

## What do I need to apply for OWF?

To apply for OWF, you need:

- Proof of identity (driver's license or state ID)
- Social security number or proof that you have applied for your social security card
- Proof of income (pay stubs, tax records or child support notices)
- Proof of recent job loss, if applicable, including last pay date and gross income amount
- Child care/dependent care costs
- Child support paid for children who do not live with you
- Housing and utility costs
- You may also be asked to provide other documents. If you need help getting documents, be sure to tell you caseworker.



## What happens after I apply for OWF?

After the application a required interview is completed. Verifications will be requested. If benefits are approved, you can choose to receive your cash on an electronic benefits card or via direct deposit.

## Stark County Job & Family Services

### Human Services Division

221 3rd Street S.E.  
Canton, OH 44702

*Cash, Food, Medical Assistance  
Applications & Customer Service:*  
1.844.640.OHIO (6446)  
*Child Care:* 330.452.4661

### Children Services Division

402 2nd Street S.E.  
Canton, OH 44702

*Child Abuse/Neglect Report Line:*  
330.455.KIDS  
*Foster/Adopt:*  
330.451.8789

### Child Support Division

221 3rd Street S.E.  
Canton, OH 44702

*Customer Service:* 330.451.8930  
*Payment information:*  
[jfs.ohio.gov/ocs](http://jfs.ohio.gov/ocs)

### SCJFS Executive Offices

221 3rd Street S.E.  
Canton, OH 44702  
330.452.4661



[starkjfs.org](http://starkjfs.org)



revised  
04/20



# Ohio Works First Cash Assistance

## Human Services Division



**Stark County  
Job & Family Services**

# What is Ohio Works First?

Ohio Works First (OWF) is the financial assistance portion of the state's Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program. OWF provides cash benefits to needy families for up to 36 months.

# Am I Eligible for OWF?

Families with children who also meet a "gross monthly income test" may be eligible. Gross monthly income is income before taxes. This includes unearned income such as Social Security benefits, and earned income such as payment for work. Since 2018 the gross monthly income limit for a family of three has been \$866. The gross monthly income limit typically increases each year. If a family member works and pays for child care, the cost of child care may be deducted. Resources such as a car or home ownership are not considered when determining eligibility.

# What else do I need to know?

You should be aware of the following:

- Minor children living with guardians other than their parents may be eligible for "child-only" assistance, with no time limit.
- Women who are at least six months pregnant may be eligible for individual assistance.
- Unmarried minor parents and pregnant minors must be in approved, adult-supervised living arrangements, or must live with a parent, legal guardian, relative or legal custodian.

- Most adults and minor heads of household must participate in work activities. These include on-the-job training, community service and education directly related to employment.
- To receive benefits, adults and minor heads of household must sign a self-sufficiency contract. Failure to sign this contract without good cause can result in denial or termination of benefits, which would affect the entire family. The contract explains the participant's rights and responsibilities and what Stark County Job and Family Services will do to help the participant become self-sufficient.
- You may be asked to cooperate with Child Support if the other parent is not in the home and paternity is not established, or there is no Child Support order.

# Who is not eligible for OWF?

Assistance groups are not eligible if they include an individual who:

- Does not sign the self-sufficiency contract
- Does not comply with the terms of the contract
- Has income that exceeds the amount for the assistance group size
- Has received benefits fraudulently

Individuals not eligible include:

- Fugitive felons
- Probation/parole violators
- Individuals convicted for fraudulently misstating where they live to receive benefits

# If I qualify, how much will my monthly payments be

In 2019, the maximum OWF monthly payment for a family of three is \$497. Your monthly benefit is based on family size and income. Benefits are issued through the Ohio Pathway card (a pre-paid debit MasterCard) or deposited directly into a checking or savings account. The Ohio Pathway card can be used at MasterCard member banks, ATMs and any retailers that accept MasterCard.

# How do I apply for Ohio Works First?

You can submit your application in the following ways:

- Call 1 (844) 640-OHIO (6446). An audio signature will be required if applying by phone (preferred option).
- Online – [www.benefits.ohio.gov](http://www.benefits.ohio.gov)
- Paper application
- Fax signed application to (330) 451-8022 or (330) 451-8925
- In person, drop off signed application at our agency: 221 3rd St SE
- Mail your signed application to 221 3rd St SE, Canton, OH 44702

If you are unable to apply using one of the above, contact the agency at 330-451-8500 to request an application by US mail.