

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES FAMILY INVESTMENT ADMINISTRATION	TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE MANUAL	
MARYLAND'S TANF PROGRAM - 100	COMAR 07.03.03.00 - 07.03.03.26	TCA - 100

100.01 BACKGROUND

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) is the national welfare reform law that established the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. TANF is a block grant program that reformed the nation's welfare system by moving recipients from a system of entitlement and long-term dependency to short-term support during the quest for independence and self-sufficiency. TANF replaced the national welfare program known as Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). Each state was given flexibility to design its programs in ways that address its unique needs and circumstances.

100.2 TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE

Maryland's TANF program is known as Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA). The goal of TCA is to protect and support children and their caretakers by assisting families to become independent through work. The program requires applicants and recipients to seek employment and be involved in work activities from the date of the application for assistance. Family investment case managers must provide equal access to our programs for customers with disabilities and those who have limited English proficiency. In the course of their work with TCA families, case managers must interact with DHR's other administrations such as:

- The Child Support Enforcement Administration (CSEA)
- The Social Services Administration (SSA)

Families with minor children in the home may receive TCA for a total of 60 months (5 years) over the course of a lifetime. A family may apply for TCA when their available resources are not fully meeting the family's needs. Families may be eligible for assistance if they:

- Live in Maryland
- Are citizens of the United States or qualified immigrants
- Care for a related child or children in the home
- Are within the income and asset guidelines
- Provide all required verifications
- Cooperate with CSEA
- Participate in approved work activities
- Comply with substance abuse screening and treatment as required.

In the following chapters is an in-depth description of the Temporary Cash Assistance program as implemented by the state of Maryland.