



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Crisis Assistance Programs

Families dealing with job loss or other impacts from COVID-19 have access to two types of TANF cash assistance that may help - **Diversions Assistance and TANF-Emergency Assistance.**

Diversions Assistance (*for families not currently receiving ongoing TANF assistance*)

- Provides one-time assistance to families to pay for emergency needs. This includes food, basic needs, housing and utility expenses, medical expenses, transportation, etc.
- There must be a loss of income, reduction of income, or delay in receiving income.
- The family must include a dependent child and meet income and other requirements.

TANF-Emergency Assistance (*for families currently receiving ongoing TANF assistance*)

- Provides one-time assistance of up to \$500 for families that have experienced a fire or natural disaster. *Note: COVID-19 is considered a disaster.*
- The family must include a dependent child and meet income and other requirements.

To apply for Diversions Assistance or TANF-Emergency Assistance:

- Screen for eligibility and/or apply for TANF online through [CommonHelp](#); or
- Fill out an [Application for Benefits](#) and return it to the [local department of social services](#).
- Applicants will be contacted by the local department of social services about their application. During this phone interview, the applicant should explain that they wish to apply for Diversions Assistance or Emergency Assistance.