Income
 - All earned and Unearned income to the household
 - Earned income is allowed 2/3 deduction (.666666) once they meet the need standard
- Income Limits for household size initial application
 - 1 adult and 1 child = \$331 (need standard)
- Citizenship Requirements
 - Lawful Presence
 - Meet 5 year bar or 40 Work Quarters



General Eligibility

- Residency
 - Reside in Colorado
 - County in which they are applying
- Limited Reporting (6 month certifications)
 - Reporting limits
 - 1 adult and 1 child = \$933.00



General Eligibility

- Cooperate with Work Programs
 - Demonstrable Evidence (case closed 1 month)
 - Sanction
 - 1st level 25% reduction for 1 month
 - 2nd level 50% reduction for 1 month
 - 3rd level – case closed for 3 months
 - Prior to a Sanction must look at good cause
- Cooperate with Child Support
 - Individuals are referred once case is approved
 - Case will close for non cooperation
 - Must cooperate before case can be re-opened
 - Good cause prior to closure
 - Potential Physical or mental harm to children or adult caretaker
 - Pregnancy or birth of a child related to incest or forcible rape
 - Legal Adoption



General Eligibility

- Other Benefits:
 - State Diversions
 - Meet guidelines for CW
 - Emergent Need
 - Does not need long term assistance
 - County Diversion
 - Not income eligible for CW
 - Income not to exceed 185% Federal Poverty Level
 - Emergent Need
 - Not all Counties have this diversion



General Eligibility

- Child Care
 - TANF Child Care
 - Individuals eligible if receiving CW payments
 - Low Income Child Care
 - Available to household whose income is less than the Federal Poverty Level in their County
 - County option to cooperate with Child Support Division
 - Child Support Administrator or designee determines cooperation
 - If benefits terminated due to non cooperation they will remain close until cooperation has been verified
 - Good cause prior to closure
 - Potential Physical or mental harm to children or adult caretakers
 - Pregnancy or birth of a child related to incest or forcible rape
 - Legal Adoption

Questions????

