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# Get Work First New Jersey

## What is Work First New Jersey?

Work First New Jersey (WFNJ) is the state's assistance program that provides cash and supportive services to eligible individuals and families in need.

Work First New Jersey:

- provides monthly cash assistance to meet your basic needs
- helps you get child support payments to care for your dependent children
- helps you secure employment and work toward self-sufficiency through job training, education and work activities
- supports you with child care, transportation and other support services, if needed
- provides additional support when you are nearing the 60-month lifetime limit of cash assistance benefits
- supports your transition to work by keeping your benefits the same the first month you get a job and phasing them out

Before you can receive cash assistance benefits, you must meet the eligibility requirements, including citizenship, resources and income, child support and work requirements. Read more about each of these requirements if they apply to you.

## What are the Eligibility Requirements for Work First New Jersey?

Citizenship 

Resources and Income 

Work Requirements 

Child Support and Child Support Collections 

## Ways to Apply

### Want to Screen Your Eligibility First?

Screening takes about 5-10 minutes to complete, and you will need to provide monthly income information.

[Check Now](#)

### Apply Online

It takes about 20-45 minutes to complete an application. You will need to provide details about your household income, resources and personal information.

[Apply](#)

### Apply in Person or by Mail

To apply in person download and complete application and bring, mail or fax to your [County Social Service Agency](#).

[Download Application](#)

### Did you know?

Seniors and individuals with disabilities can have a friend or family member (called authorized representative on the application) submit an application on their behalf either [online](#) or in person at the [County Social Service Agency](#).

## Application Process

### 1. Fill out an [application](#)

### 2. Have a phone or in-person interview

*In most cases, the county has 30 days after you turn in your application to determine if you will get TANF or GA. During the 30 days, the county will interview you. The interview will be either over the phone or in person. During the interview, the county will go over your application with you.*

### 3. Submit verification

You can upload your documents online at [MyNJHelps.gov](#). If you apply online, you will see the option during the application process. If you applied in person, you can link your case and upload documents.

## Proof Needed to Get Benefits

You will need the following for everyone in your household who is applying:

- A valid ID (i.e. driver's license, birth certificate, government ID)
- Proof of where you live (i.e. lease, rental agreement, utility bill)  
*\*Unless you are experiencing homelessness*
- Proof of earned income (i.e. paystubs, employer letter, recent tax records)
- Proof of unearned income (benefits award letter)
- Proof of resources (i.e. bank statements)
- Social Security Number
- Proof of immigration status (**for non-citizens**)

Even if you do not have everything on the list, you should still apply. An eligibility worker will send a letter with the documents you still need to submit for your family.

## Who Can Apply

- Any household member 18 or over
- Minor parents (under 18 with dependent child)
- Seniors and individuals with disabilities can have a friend or family member (called authorized representative on the application) submit an application on their behalf either [online](#) or in person at the [County Social Service Agency](#).

## How soon are benefits available?

- For most households, benefits are available within 30 days.
- However, based on your application, if you need help sooner, you may qualify for "immediate need" at the time of application.
  - Immediate need means that the household lacks shelter or is in imminent risk of losing shelter, essential utilities, food or clothing.
  - All households will be evaluated for immediate need at the time of application.

## Time Limits

Work First New Jersey is a time-limited program. You may receive up to 60 months of cash assistance during your lifetime.

When you get a job and stop receiving cash assistance, the "clock stops ticking" on your 60-month limit. Any time you have left will remain available to use for a future emergency. There are, however, certain situations in which you may qualify for continued cash assistance after 60 months.

## Work Activities

Since WFNJ is limited to 60 months, it is important to take the steps to gain training, skills, and work that's right for you. While you do that, you are eligible to receive help with expenses, such as transportation, child care, or other costs necessary for participating, such as uniforms, books or supplies.

- TANF recipients must participate in a work activity or job for 35 hours a week.
- GA recipients must participate in a work activity or a job for 30 hours a week.

You and a case manager will develop a plan to meet your needs and the requirement of the Work First program.

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