

# WHAT IS TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES?

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is a federal and State funded program run by the Department of Human Services (DHS), Benefit, Employment and Support Services Division. The program was first implemented in 1997 as a result of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996. There are four TANF purposes.

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## PURPOSE ONE

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*“To provide assistance to needy families”*

- + Direct cash payment to the family
- + Financial Counseling

All programs are subject to established eligibility criteria that will be explained to you by your DHS worker

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## PURPOSE TWO

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*“To end dependence of needy parents by promoting job preparation, work and marriage”*

TANF applicants and recipient are referred to the Department’s First-to-Work program to prepare for self-sufficiency.

An assigned case manager will help you reach your employment goals with any of the following activities and services:

- + Job Search and Job Preparedness
- + Subsidized/Unsubsidized Employment
- + GED Prep & Skill Training
- + Vocational Education
- + On-the Job Training
- + Child Care Subsidies
- + Transportation Assistance
- + Work-Related Expenses
- + Domestic Violence Services
- + Housing Placement Services
- + On-Going Counseling & Support



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## PURPOSE THREE

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*“To prevent and reduce out-of-wedlock pregnancies”*

DHS has partnered with a wide variety of community agencies to provide Hawai`i families with programs designed to help prevent teen pregnancies. These programs include:

- + After-School Programs
- + Youth Abstinence
- + Family Strengthening
- + Positive Youth Development

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## PURPOSE FOUR

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*“To encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.”*

Programs intended to teach the skills necessary to build strong families are made available by DHS and include:

- + Marriage/Couples Counseling
- + Home-Based Parenting & Family Counseling

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## WHERE TO APPLY?

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You may apply for TANF benefits at a Benefit, Employment and Support Services Office. Call the Public Assistance Information Line.

**643-16434**