



RULE-MAKING ORDER EMERGENCY RULE ONLY

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

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

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STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: June 27, 2022

TIME: 12:44 PM

WSR 22-14-037

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

Effective date of rule:

Emergency Rules

- Immediately upon filing.
- Later (specify) July 1, 2022

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 amending WAC 388-484-0006, TANF/SFA time limit extensions.

The amendments extend a time limit extension hardship category related to impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic (commonly known as the "Coronavirus"), through June 30, 2023, as provided in the 2021-2023 Supplemental Operating Budget (Chapter 297, Laws of 2022); and implement a time limit extension hardship category related to the state's unemployment rate per House Bill 1755 (Chapter 24, Laws of 2022).

Citation of rules affected by this order:

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 Repealed: None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

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 74.04.050, RCW 74.04.055, RCW 74.04.057, RCW 74.04.770, RCW 74.08.090, RCW 74.08A.010, RCW 74.08A.015

Other authority: 2021-2023 Supplemental Operating Budget: Chapter 297, Laws of 2022 (Sec. 205 (1)(b)(iii)); and House Bill 1755: Chapter 24, Laws of 2022.

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 emergency adoption is necessary to preserve public health, safety, and welfare.

These amendments implement policies per the Supplemental Operating Budget (Chapter 297, Laws of 2022) and House Bill 1755 (Chapter 24, Laws of 2022), effective July 1, 2022.

The department is actively undertaking appropriate procedures to permanently adopt these amendments.

**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 1 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 ____ Repealed ____

The number of sections adopted using:

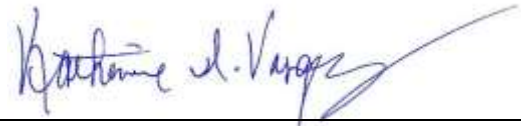
Negotiated rule making: New ____ Amended ____ Repealed ____
Pilot rule making: New ____ Amended ____ Repealed ____
Other alternative rule making: New ____ Amended 1 Repealed ____

Date Adopted: June 24, 2022

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)~~) 60 or more months of TANF/SFA cash assistance?

After you receive (~~(sixty)~~) 60 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)~~) 60 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)~~) 65 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)~~) 32 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)~~) 2023; or

(viii) Beginning July 1, 2022, are an active TANF recipient, when Washington state employment security department's most recently published unemployment rate is seven percent or above.

~~((viii))~~ (ix) 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)~~) Washington state employment security department's unemployment rate was at seven percent or above. The extension provided for under this subsection (2)(b) ~~((viii))~~ (ix) is equal to the number of months that you received TANF on or after March 1, 2020, when the (~~(state's)~~) Washington state employment security department'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~~) 52 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~~) 12 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.