

Get Help With Your Transportation Needs!

A new DHHS program, called the <u>Transitional Transportation (TT) Program</u> can help working families with transportation needs. This is a **new** program that is different from the Transitional Transportation program for families leaving the TANF program. It is available to people even if they are not receiving or have never received TANF.

If you are receiving TANF or transitioning off of TANF, there are <u>similar programs that</u> <u>can help you</u>.

Am I eligible?

You will qualify for this new program if you:

- Have **dependent children under age 18** in the Household (you do **not** need to be receiving or have ever received TANF)
- Are working at paid employment
- Are **traveling for employment-related reasons** (this can include dropping your child off at child care so that you can work)
- Are a U.S. Citizen or "qualified immigrant"
 - If you are an immigrant and have been denied this benefit, or want to know if you're eligible, please <u>contact Maine Equal Justice</u>
- Have gross monthly income equal to or less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for your family size (see chart <u>here</u>).

What can I get help with?

You can get reimbursement for mileage for work-related needs (money for gas based on the distance you traveled via **car** or **public transportation** or **carpooling** to/from work. This also includes reimbursement for trips to a child care provider.

Unfortunately, at this time, the program does **NOT** cover auto repair, vehicle registration, vehicle insurance, or other transportation expenses. There is another program that may help with these kinds of transportation expenses if you need them to get or keep a job. See more about Alternative Aid and how it might be able to help you <u>here</u>.

How much do I get?

This benefit is available for up to 18 months within a 36-month (or 3-year) period starting in the month you applied. The months you receive benefits do not need to be back-to-back.

You can get reimbursed at **46 cents a mile up to \$20 a day** (additional reimbursement is available for specially equipped vehicles used by people with disabilities).

Payments will be made to you on the first day of every month for travel costs that you will have in that month. You can provide an estimate for the number of days you work per week and DHHS will help you determine a monthly average. Payments will be issued on an EBT card.

How do I apply for this program?

Step 1.

There are three ways you can fill out an application - in person at one of the regional offices (see locations <u>here</u>), <u>online here</u>, or over the phone. The <u>online form</u> is in a fillable PDF format which can be electronically signed and <u>e-mailed</u>, mailed, or faxed to DHHS for processing.

You can also apply over the phone, and complete the application with a verbal signature.

Mail: Office for Family Independence State of Maine – DHHS, 114 Corn Shop Lane Farmington, ME 04938

Email: Farmington.dhhs@maine.gov

Phone: 1-855-797-4357 or Maine Relay 711 (TTY)

Fax: 1-207-778-8429

If DHHS determines your application is missing information, you will have at least 10 days from the date of the notice they send to you for you to provide the requested information to DHHS.

Step 2.

DHHS will send you a written decision within 30 days of receiving your application. If the decision is to deny the application, the notice of decision will tell you why they denied it.

If you do not agree with DHHS' decision/denial, you can appeal within 30 days. **You** can also <u>contact MEJ for help</u>!

Note: If your circumstances change while you are receiving this benefit, you should

report the change to DHHS as soon as possible. Some changes might include:

- Your employment ending
- A change in the distance you drive to work or to child care
- A change in the number of days you work per month
- If your family size changes (like a family member leaves the home)
- ✤ If your income increases above 200% FPL