



RULE-MAKING ORDER EMERGENCY RULE ONLY

CR-103E (December 2017) (Implements RCW 34.05.350 and 34.05.360)

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: October 18, 2021

TIME: 10:02 AM

WSR 21-21-067

Agency: Department of Social and Health Services, Economic Services Administration

Effective date of rule:

Emergency Rules

- Immediately upon filing.
- Later (specify) October 28, 2021

Any other findings required by other provisions of law as precondition to adoption or effectiveness of rule?

- Yes
 - No
- If Yes, explain:

Purpose: The Department is extending emergency amendments to WAC 388-484-0006, TANF/SFA time limit extensions.

These amendments add a time limit extension hardship category [under 74.08A.010(5)(a)(1)] to support the Operating Budget: Senate Bill 5092 (Chapter 334, Laws of 2021) effective July 1, 2021, and a time limit extension hardship category to implement Second Substitute Senate Bill 5214 (Chapter 239, Laws of 2021) effective July 25, 2021 (90 days after session ended).

Citation of rules affected by this order:

- New: None
- Repealed: None
- Amended: WAC 388-484-0006
- Suspended: None

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 41.05.021, RCW 74.04.050, RCW 74.04.055, RCW 74.04.057, RCW 74.08.025, RCW 74.08.090, RCW 74.09.035, RCW 74.09.530, RCW 74.62.030.

Other authority: Senate Bill 5092 (Chapter 334, Laws of 2021), Second Substitute Senate Bill 5214 (Chapter 239, Laws of 2021)

EMERGENCY RULE

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds:

- That immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.
- That state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this finding: Families approaching and exceeding the 60-month lifetime TANF time limit will have access to benefits needed to sustain basic needs, thus this amendment is necessary to preserve public health, safety, and welfare. Observing requirements of notice and opportunity to comment would be contrary to the public interest.

These amendments also meet the implementation needs of the Operating Budget: Senate Bill 5092 (Chapter 334, Laws of 2021) and Second Substitute Senate Bill 5214 (Chapter 239, Laws of 2021).

The department filed a *Preproposal Statement of Inquiry* (CR-101) under WSR 21-13-126, *Proposed Rule-Making Order* (CR-102) under WSR 21-17-111, and a public hearing was held on September 21, 2021.

The current emergency filing is under WSR 21-14-031 and expires on October 27, 2021.

**Note: If any category is left blank, it will be calculated as zero.
No descriptive text.**

**Count by whole WAC sections only, from the WAC number through the history note.
A section may be counted in more than one category.**

The number of sections adopted in order to comply with:

Federal statute:	New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
Federal rules or standards:	New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
Recently enacted state statutes:	New	___	Amended	<u>1</u>	Repealed	___

The number of sections adopted at the request of a nongovernmental entity:

New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
-----	-----	---------	-----	----------	-----

The number of sections adopted on the agency's own initiative:

New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
-----	-----	---------	-----	----------	-----

The number of sections adopted in order to clarify, streamline, or reform agency procedures:

New	___	Amended	<u>1</u>	Repealed	___
-----	-----	---------	----------	----------	-----

The number of sections adopted using:

Negotiated rule making:	New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
Pilot rule making:	New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
Other alternative rule making:	New	___	Amended	<u>1</u>	Repealed	___

Date Adopted: October 18, 2021

Name: Katherine I. Vasquez

Title: DSHS Rules Coordinator

Signature:



WAC 388-484-0006 TANF/SFA time limit extensions. (1) What happens after I receive sixty or more months of TANF/SFA cash assistance?

After you receive sixty or more months of TANF/SFA cash assistance according to WAC 388-484-0005, you may qualify for additional months of cash assistance. We call these additional months of TANF/SFA cash assistance a hardship TANF/SFA time limit extension.

(2) Who is eligible for a hardship TANF/SFA time limit extension?

You are eligible for a hardship TANF/SFA time limit extension if you are on TANF, are otherwise eligible for TANF, or are an ineligible parent, and you have received sixty cumulative months of TANF and:

(a) You are approved for one of the exemptions from mandatory participation according to WAC 388-310-0350 (1)(a) through (d) or you are an ineligible parent who meets the criteria for an exemption from mandatory WorkFirst participation; or

(b) You:

(i) Are a supplemental security income recipient or a Social Security disability insurance recipient; or

(ii) Are at least sixty-five years old, blind as defined by the Social Security Administration or disabled as determined under chapter 388-449 WAC; or

(iii) Have an open child welfare case with a state or tribal government and this is the first time you have had a child dependent under RCW 13.34.030 in this or another state or had a child a ward of a tribal court; or

(iv) Are working in unsubsidized employment for thirty-two hours or more per week; or

(v) Document that you meet the family violence option criteria in WAC 388-61-001 and are participating satisfactorily in specialized activities needed to address your family violence according to a service plan developed by a person trained in family violence or have a good reason, as described in WAC 388-310-1600(3) for failure to participate satisfactorily in specialized activities; or

(vi) Are homeless by reason of hardship, including when your family includes a child or youth who is without a fixed regular, and adequate nighttime residence as described in the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (Title 42, U.S.C. 11434a(2), chapter 119, subchapter VI, part B) as it existed on January 1, 2020((-)); or

(vii) Are an active TANF recipient from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022; or

(viii) Do not qualify for other time limit extension criteria in this section and received TANF during a month on or after March 1, 2020, when the state's unemployment rate was at seven percent or above. The extension provided for under this subsection (2)(b)(viii) is equal to the number of months that you received TANF on or after March 1, 2020, when the state's unemployment rate was at seven percent or above.

(3) Who reviews and approves a hardship time limit extension?

(a) Your case manager or social worker will review your case and determine whether a hardship time limit extension type will be approved.

(b) This review will not happen until after you have received at least fifty-two months of assistance but before you reach your time limit or lose cash assistance due to the time limit.

(c) Before you reach your time limit or lose cash assistance due to the time limit, the department will send you a notice that tells you whether a hardship time limit extension will be approved when your time limit expires and how to request an administrative hearing if you disagree with the decision.

(4) When I have an individual responsibility plan, do my WorkFirst participation requirements change when I receive a hardship TANF/SFA time limit extension?

(a) Even if you qualify for a hardship TANF/SFA time limit extension you will still be required to participate as required in your individual responsibility plan (WAC 388-310-0500). You must still meet all of the WorkFirst participation requirements listed in chapter 388-310 WAC while you receive a hardship TANF/SFA time limit extension.

(b) If you do not participate in the WorkFirst activities required by your individual responsibility plan, and you do not have a good reason under WAC 388-310-1600, the department will follow the sanction rules in WAC 388-310-1600.

(5) Do my benefits change if I receive a hardship TANF/SFA time limit extension?

(a) You are still a TANF/SFA recipient or an ineligible parent who is receiving TANF/SFA cash assistance on behalf of your child and your cash assistance, services, or supports will not change as long as you continue to meet all other TANF/SFA eligibility requirements.

(b) During the hardship TANF/SFA time limit extension, you must continue to meet all other TANF/SFA eligibility requirements. If you no longer meet TANF/SFA eligibility criteria during your hardship time limit extension, your benefits will end.

(6) How long will a hardship TANF/SFA time limit extension last?

(a) We will review your hardship TANF/SFA time limit extension and your case periodically for changes in family circumstances:

(i) If you are extended under WAC 388-484-0006 (2)(a), (b)(i) or (ii) then we will review your extension at least every twelve months;

(ii) If you are extended under WAC 388-484-0006 (2)(b)(iii), (iv), (v), or (vi) then we will review your extension at least every six months.

(b) Your hardship TANF/SFA time limit extension may be renewed for as long as you continue to meet the criteria to qualify for a hardship time limit extension.

(c) If during the extension period we get proof that your circumstances have changed, we may review your case and determine if you continue to qualify for a hardship TANF/SFA time limit extension. When you no longer qualify for a hardship TANF/SFA time limit extension we will stop your TANF/SFA cash assistance. You will be notified of your case closing and will be given the opportunity to request an administrative hearing before your benefits will stop.