

# TANF GUIDE FOR FAMILIES

## TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)

Known as **Families First** in Tennessee, this federal program supports low-income families with children by providing monthly cash assistance payments and offering employment, education, and other critical services through state agencies and community grants.

### FAMILIES FIRST

Can provide:

- monthly cash benefits
- transportation and childcare costs
- counseling, mentoring, employment, or education assistance.

Participants receive an average of \$361 per month, loaded onto an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card. Eligible individuals can receive benefits for a total of 60 months (around 5 years).

### REQUIREMENTS

#### PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY PLAN (PRP)

Participants must follow a Personal Responsibility Plan (PRP) which sets rules for working, job training, childcare, child support, and education.

#### WORK ACTIVITY

Adults and minor parents in the household must satisfy a 30-hour per week work or educational activity requirement or qualify for an exemption.

### ELIGIBILITY FOR FAMILIES FIRST

To be eligible, a child under 18 must live in the home with a parent or caretaker relative. Eligibility depends on household income and size. The household income must be below the income limits below:

Household Size	Monthly Gross Income
1	\$1,806
2	\$2,535
3	\$2,866
4	\$3,241

### APPLICATION

Learn how apply for Families First online or by mail by visiting

<https://www.tn.gov/humanservices/families/families-first-tanf.html>.

You can also scan the QR code 



### PARTNERSHIPS

#### COMMUNITY GRANTS AND PILOT PROGRAMS

Community-based organizations receive grants from the TANF program to provide a range of services to low-income families.

TANF Opportunity Act Pilot programs also provide wraparound services and career development for low-income families. Even if you are not eligible for cash assistance, you may participate in the programs offered by one of these organizations, no matter where you live in Tennessee.

#### STATE AGENCIES

TANF funds go to state agency programs that address the needs of low-income families. Current funding partners include the Department of Labor & Workforce Development, the Department of Health, and the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse.