



## TANF 604-2 Post-Employment Program

**Supersedes:** TANF 604-2 (7/8/22)

**Reference:** ARM 37.78.406 and .833

**Overview:** Households who lose TANF Cash Assistance eligibility due to new or increased earned income may qualify for the TANF Cash Assistance Post-Employment Program (PEP). Eligible households may receive PEP benefits for up to 12-consecutive months. PEP benefits do not count toward the allowable 60-month TANF lifetime limit.

PEP enrollment is automatic when TANF Cash closes due to new or increased earnings, but the client can opt-out at any time. Clients cannot receive TANF Cash and PEP in the same month.

Child Support collections continue during the PEP period, and the household is eligible to receive Child Support Supplemental Payments.

### **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:**

To qualify for PEP benefits, all the following criteria must be met:

1. Household received TANF in the closure month;
2. The household is losing TANF cash assistance eligibility (Income exceeds GMI and/or the Benefit Standard) due to new or increased earnings/self-employment of an assistance unit member who received TANF Cash Assistance benefits in the previous month (individuals serving a first sanction are considered assistance unit members).
3. New/increased earnings are reported and verified timely (unless good cause exists).
4. All TANF financial and nonfinancial requirements continue to be met; and
5. All Employability/Service Plan required individuals must maintain compliance with Employment and Training services while receiving PEP benefits.

### **ACTIVITY NEGOTIATION:**

PEP clients enrolled in state employment and training services are required to negotiate an employability plan (EP).

1. When required participation hours are met with verified employment, an EP must be negotiated, and employment must be verified as follows:

- a. PEP months 1 – 6: By 15<sup>th</sup> of first PEP month.
  - b. PEP months 7 – 12: By 15<sup>th</sup> of sixth PEP month.
2. When required participation hours are not met with verified employment, the individual must negotiate an EP with allowable activities sufficient to meet participation requirements and is subject to regular TANF case management requirements.

PEP clients enrolled in Tribal NEW employment and training are not required to negotiate an EP and may receive up to 12-consecutive months of PEP. Tribal NEW verifies employment hours.

**PEP BENEFITS:**

PEP clients receive a set benefit amount, which is not based on household size.

PEP Month	Benefit Amount
1-6	\$100/month PEP payment \$300 Work Pays Incentive in month 1
7-12	\$50/month PEP payment \$300 Work Pays Incentive in months 7 and 12

PEP benefits may be reduced to collect an outstanding TANF overpayment.

PEP clients may receive supportive services and TANF childcare.

**PEP and TRAINING:**

PEP clients may qualify for training monies while receiving PEP benefits. The client cannot reduce employment hours in order to attend training. Supportive Service dollars or contractor training budgets may be used to pay the training costs not to exceed \$5000.00, Supportive Services dollars exceeding \$1250.00 must be approved by Central office.

**INELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS:**

PEP is not available to households that:

1. Are serving an ineligibility period due to sanction; or
2. Have exhausted 60 months of TANF Cash.

**NON-COMPLIANCE; LOSS OF ELIGIBILITY:**

Failure to comply with PEP requirements results in case closure; sanctions are not imposed.

Households who lose PEP eligibility for any reason may transition back to TANF Cash Assistance. The household must make application for or access Unemployment Insurance when transitioning from the Post Employment Program (PEP) to regular TANF Cash. If the household doesn't request TANF Cash until after the effective date of PEP closure, a new application is required.

**Effective Date:** June 1,2023