



If you lost your job, you may be eligible for TANF benefits— even if you've already used 60 months of TANF eligibility

You may be eligible for this extension if:

- You worked for 12 months after you left the TANF program
- You became unemployed during the COVID emergency in the spring or summer of 2020
- You have not returned to work
OR
You went back to work in the summer of 2021 and after going back to work you lost your job through no fault of your own (see below for more information).

If this happened to you, you may be eligible for TANF and should apply for benefits.

Here is a more detailed explanation of what the law says:

Usually, you can only receive TANF for a maximum of 60 months.

There are exceptions to this.

One of the exceptions is this situation: after you have worked for 12 months, you lose your job through no fault of your own and you can't get unemployment benefits because you don't have enough earnings.

This is what the TANF rule says:

Loss of Job– The adult, or minor parent head of household, recipient who is terminated from TANF/PaS as a result of the time limit or end of an extension and subsequently becomes unemployed, may be eligible for an extension of up to six months when:

1. The recipient has been employed for at least 12 months following TANF/PaS closure;
2. The job loss was through no fault of the recipient; and
3. The recipient has applied for unemployment benefits and would be eligible except that (s)he has not worked for a sufficient length of time.

The extension will last for up to six months. Additional incremental extensions of up to six months each may be granted provided there is a break in TANF for at least 12 months between the two extension periods.

- I. **You worked for at least 12 months after you stopped receiving TANF.**
You do not have had to work for 12 consecutive months
You do not have had to work full-time
- II. **You lost your job through no fault of your own.**
This could include being laid off, being fired not for misconduct, or quitting your job because you became ill or lost your childcare or transportation.
- III. **You are not eligible for Unemployment Benefit due to a lack of earnings.**

Usually, in order to have enough earnings to receive unemployment benefits you would have had to work in the last 15 months. If you have been receiving unemployment benefits since June 2020 and have not gone back to work or only went back to work in summer 2021 and then lost your job, you probably do not have enough earnings to qualify for unemployment benefits. However, you may be eligible to receive TANF benefits.

You must apply for unemployment benefits and be denied due to lack of earnings.