New Policy Improvements to Washington's Safety Net Programs

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) / State Family Assistance (SFA):

Families can no longer be permanently disqualified from TANF / SFA for noncompliance sanctions:

DSHS permanently disqualifies families from accessing assistance if they have been terminated from the program three times for noncompliance sanctions, such as missing strict work participation requirements. Beginning July 28, 2019, this policy will no longer be in effect.

Families experiencing homelessness will be eligible for a time-limit extension:

Beginning July 28, 2019, there will be a new time-limit extension to TANF / SFA. Families experiencing homelessness or living in transitional or time-limited supportive housing will receive a time-limit extension past the standard 60 month program limit.

FAQ: I have been permanently disqualified or time-limited off TANF / SFA. Am I now eligible for assistance under the new policies?

All families that have been permanently disqualified from TANF/ SFA will become eligible for benefits upon reapplication beginning July 28, 2019 if they meet other eligibility requirements.

Families that are homeless and have reached the 60-month time limit will similarly become eligible at this time.

Pregnant Women’s Assistance (PWA):

Families will receive larger payments:

Beginning July 1, 2019, pregnant women who are ineligible for TANF due to time limits will see their PWA grant increased from $197/month to $363/month.

Housing & Essential Needs (HEN) / Aged, Blind, or Disabled Assistance (ABD):

Immigrant HEN / ABD recipients will be eligible for dental care:

Many elderly and disabled immigrants on HEN or ABD assistance are ineligible for Apple Health benefits due to their immigration status. Beginning January 1, 2020, the healthcare coverage for this population (Medical Care Services) is expanding to include a full dental benefit.

The Statewide Poverty Action Network is a grassroots advocacy organization that fights against root causes of poverty and advances equitable policy change in Washington state.

For more information, please visit us at povertyaction.org.

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