

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 \$381 per month from Families First. The cash benefit is 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)

Families First participants must agree to follow a Personal Responsibility Plan (PRP). The PRP sets out 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

For a household to be eligible for TANF, a child under 18 must live in the home with a parent or caretaker relative. Eligibility also 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

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

Organizations providing services:

<https://www.tn.gov/humanservices/tanf-opportunity-act/families-first-community-grant-partners.html>.

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.

