

Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund Talking Points

What is the Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund?

The Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund was created to provide additional assistance to low-income families with eligible children during the COVID-19 pandemic. PEAFF is a one-time cash payment for certain households with minor children. To qualify, families with minor children must be active on and receiving benefits from at least one of the following programs during May 2024:

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- State Family Assistance
- Basic Food
- State Food Assistance Program
- Transitional Food Assistance

Additionally, families receiving these benefits must have income at or under 75% of the 2022 Federal Poverty Level for their household size in that same month and must not have already received PEAFF.

How much is the PEAFF benefit?

The benefit amount is \$22 per eligible child. An eligible child is one who received cash or Basic Food benefits for May 2024.

How do I apply for PEAFF?

You don't. There is no application. This one-time cash payment will be issued automatically to eligible households for May 2024.

How will I know if I am eligible?

Eligible families will get a PEAFF approval letter including DSHS form [14-520](#), explaining the approved usage of food and cash benefits.

Why did I get this payment?

Our records show your household received cash assistance or had income at or under 75% of the 2022 Federal Poverty Level for the month of May 2024. Your household also included minor

children who received cash or Basic Food benefits but did not already received a PEAFF payment.

How often will I get this payment?

It will occur only once. PEAFF is a one-time cash payment. A child who received a PEAFF payment in May 2022 will not qualify for any additional PEAFF payment.

How will I receive this payment?

- If you receive cash assistance, you will receive PEAFF in the same way (EBT card, Electronic Funds Transfer or paper check).
- If you receive food assistance but not cash, it will be added to your EBT card.
- The payment will be issued May 1, 2024 or the day after a new eligible child is added to the TANF or Basic Food case.

What can I spend these funds on?

The funds can be used just like cash. Your approval letter contains DSHS form [14-520](#), which explains the limitations on how you can spend cash benefits.

Will these funds affect my other benefits?

As a one-time payment, PEAFF is unlikely to affect other cash or medical assistance benefits. An exception could be if you save the benefit but do not spend it immediately, the saved benefit could put you over the resource limit for the other programs.

What if a child moved into my home after receiving the payment in another household? Will I get a PEAFF payment for them?

No. Only a qualifying child who has *not* already received PEAFF will be eligible for this one-time payment. A child cannot receive the payment in two different households.

My child is currently living with my mom. We are both receiving a TANF grant for my child while I work with Department of Children, Youth and Families. Since my child is on TANF in both households, would we each get a PEAFF payment?

No. Only a qualified child who has *not* already received PEAFF will be eligible for this one-time payment. In this circumstance, the benefit would only go to the household where the child is currently residing.



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I only receive TANF for a child in my household and I'm not included. Is the child eligible for this payment?

Yes, a child receiving child-only TANF is potentially eligible for this payment. In these cases, our system would be looking to see if the child meets all the criteria including not already receiving a PEAFF payment in May 2022.

Why didn't my family qualify for PEAFF?

Families do not qualify for PEAFF if at least one of the following is true:

- They did not receive cash or Basic Food in May 2024.
- They do not have a qualifying minor child in the home.
- Their income is over 75% of the 2022 Federal Poverty Level.
- Their minor child already received a payment in another household.
- Their minor child already received a payment in May of 2022.

What else should I know about PEAFF benefits?

- The one-time PEAFF payment is only available through May 8 or until the program runs out of funding, whichever takes place first.