Where do I apply?

The TANF application process has two components:

- The **work** component is handled by employment specialists within DLR job service offices across the state, and DSS offices in reservation areas.
- The **eligibility** component is handled by benefits specialists within DSS.

Participation in a work or training activity is not required for:

- Dependent children under 16 years old, or in high school full time;
- Single parents taking care of a baby under 12 weeks old; or
- Individuals approved to receive Social Security Disability or Supplemental Security Income, or veterans who have 100 percent disability.

Contact Us

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

**Department of Social Services**
Phone: 605.773.4678
Email: TANF@state.sd.us
Online: [dss.sd.gov/economicassistance/tanf/](http://dss.sd.gov/economicassistance/tanf/)

**Department of Labor and Regulation**
Phone: 605.773.3101
Online: [dlr.sd.gov/localoffices/job_search_tools/other_programs.aspx#tanf](http://dlr.sd.gov/localoffices/job_search_tools/other_programs.aspx#tanf)

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.

Partnerships that Make a Difference
TANF is administered by the Department of Social Services (DSS) to help South Dakota families meet basic needs while gaining knowledge and skills to improve their employment opportunities.

DSS partners with the Department of Labor and Regulation (DLR) to deliver the work component of the program in DLR service areas.

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
  • Job-related Education
  • Vocational Training/College

✓ 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.