

Work First Overview

Mission Statement and Goals: Work First is built upon the premise that all people have a responsibility to their families and communities to work and to provide for their children. Work First encourages personal responsibility, independence, increases self-esteem and promotes long-term family well-being. Work First guides families to self-sufficiency through services offered such as: Job Search Assistance, Registration through the Employment Security Commission, Child Support Enforcement, Supportive Services and Work First Benefits, if needed.

Basic Application Requirements:

- ✓ You must be 18 years of age or older to apply.
- ✓ You must have a child in your home who is under 18 or if age 18, will graduate by their 19th birthday.
- ✓ All children must be enrolled in school.
- ✓ Head of household must cooperate with child support.
- ✓ Must meet income guidelines.
- ✓ All Work First Participants mandated by policy are required to comply with substance abuse screening.

Services Provided by Work First:

Work First Benefits (WFB) - This includes individuals who are mandatory for employment services. They are required to complete 20-55 hours of job search or job search related activities each week. WFB is only for parents who are included on the case. It provides a monthly assistance check after the participant has completed all requirements. These are pay after performance cases. WFB cases are subject to time limits. A WFB recipient can receive a maximum of 60 months in a lifetime. These months follow a recipient from state to state. North Carolina has a 24 month time limit. A recipient can receive for 24 months in the state of North Carolina, then the participant must be off the program for 3 years before they can regain eligibility.

Child Only or Payee Cases -This includes grandparents, kinship cases, legal court ordered custody, SSI parents and parents who are ineligible due to their citizenship requirements.

Benefit Diversion- This is a onetime lump sum payment of up to 3 months of cash assistance checks to help families in a crisis. Families must be in a temporary situation and will reasonably expect income in the future to help provide for their family. Benefit Diversion can only be received 1 time in a year. Eligibility is considered on a case by case situation and offered at the discretion of the case worker.

200% Transitional Services/ Emergency Assistance (EA) - These are short term work related services to aide families so that they may maintain current employment. Examples of services that can be provided through transitional /EA services are: vehicle maintenance, gas to get to work, transportation, vehicle registration fees, taxes, uniforms, textbooks, etc. Services are limited to 2 times per year and cannot exceed more than \$300 per occurrence.