

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

What is TANF?

TANF is cash for low-income families with kids.

Can I get TANF?

You can get TANF in D.C. if all of these things are true:

- You live in D.C.
- You're pregnant or care for children who are 18 or younger
- You earn less than the monthly maximum (see below)
- Your family has less than \$3,000 in cash or your bank account (less than \$4,500 if someone in your household is over 60)
- You're a U.S. citizen or fall into a different category (see below)

Household Size	Max Monthly Income*	Max Monthly Benefit
1	\$664	\$504
2	\$789	\$629
3	\$963	\$803
4	\$1,143	\$983
5	\$1,296	\$1,136
6	\$1,495	\$1,335

If you have TANF and get a job or start earning more money, you may still be able to keep your TANF. This amount goes up if you have childcare costs.

What do I need to do if I get TANF?

If you get TANF, you have to do two things:

1. You might have to do a work activity while getting TANF.
 - Work activities include: work, education, training, and job searching. If you don't do the work activity, your benefits might be cut.
 - You might not have to do a work activity if you:
 - Are disabled
 - Have a child under the age of 1
 - Are a survivor of domestic violence
 - Need to care for a family member at home
 - Don't have child care

2. If you're a parent, you have to help the DC government get child support from the other parent. You do not have to do this if going after child support could result in you or your child being hurt.

Can I apply if I don't speak English well?

Yes. The law says the government has to help you in your language. Just tell the agency what language you'd like to use.

Can I get TANF if I'm not a U.S. citizen?

Maybe. Some people who aren't U.S. citizens can get food stamps.

Even if you can't get food stamps, you can still apply for your children or other household members if their immigration category means they can get food stamps. You only have to write the immigration status of the people you're applying for. The government can't ask for more information.

How do I apply for TANF?

Step 1: Get your documents

You can apply for **all** public benefits, including food stamps, TANF, Medicaid, and D.C. Healthcare Alliance, **on the same application**. You'll need these documents. *Do not send the originals! Take a picture or make a copy.*



Photo ID



Social Security card
(if you have one)



Proof of income
(such as pay stubs)



Utility bill or other
proof of address



Birth certificates
of everyone in
your household

Step 2: Complete your application in one of five ways:

1. **In person:** Go to one of these ESA service centers. Ask for a receipt when you apply.

**Anacostia
Service Center**
2100 Martin Luther
King Jr. Ave. SE
(202) 645-4614

**Congress Heights
Service Center** 4001
South Capitol St. SW
(202) 645-4546

**H Street
Service Center**
645 H St. NE
(202) 698-4350

**Fort Davis
Service Center**
3851 Alabama
Ave. SE
(202) 645-4500

**Taylor Street
Service Center**
1207 Taylor
St. NW
(202) 576-8000

2. **Smartphone:** Download the **District Direct app** in the app store. Apply through your phone. Write down your confirmation number.
3. **Online:** Apply online through District Direct at districtdirect.dc.gov/ua Write down your confirmation number. Save a copy of what you submit.
4. **Mail:** Print the application at dhs.dc.gov/page/apply-recertify-benefits. Send in the application and copies of your documents to a Service Center (listed above). Keep proof that you mailed in your application. (This option isn't recommended.)
5. **Fax:** Print the application at dhs.dc.gov/page/apply-recertify-benefits. Fax the completed application to DHS ESA at (202) 671-4400.

After I apply, how quickly will I get a decision on my application?

Usually, the government has 45 days to process your application. If it takes longer, call an ESA service center listed above or contact Legal Aid DC. You'll get a notice in the mail or on the app telling you if your application was approved or denied.

I didn't get TANF or stopped getting it. What can I do?

You have the right to appeal. You need to appeal within 90 days of the notice that your food stamps were denied, cut off, or reduced. There are three steps to appeal.

1. Get the **appeal form** online at oah.dc.gov/node/154252
2. **Fill out** the appeal form
3. **File** the form in one of these ways (*always keep a copy of the form for yourself when you file*):
 - a. **Email** it to oah.filing@dc.gov
 - b. **Bring it in person** to the Office of Administrative Hearings at 441 Fourth St. NW, Suite 450N
 - c. **Mail** to the Office of Administrative Hearings at the address above (*This option isn't recommended*)

You might be able to keep your food stamps while waiting for your hearing. Ask for a hearing before the date your benefits get cut off or reduced (find this date on the notice). Say it's an emergency.