



TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF) AND TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR OTHER NEEDY FAMILIES (TAONF)

WHAT IS IT?

TANF and TAONF are government programs that provide time-limited cash assistance to families with dependent children. TANF is available to eligible households who are all U.S. citizens; TAONF is available to eligible households that have at least one member who is a non-U.S. citizen or Compact of Free Association (COFA) migrant.

TO BE ELIGIBLE YOU MUST...

- Have a dependent child under the age of 18 living in your household OR, for pregnant women with no other children, you must be 9 months pregnant,
- Be a U.S. citizen, "legal alien", or "qualified alien",
- Be a resident of the State of Hawai'i,
- Have a Social Security Number,
- Have a limited income (there is no asset limit), and
- If applicable, assign your child support rights to the state and cooperate in establishing paternity, unless it is against the best interest of the child to do so.

HOW TO APPLY:

- Go to <https://pais-benefits.dhs.hawaii.gov> and complete all required information on application, or visit a Benefit, Employment and Support Services Office, or call the Public Assistance Information Line at 1-855-643-1643.
- Complete an interview.
- Within 45 days of submitting the application, you will receive a letter in the mail letting you know if your application was approved or denied. If approved, the letter will indicate the amount of aid you qualify for. (Note: If you are in an emergency situation, you may receive a decision within 2 working days.)
- You have the right to appeal a denial within 90 days.

WORK REQUIREMENT:

All adults in the household must participate with the First to Work program, to the extent possible. Some adults may not have to participate in work activities.

EXEMPTIONS FOR SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

Domestic violence survivors may participate in domestic violence advocacy instead of work activities. In order to do so, you must contact a Department of Human Services (DHS) Processing Center. Individuals identified as having a history of domestic violence will be referred to a domestic violence agency or domestic violence advocate for these services:

- A determination of domestic violence victim status, and
- An assessment and development of an individual service plan.

The domestic violence victim status may be revoked or extended depending on the individual's needs and ability to follow guidelines.

Local DHS Processing Centers and contact information:

<https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Statewide-Processing-Centers-04-2018.pdf>

LIFETIME LIMIT:

There is a 60 month lifetime limit on the duration of aid you can receive, that is measured by the adult in the household with the most months of aid received.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Not every member of the household needs to be eligible for TANF.
- Parents who are not eligible for TANF may still receive TANF on their children's behalf or there can be select household members who receive benefits and others who do not.
- If you do not have a citizenship or "qualified alien status", you may still apply for your children if they do, and you do not need to provide any information about your status. However, you would still need to provide proof of income and participate in First to Work for children to receive benefits.
- TANF benefits are available through an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) "Kokua" Card or direct deposit and there are no restrictions on how this money can be used.