



**Ohio Works First (OWF)
provides cash benefits for
up to thirty-six months to
families in need.**

What is OWF?

OWF is the financial assistance portion of the state's Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program (TANF).

With OWF, you can receive a monthly cash benefit for up to thirty-six months. Your benefit will be based on family size and income. Benefits are issued through the WAY2GO card (a prepaid debit MasterCard) or deposited directly into a checking or savings account. The WAY2GO card can be used at MasterCard member banks and retailers, as well as ATMs.

The program is available to families with children who meet a gross monthly income test. Gross monthly income is your income before taxes. It includes unearned income, such as Social Security benefits, and earned income, such as payment for work. If a family member works and pays for child care, the cost of child care may be deducted. A car and homeownership are not considered when determining eligibility.

Stark County Job & Family Services

Division of Human Services

221 3rd St. SE, Canton, OH 44702
Cash, food, & medical assistance applications
Customer service: 1-844-640-OHIO (6446)
Child Care: 330-452-4661

Division of Children Services

402 2nd St. SE, Canton, OH 44702
Report child abuse and neglect: 330-455-KIDS
Foster care and adoption: 330-451-8789

Division of Child Support

221 3rd St. SE, Canton, OH 44702
Customer service: 330-451-8930
Payment information: JFS.ohio.gov/ocs

Executive Offices

221 3rd St. SE, Canton, OH 44702
Customer service: 330-452-4661

Visit our website at
StarkJFS.org



Ohio Works First Cash Assistance

Division of Human Services



Stark County Job & Family Services
221 3rd St. SE, Canton, OH 44702
Phone: 330-452-4661
StarkJFS.org

What do I need to apply?

To apply for OWF, you will need to prove the following materials

- Proof of identity (driver's license or state ID)
- Social Security number or proof you have applied for a Social Security card
- Proof of income (pay stubs, tax records, or child support notices)
- Proof of recent job loss, if applicable, including last pay date and gross income amount
- Proof of child care/dependent care cost
- Proof of child support paid for children who do not live with you
- Proof of housing and utility cost

You may also be asked to provide additional documents. If you need help getting documents, be sure to tell your caseworker.



How do I submit my application?

Submit an application in one of the following ways:

- **By phone:** Call 1-844-640-OHIO (6446). An audio signature will be required
- **Online:** Visit www.benefits.ohio.gov
- **By fax:** Fax application to 330-451-8022 or 330-451-8925
- **In person or by mail:** Drop off or deliver signed and completed application to our office at 221 3rd St. SE, Canton, OH 44702

If you are unable to apply using one of these methods, please call 330-451-8500.

Who is not eligible for OWF?

The following individuals are not eligible to receive benefits through this program:

- Fugitive felons
- Probation or parole violators
- Those who have been convicted for fraudulently misstating where they live to receive benefits

Assistant groups are not eligible if they include an individual who:

- Does not sign the self-sufficiency contract
- Does not comply with the terms of the contract
- Has an income that exceeds the amount for the assistance group size
- Has received benefits fraudulently

Additional Information

- Minor children living with guardians other than their parents may be eligible for “child-only” assistance, with no time limit.
- Women may be eligible for individual assistance at any state of their pregnancy.
- Unmarried minor parents and pregnant minors must be in approved, adult-supervised living arrangements, or must live with a parent, legal guardian, relative or legal custodian.
- Most adults and minor heads of household must participate in work activities. These include on-the-job training, community service and education directly related to employment.
- To receive benefits, adults and minor heads of household must sign a self-sufficiency contract. Failure to sign this contract without good cause can result in denial or termination of benefits, which would affect the entire family. The contract explains the participant's rights and responsibilities and what Stark County Job and Family Services will do to help the participant become self-sufficient.
- You may be asked to cooperate with Child Support if the other parent is not in the home and paternity is not established, or there is no Child Support order.



What to expect after you apply?

You are required to complete an interview as part of the application process. Verifications will be requested at that time. If OWF benefits are approved, you will have the opportunity to choose how you receive your cash: via electronic benefit card, or via direct deposit.