

## Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund – April 2022

### 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 ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. PEAFF is a one-time-only cash payment for certain households with minor children. In order to qualify, families with minor children must be active on and receiving **at least one** of the following benefits in the month of May 2022:

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

Additionally, they must have income at or under 75% of the Federal Poverty Level in that same month.

### How do I apply for the Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund?

There isn't an application. This one-time cash payment will be issued automatically to eligible households (assistance units for TANF/SFA, Basic Food/FAP or TFA) for May 2022.

### How will I know if I am eligible?

Once approved, 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?

According to our records, for the month of May 2022, your household had income at or under 75% of the federal poverty level, and your family included minor children who received cash or Basic Food benefits.

### How often will I get this payment?

Just once. The Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund is a one-time-only cash payment.

### How did DSHS decide my payment amount?

The benefit amount is \$127 per eligible child in the assistance unit. An eligible child is one who is under age 18 and received cash or basic food benefits for May 2022.

### How will I receive this payment?

- If your household receives food assistance but not cash, it will be added to your household's Electronic Benefits Transfer account.
- If your household receives cash assistance, it will follow your current cash payment issuance method of EBT, Electronic Funds Transfer or check.

### What if my family was eligible for May benefits, but my benefits weren't processed until after May?

Our eligibility system will automatically check daily for newly eligible households who haven't received the payment for May 2022 and will issue the one-time payment.

### What can I spend these funds on?

The funds can be used broadly – to pay for living expenses such as shelter, fuel, food, transportation, clothing, home maintenance, personal hygiene and employment related expenses. 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 won't generally affect other cash or medical assistance benefits.

The one unusual exception would be if you save the benefit and don't spend it immediately, and the saved benefit puts you over the resource limit for the other programs.

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

No, per WAC 388-436-0065, only a qualified child who has *not* already received the payment 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 (concurrent benefits) for my child while I work with DCYF. Since my child is on TANF in both households, would we each get a PEAFF payment?

No, per WAC 388-436-0065, only a qualified child who has *not* already received the payment 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.

### Why didn't my family qualify for the Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund?

According to our records, you:

- Didn't receive cash or basic food in May 2022.
- Don't have a qualifying minor child in the home.
- Have income over 75% of the Federal Poverty Level.
- Your minor child already received a payment with another household.



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## Where can I find more information on Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund?

- [ESA Policy changes in response to COVID-19](#)
- [WAC 388-436-0065](#) “What is the pandemic emergency assistance fund (PEAF)?”
- [EAZ manual Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund](#).