



Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF Program)

What is the purpose of this service?

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program provides temporary financial assistance for pregnant women and families with one or more dependent children. TANF provides financial assistance to help pay for food, shelter, utilities, and expenses other than medical.

Who can receive these services?

To qualify for TANF, a person must:

- Be pregnant or have a child under age 19 who lives with them. A child who is 18 must be a full-time high school student. A pregnant woman (and her husband, if he lives with her) may qualify for help, even if they don't have any other children.
- Live in Illinois. You can be homeless and still qualify.
- Be a U.S. citizen or meet certain immigration requirements.
- Develop a plan for becoming self-sufficient and follow it.

What services are offered?

- Time-limited cash assistance for basic needs, such as food, clothing, housing, etc.
- Transitional services to help families become independent, such as GED preparation, vocational training, postsecondary education, vocational rehabilitation, classes in basic English, help with child care, work stipends, job retention services, etc.
- Screening for issues related to substance abuse, mental health, and domestic violence, and referrals for available services to address them.
- A person who gets TANF may also get medical assistance and Food Stamps.
- **HFS Medical Assistance** - DHS provides medical assistance on behalf of the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (DHFS), which administers the program. A family who receives TANF also receives a MediPlan Card that covers most medical needs.
- **Food Stamps** - If a family who receives TANF qualifies, DHS also provides them food stamp benefits.

How to Apply?

West Deerfield Township can assist or guide township residents through the application process.