

## About TANF

### Participants Can Get a Tax Break

Most TANF clients who are working qualify for a special tax benefit called an earned income credit. This can be in the form of a lump sum refund when income taxes are filed.

### If You Want to Move to Get a Job

DSS may be able to help TANF clients move if they cannot find a job where they now live because of closing of businesses, lack of entry level jobs or high unemployment.

### Employers Get Breaks Too

Employers gain when they hire TANF clients. They get good, eager employees who are willing to work. In addition, DSS offers special programs to employers.

**Work Experience** is a program designed to provide workplace training opportunities for TANF recipients while also providing employers a chance to observe prospective employee at no cost.

**On-the-Job Training (OJT)** is a program offered through DSS and reimburses employers up to 50 percent of a qualified trainee's gross wages for the period of the contract.

**Cost-saving** state and federal tax credits are available to employers who hire eligible TANF recipients.

# TANF



For more information,  
contact any DSS office.

**DSS**

**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
DEPARTMENT of SOCIAL SERVICES

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## Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)



*What it's all about.*

## About the Agency About the Agency About the Agency About the Agency

The South Carolina Department of Social Services is committed to helping people build better lives. Because of the changes in the welfare laws, DSS has become an agency that focuses on employment and training for its clients while maintaining its commitment to ensuring the well-being of the children and families it serves.



### About the Law

The South Carolina Family Independence (FI) Act of 1995 and the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996 are the two laws that govern the way DSS administers TANF in South Carolina.

### How It Works

#### Here's what happens when someone receives TANF:

The client and his/her DSS Family Success Coach develop and agree on a Family Plan for the client to follow. The plan outlines the steps the client and DSS must take to help the client become independent, while maintaining a safe and nurturing environment for the child(ren) and his/her family. The client receives an e-Pay debit card but must agree to participate in activities such as job search, job readiness, work experience, community service, OJT, and other training.

These activities are designed to identify and build upon the employment-related strengths and abilities of each client, so that clients can improve their chances of getting and keeping a good job. TANF clients may also participate in educational and

vocational training activities when necessary and appropriate.

The South Carolina Department of Social Services provides job development and placement services.

### DSS Helps in Other Ways

DSS offers child care and transportation assistance to participants who are involved with the TANF Work Program. DSS may also pay support services such as child care for a limited time for clients who go to work and leave the TANF roles.

### Don't Forget Child Support

People who apply for TANF benefits must give specific information about the absent parent of their child(ren) in order to help DSS collect child support. Identifying the absent parent and then locating that parent are two of the steps in that process. DSS will make every effort to collect child support for the child(ren) of clients participating in TANF.

### Special State Programs

DSS has special programs for two-parent families who receive TANF. DSS also has a special program for disabled individuals in families receiving TANF.