

Eligibility Summary
Temporary Assistance for Domestic Violence Survivors
(TA-DVS)

Eligibility Factors:

(Optional: Use TRACS TA-DVS Assessment & Eligibility Addendum)

- **Eligibility requirements** for the program are the same as the TANF program, as modified by 461-135-1200 and 461-135-1205 through 1235. Reference TANF Chapter K and the TA-DVS Chapters of the FSM.
 - The eligibility period is 90 days.
 - The 90 day eligibility period cannot be extended although clients can apply again after the 90 day period has expired. Complete eligibility would need to be reassessed.
- **To be eligible for TA-DVS a person must have a safety concern related to domestic violence**
 - Ask questions to identify current or potential risk of further/future domestic violence
 - The abuser must be a family member, household member or intimate partner (or acting as an agent of the abuser)
 - Domestic Violence includes physical injury; fear of physical injury; sex abuse (any non-consensual act); mental, emotional or verbal abuse; coercive and controlling behavior
- **The person must have children or be pregnant (any point of pregnancy)**
 - If the children are temporarily with someone else due to the domestic violence there must be an expectation that the children will be returned within a reasonable period of time (if it's more than 90 days staff it with your line manager)
 - If the children are in the custody of Child Welfare call them to discuss whether or not the children are expected to be returned and if so how long do they expect it to take.
- **The person must be a resident of Oregon but there does not have to be an intent to reside in Oregon (i.e. we can help them move out of state)**
 - If a person has been living in Oregon they are a resident
 - If they are living in another state (i.e. they have an address there or they are receiving benefits there; they are here for vacation or here temporarily and planning on returning to the other state) they are not considered a resident of Oregon
 - If they were living in another state and are now here and planning on staying in Oregon, they are considered a resident.
- **Use the TANF countable income standard for TA-DVS but only count income available to meet safety concerns (Use “net” versus “gross” income; refer to TA-DVS Income Eligibility Chart - DHS 1542)**
 - Do not count income controlled by the abuser or income the client used to flee or stay free from domestic violence
 - SSI is considered income for TA-DVS if available in time to meet emergent need
 - Income received by the client during the 90 day eligibility period can be considered in determining benefits issued but, unless it is available in time to meet emergent need, does not make someone over-income

An Individualized Case Plan is required

(Use 1543 or PDP and DVAA Narrative Supplement):

- **Develop a Domestic Violence Assistance Agreement or Case Plan with the client...**
 - Include steps to address immediate safety issues and steps to address stabilization from domestic violence
 - Coordinate with domestic violence service providers
 - Provide referrals to appropriate community resources
 - Include information on what we agree to pay under TA-DVS and what support services we will provide to support completion of the agreement
 - Include information on how client will pay future housing costs if no visible resources
 - Follow-up with plan as needed/make adjustments where necessary

Other Considerations:

- A person may apply for TA-DVS by **phone or by 415F**.
 - If a phone application is taken have the client complete the 415F or sign the one taken over the phone ASAP.
 - If it's not safe for the client to come to the office make alternate arrangements for intake at a safe place.
 - Interview the client in a safe and confidential location. Do not interview a potential victim in the presence of a suspected abuser.
- Applications received from clients who have accessed TA-DVS in the last 12 months and who appear to meet eligibility guidelines, **must be jointly approved or denied** by the DHS branch office and central office - call (503) 945-5931.
- Assess safety concerns **as soon as possible**, within 8 working hours. Address immediate safety issues. (At a minimum identify if the client has a safe place to stay temporarily until we can complete the eligibility process or refer them to available community resources such as shelters.)
- **Determine eligibility** within 16 working hours of receipt of the application.
 - TA-DVS cases should not be pended longer than the 16 hours we have to determine eligibility. If there is a need to pend beyond 16 working hours we should discuss the reason with the client, if the client agrees and there is no immediate safety issue, narrate the reason for pending and the agreement by the client. (i.e. the client is unable to provide proof of pregnancy, proof of caretaker relative status, proof of income, etc. within the specified time frames)
 - Verification of domestic violence is not required. Other items can be verified if questionable and the delay would not prevent the client from meeting an emergent need.
 - Hand deliver a 456DV if the client is determined eligible.
 - Hand deliver a 456 if the client is denied.
 - Avoid sending computer generated notices unless you know that the address is a safe contact address.
- **Program benefits** include:
 - **Housing related needs** (rent/utilities) when need is caused by DV;
 - **Relocation costs** (bus/train tickets, moving truck, pre-paid gas cards, etc.)
 - Payments for **items (personal/household) that were left behind when the client fled**;
 - Payments that will **increase safety** (locks; P.O. box; phones; motion lights or motion detectors for the window, etc.)
 - Up to a maximum of \$1200.00 during the 90 day eligibility period.
 - Combined payments should not be made over the \$1200.00 limit
 - Benefits **do not** include paying car payments; car purchases; RV/trailer purchases; payment of legal fees or fines; purchases of animals or payment of pet fees (unless there is a medically documented need for the animal); purchase of guns or other weapons
 - Payments should be made as dual payee or vendor payments (if dual payee or vendor pay payments aren't...narrate reason one of these options weren't viable)
- TA-DVS applicants are eligible for **expedited hearings** (held within 5 working days) for denial of the program and/or denial of payments.
- **Consult** with the DV Intervention Program Analyst, Carol Krager, at (503) 945-5931 if you have any questions about policy or applying policy.