Where do I apply?

For more information, including TANF application assistance, contact a DSS or DLR job service office in your area.

The Department of Social Services does not exclude, deny benefits to, or otherwise discriminate against any person on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, gender identity, sexual orientation or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its programs, activities, or services. For more information about this policy or to file a Discrimination Complaint you may contact: Discrimination Coordinator, Director of DSS Division of Legal Services, 700 Governor’s Drive, Pierre, SD 57501, 605.773.3305.
What is TANF?

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is a program for families with children under the age of 18 (or under 19 if the child is in high school) who have little or no income and are deprived of a parent. Deprivation could include having a parent who is:
✓ Deceased
✓ Absent from the home
✓ Physically or mentally incapacitated
✓ Unemployed

Families with serious financial needs may qualify for TANF monthly cash payments.

The TANF payment is based on who lives with the family, who is eligible in the household, and other income and resources available to the family.

Opportunities and Choices

Employment specialists work with parents receiving TANF to:
✓ Explore unique skills, interests and challenges
✓ Build on strengths
✓ Learn new skills to achieve goals
✓ Arrange additional training such as:
  • GED/High School diploma
  • English as a Second Language
  • On-the-Job Training
  • Work Experience

✓ Get referrals to address issues such as:
  • Mental health
  • Addiction
  • Domestic Violence
  • Learning disabilities

✓ Address challenges to finding and keeping employment, such as:
  • Child care
  • Transportation
  • Work equipment or clothing

Employment specialists work with parents to help develop personal responsibility plans to become self-sufficient and employed.