

## Families First Program Fact Sheet

### (Tennessee's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or TANF Program)

Families First, the state's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, is a workforce development and employment program. The Families First program emphasizes work, training, and personal responsibility. It is temporary and has a primary focus on gaining self-sufficiency through employment. The Families First program helps participants reach this goal by providing temporary cash assistance, transportation, child care assistance, education, job training, employment activities, and other support services.



#### How to apply:

People may apply for Families First benefits at their local Department of Human Services county office or by applying online using the Family Assistance (FA) Online application.

#### Who is eligible:

To get Families First, there must be a needy child present, and the household must meet the Families First income standards. The applicant must be a U.S. citizen or qualified legal alien and live in Tennessee. To maintain eligibility for the program, you must agree to follow a Personal Responsibility Plan (PRP).

#### How much can a person make and still get help?

To get Families First, your gross monthly income must be less than the Families First **Gross Income Standard** and within the **Consolidated Need Standard**. In other words, you will need to fit within two income tests to be eligible.

#### What services are available as part of the Families First Program?

Employment preparation and enhancement services such as vocational education, adult education, post secondary education, job skills training as well as supportive services such as cash assistance, child care assistance, family focused solutions, counseling and other supports.

#### What is a Personal Responsibility Plan?

The Personal Responsibility Plan is a document that says you will do certain things to support your family and move toward self-sufficiency including but not limited to:

- Maintaining child health checks, immunizations, school attendance and progress
- Work with Child Support Services to collect child support.
- Work with a work activity contractor or a vocational rehabilitation counselor and take part in work or training activities for 30 hours per week.
- You agree not to knowingly access your public benefits at any casino, gambling casino, liquor store, or adult cabaret. As of July 1, 2016 stores that derive most of their sales from tobacco products will also be included.

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**Tennessee Promise**— [tnpromise.gov](http://tnpromise.gov)

**Tennessee Reconnect**— [tnreconnect.gov](http://tnreconnect.gov)

#### For More Information:

Web: <http://www.tn.gov/humanservices/topic/families-first-tanf>

Phone: Family Assistance Service Center  
615-743-2000 (Nashville area)  
1-866-311-4287 (Toll free)

