

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

What is Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)?

TANF helps families support themselves while they are entering or re-entering the workforce. TANF is available to families of children who are:

- Under age 18, or if 18, ready to graduate from high school before age 19
- Attending school regularly if between the ages of 5 and 18
- Living with a parent or other relative
- US citizens or eligible immigrants

How does it work?

The TANF program provides families with a monthly cash payment to be used to meet their basic needs. Those who receive TANF must be involved in work activities no later than 24 months after their first TANF payment, and cannot receive TANF for another 24 months thereafter.

How does one apply?

- Submit an application to the Fairfax County Department of Family Services.
 - Visit the Fairfax County Department of Family Services.
 - Call the Fairfax County Department of Family Services and ask that an application be mailed to you.
 - Print out the [TANF application](#) found on the Virginia Department of Social Services website.

Note: You may need to be interviewed by an eligibility worker, depending on the type of assistance requested.

Contact Information

Fairfax County Department of Family Services

Pennino Building – Human Services Center

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Suite 232

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