

COLUMBIANA COUNTY GOOD CAUSE EXTENSION CRITERIA

In accordance with ORC section 5107.18, an assistance group is ineligible to participate in OWF if the assistance group includes an adult who has participated in the program for thirty-six months.

Section (B) provides that an assistance group that has ceased to participate in OWF due to the 36-month state time limit for at least a 24 month waiting period may be eligible to participate in OWF eligibility if the family is determined to have “good cause”. The earliest any assistance group can begin to receive a good cause extension is 10-01-02. The good cause extension may be provided for no more than a total of 24 months whether consecutive or not. Any months of receipt of state hardship after the 36 month time limit count toward the federal 60 month limit and reduce the amount of potentially available months under good cause. Receipt of OWF under a good cause extension cannot result in the assistance group receiving more than the federal 60 month time limit.

An application for assistance will be necessary to determine OWF eligibility based on the county good cause extension criteria. The case will be reviewed to determine if the assistance group meets the preliminary factor, which is:

1. Income to the household is less than the OWF payment standard for the assistance group size.

If the assistance group meets the preliminary criteria, the case will be reviewed for one of the following primary factors:

Criteria #1:

The parent/caretaker has lost their job thru no fault of their own and are unable to find other employment. To meet this criteria, the unemployment rate in Columbiana County must exceed the state average. Verification will be required from the employer to determine if no fault exists.

An example of no fault would be when there is a plant closing or downsizing. No fault will not exist when employer releases an employee due to absenteeism or violation of any company rules.

Criteria #2:

The parent/caretaker has become unable to work due to a disability as verified by a licensed physician. The parent/caretaker must have been employed for at least 12 months of the 24 month waiting period or received unemployment benefits during the last 12 months of the 24 month waiting period. The parent/caretaker must also be pending SSI/SSD and must be medically verified to be unable to do any type of gainful employment for at least one year.

The CCDJFS reserves the right to secure and rely upon additional opinions from medical providers of its choice

Criteria #3:

The parent/caretaker is age sixty (60) or older, and has been unable to find employment thru no fault of their own. To meet this criteria, the individual must have co-operated in their self sufficiency plan during the initial 36 month time limit.

Once good cause extension criteria is established, no subsequent determination of good cause shall be made unless the assistance group becomes otherwise ineligible for OWF. Any months received under state hardship or state good cause criteria will be counted toward the 60 month Federal time limit. Receipt of hardship extension or good cause extension will not result in the assistance group receiving more than 60 months of assistance.

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