



COMMUNITY JUSTICE PROJECT

May 12, 2020

Pennsylvania Announces a New Emergency Cash Assistance Program From May 11-June 12

The PA Department of Human Services (DHS) has announced a new Emergency Cash Assistance Program (ECAP) in response to the Coronavirus crisis.

This is a temporary program. **DHS will begin taking applications on May 11, 2020.** The program will run until June 12, 2020, depending on availability of funds.

Who is eligible for Emergency Cash Assistance?

- Pregnant women and families with a child under age 18
- Must have been employed as of March 11, 2020 and lost employment or hours/wages reduced by 50% for at least two (2) weeks due to COVID-19
- Resource Limit - \$1,000 – must be verified (bank statements - checking/savings)
- Earned and unearned income below 150% of the federal poverty level:

150% of Poverty			
Family Size	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$19,140	\$1,595	\$368
2	\$25,860	\$2,155	\$497
3	\$32,580	\$2,715	\$627
4	\$39,300	\$3,275	\$756
5	\$46,020	\$3,835	\$885
6	\$52,740	\$4,395	\$1,014

How much assistance can I get?

Those eligible will receive 2 times the TANF grant amount for a family of their size:

1 person	\$410
2 persons	\$632
3 persons	\$806
4 persons	\$994
5 persons	\$1178
6 persons	\$1340

Do normal cash assistance (TANF) rules apply?

No, this is a special program.

- **No interview requirement**
- **No work requirement**
- **No child support cooperation requirement**

How do I apply for Emergency Cash Assistance?

DHS will be using an ECAP-COVID 19 streamlined application. You can apply:

- Online at <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/COMPASS.Web/AFS/EmergencyCashAssistance> (Note that it may not be possible to access the Compass ECAP application by phone.)
- By downloading and mailing an ECAP-COVID 19 paper application <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Providers/Pages/Coronavirus-Citizen-Resources.aspx>
Application also available in Spanish

How soon my application be decided?

DHS says it hopes to decide applications within 10 to 15 days from the date of application

How will I get my benefit?

EBT Cards will be issued to eligible applicants and mailed to the applicant.

*Community Justice Project is a nonprofit legal aid program that provides
legal assistance at no cost to income-eligible clients*

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