

Dave Lyda, TANF Program Manager

Authorized Signature

Number: SS-IM-07-023

Issue Date: 10/18/2007

Topic: Other

Subject: TANF Redesign - Weekly Q & A

Applies to (check all that apply):

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | All DHS employees | <input type="checkbox"/> | County Mental Health Directors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Area Agencies on Aging | <input type="checkbox"/> | Health Services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Children, Adults and Families | <input type="checkbox"/> | Seniors and People with Disabilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | County DD Program Managers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Other (please specify): All SS Staff, JOBS Partners |

Message:

Here is your weekly Q&A resulting primarily from Day 2 of the Summits. There has been some policy clarification since the early Summits. We will continue to answer questions as we can, focusing on your top 10-20 weekly.

You may submit questions you would like to see answered in this weekly message. We will be considering these questions as we develop future training.

Your Top Questions...

1. On the 9/17 Q&A, we were told we don't need to get the client's signature on a Post-TANF plan because it is a core activity. Does it matter whether the additional hours are core (like JO) or non-core (like, JS, HS, etc.) or non-countable (like CH, SL, etc.)? Is a signature ever required on a case plan?

Answer: It is always good practice to have the client sign their case plan, as a way to demonstrate their commitment to the plan. The client's signature is only required if the client's plan contains only non-countable activities, and we want to hold the client accountable.

2. For families in Pre-TANF, who do not go on to open TANF, can they qualify as referrals for FS&C? (We had two that never opened on TANF as they became employed.)

Answer: Yes. All TANF applicants should be screened for FS&C, and referrals should be made as early in the process as possible, if appropriate. Clients in Post-TANF are also eligible.

3. What is the maximum on support service payments for Post-TANF, and can it be exceeded?

Answer: \$1,000. This can be exceeded with management approval, but other available resources should be considered. Support service payments needed to support other JOBS activities, other than work, are not included in this limit.

4. Can the \$1,000 additional support service payments be used to pay the cost of criminal history expungement (motion to set aside)? Or for outstanding tickets/fines/interest to courts in order to re-instate ODL?

Answer: No. Support services cannot be used to pay court costs.

5. For two parent cases in Post TANF, how many hours of work will it take for them to count as core participation?

Answer: An average of 55 hours per week for the two parents if the family is receiving ERDC, and an average of 35 hours per week for the two parents if the family is not receiving ERDC.

6. For the TL coding, does a pregnant woman in the month previous to due date or with a newborn under three months use TLS coding?

Answer: No. She is exempt from participating in JOBS and from being disqualified (according to 461-130-0310), but she is not exempt from time limits unless there is another condition that would exempt her.

7. I have a client who closed TANF in September and we put on the Post-TANF PTF code. She has just called me today and all of her children are out of the home now. Due to no children in the home....she would not be eligible, correct? The children are with relatives who are now applying for benefits for them.

Answer: Yes, that is correct. There would be no eligibility since she doesn't have at least one child in the home.

8. Under which program (i.e. 71, 86...) is the PTF payment issued via DHS 437?

Answer: Effective November 1st, payments for new PTF clients will be a daily process. This means that adding the PT1 N/R will generate a payment that night. October payments must be issued by the branch. Subsequent months will be issued automatically during end of month processing.

For October, or any month in which a prior month PTF payment is needed, the payment can be issued via SPL or EBT. The DHS437 form should be completed and given to the financial clerk per branch procedure.

The payment is issued via SPL2 or WEBM,EBISS using pay reason A1. EBISS is the preferred method- it will make the benefits available immediately on the client's EBT card.

9. How often do we need to get a new 7823 completed? Do case managers just go over the same one and update or do they require clients to complete a new one yearly or with recert?

Answer: The 7823 can be completed yearly or anytime there is a need to complete a new one. It may be helpful to complete a new 7823 after a year to see how much has changed; however, going over the one in the file is also acceptable as long as all the questions are reviewed in an interview setting.

10. What if a client disagrees and believes they do meet an exception. Can they ask for a hearing and how would they know whether we coded them as having the exception or not?

Answer: Clients will be receiving letters that explain the new time limit policy and exemptions. Some clients might talk to you about time limits and whether they believe their time should not count. Clients do not have a right to request a hearing on whether or not we code their case with a hardship exemption. However, we can discuss with the client the reason why we are not "stopping the clock" and ask the client if there is more information that we have not considered.

If later we remove a client from the need group because the client exceeds the 5 year time limit and they do not have an exemption, the client has a right to a hearing regarding the reduction in benefits.

11. If a client who is JOBS Mandatory is in need of medical care that Medicaid does not cover, will the field be able to use the TLX exemption code?

Answer: Yes. When there is a health condition that affects the client's ability to obtain or maintain employment and the client's Medicaid does not cover it, the client can be coded TLX. We should refer the client to other resources in the community that could help in obtaining treatment.

12. When a client exhausts her 5 years, she doesn't have any exemptions and she continues to cooperate with JOBS in order to receive a child only grant BUT then stops cooperating. The client gets disqualified for not cooperating for a few months until they lose the grant. Are they able to, (for example 3 months later) re-engage and re-open their grant in order to get their child only grant back again?

Answer: Yes. As long as a client re-engages in her plan, she can continue to get a child-only grant. If she meets one of the exemptions to time limits she can get a full grant.

If you have a question you would like to see answered in this weekly message, please send it to linda.weight@state.or.us

If you have any questions about this information, contact:

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