

TRANSITIONAL FOOD STAMPS FACT SHEET

Congratulations! Your household is now eligible for Transitional Food Stamps.

What is Transitional Food Stamps?

Transitional Food Stamps (TFS) is a way for you and your household to continue getting food stamps after your Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits end. It is a special program for food stamp households leaving TANF due to employment.

If eligible you can get TFS for five (5) months. During this time you will get the same amount of food stamps each month. The benefits will not be less than the benefits you got the last month you received TANF.

What amount will I receive during the five (5) month period?

The TFS benefit amount is based on your household income, expenses and the number of people in the household for the month prior to the TANF case closure. This month is called the "Freeze Month". No new income or support payments are included in the benefit calculation.

The transitional food stamp benefit amount will stay the same for the next five (5) months.

What do you report?

Households do not have to report any changes while getting TFS. The only time a TFS benefit amount will change with-in the five-month period is if a Transitional Food Stamp member moves out and joins another food stamp household. The amount will change due to the change in the household size. The new benefit amount will remain the same for the remainder of the five-month benefit period.

What happens if you report a change?

You will need to reapply for food stamps if you have a change that will give you more food stamps. Your TFS benefits will end if you are eligible for more benefits using the new application. The TFS benefits will stay the same until the end of the five (5) month TFS period if the benefits will be less.

What happens after the five-month Transitional Food Stamp Period is over?

The TFS household will receive a notice that the five-month period will end and that they must complete a recertification for food stamp benefits. A face-to-face recertification interview must be completed to continue benefits. To avoid a gap in food stamp benefits the recertification must be completed during the last month the family is eligible for TFS. If the household chooses not to apply for regular food stamps, the case will close.

The Department of Family and Children Services is available to help with problems and answer any questions you may have about your TFS case. If you need help, please contact the Department at 1-877-423-4746.