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If you need Cash Assistance during the COVID-19 Crisis, you may be eligible for the Cash Assistance Program

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (“TANF”) Program gives families cash to spend on their basic needs. In Arizona, the TANF program is called the Cash Assistance Program. The Cash Assistance Program is run by the Arizona Department of Economic Security (“DES”). If you need Cash Assistance, you can apply today.

We prepared this handout to explain the cash assistance program. This is general information and does not discuss all situations. We will update this handout as more information is available during the COVID-19 crisis.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been changes to the Cash Assistance Program. Some of those changes are:

- During the pandemic, **there are no work requirements** for adults.
- During the pandemic, Arizona’s **time limit on how long you can get cash benefits is suspended.**

Who is eligible for Cash Assistance?

Low-income families with a minor child living with them are eligible for cash assistance. The general income guidelines are:

- 130% of the current federal poverty level for a family when the head-of-household is not the parent of the child and wants cash assistance only for the minor child. For a family of 3, this is \$2,311 per month.
- 100% of the current federal poverty level for all other families. For a family of 3, this is \$1,778 per month.

Do I have to meet any work requirements to get Cash Assistance?

No. Because of recent changes in state law, adults do not have to meet the cash assistance program's work requirements during the COVID-19 pandemic.

How long can I get Cash Assistance?

Recent changes in state law suspended the cash assistance time limits during the COVID-19 pandemic. Until the pandemic is over, you can get cash assistance for as long as you are qualified for the benefits.

How much can I get in Cash Assistance?

The amount of cash assistance benefits you can get depends on your situation. This could include the number of persons in your family, your income, and whether you pay for basic costs, such as rent, mortgage payments and property taxes. Please be sure to fill out the cash assistance application with as much information as possible, so you can receive the highest benefit payment.

DES will give you the cash assistance on an Electronic Benefit Transfer ("EBT") card that works like a debit card.

Is there a way I can get a one-time lump sum Cash Assistance payment?

Yes. Under Arizona's Grant Diversion Program, you may receive a one-time lump sum payment of cash assistance benefits. You may be eligible for the Grant Diversion Program, if you meet all of the following:

- Meet the cash assistance eligibility requirements
- Did not get cash assistance in the month you apply for Grant Diversion
- Did not get benefits through the Grant Diversion Program in the 12 months before you submit your application.

You cannot get Cash Assistance benefits and the Grant Diversion Program benefits at the same time.

How do I apply for Cash Assistance benefits?

- Submit an application online at www.healtharizonaplus.gov.
- Print an application from the Arizona Department of Economic Security's ("DES") website (https://des.az.gov/documents-center?cshs_field_dl_category_tid_forms=175). Fill it out and fax it to the telephone number on the application or mail it to:

Arizona Department of Economic Security
Family Assistance Administration
P.O. Box 19009
Phoenix, Arizona 85005-9009

- If you need help with the application or have questions, call 1-855-432-7587 for assistance Monday-Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

There are a few DES offices still open to the public. DES is only seeing a person in the DES office for an emergency when the person does not have internet or telephone service. Check the DES website to see if an office near you is open. www.des.az.gov.

Where can I find more information about Cash Assistance Program?

Arizona Department of Economic Security, *Apply for Cash Assistance*, available at <https://des.az.gov/services/child-and-family/cash-assistance>.

Arizona Department of Economic Security, *Grant Diversion Program*, available at <https://des.az.gov/services/child-and-family/cash-assistance/grant-diversion-program>.

Arizona Department of Economic Security, *DES Services Related to COVID-19*, available at <https://des.az.gov/services/coronavirus>.

AZLawHelp.org

What if I need help getting medical care or food?

There are other programs available to help you through these difficult times. You can apply for Cash Assistance, the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System ("AHCCCS") Medical Assistance and food stamps in the same time application. See the information above to apply.

What about Unemployment Insurance Benefits?

You can apply for unemployment insurance benefits:

- Online at www.azui.com and click the button “Apply for UI Benefits.” You can apply any time between 12:00 am on Sunday through 6:00 pm on Friday.
- By phone at 1-877- 600 -2722.
- A paper application is available in the documents center (UB-105 Arizona Initial Claim for Unemployment Insurance) at www.azdes.gov. The application will tell you where to mail or fax the application.

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