

## Attending School

**Q.** Will I get a penalty if I don't go to school?

**A.** YES. If you are a parent who is under 18 and you don't work to complete high school or get your GED, your TANF benefits will be reduced by about \$369. This penalty lasts until you return to school, earn your diploma, or complete your GED. If you have a good reason for not going to school, talk with your case manager as soon as possible.

## Fair Hearings

**Q.** What if I disagree with getting a penalty?

**A.** If you get a penalty and do not agree with it, you can ask for a Fair Hearing. You may ask for a hearing in person, over the phone or in writing.



### FSSP — Family Self-Sufficiency Plan

Following this plan will help you get a job and earn income so your family will no longer need support from the TANF Program. You will set realistic goals for your family's progress, and plan activities that will move you toward your goals.

**You must plan now for the future, as well as for your family's future.**

*The Tribal TANF Program supports your efforts to support your family.*

*A variety of resources are available to you through various programs.*

*These resources combined with your efforts, will help you to become independent and self-sufficient.*



**Bristol Bay Native Association  
Workforce Development  
Tribal TANF Program**

P.O. Box 310  
Dillingham, AK 99576

Phone: 1-888-285-2262  
Fax: 907-842-1293  
[www.bbna.com](http://www.bbna.com)

**New Stuyahok Office:**

1-888-288-3198

**Manakotak Office:**

(907) 289-1024

**Togiak Office:**

1-877-493-5004

**Your Best Bet...**  
**AVOID the Penalty**

Questions & Answers  
About Temporary Assistance  
Penalties and Benefit Reductions

**October 2008**

## Tribal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program

The TANF Program provides assistance to all eligible families or caretaker relatives living within the Bristol Bay Region. The TANF program is here to help families find work and become self-sufficient.

Your efforts to gain employment, prepare for work, and get child support show that you are helping yourself to reach self-sufficiency.

*\*Penalties can be applied when you choose not to participate or follow program rules.\**

### Temporary Assistance Penalties

**Q.** What is a Temporary Assistance Penalty?

**A.** If you choose not to follow your plan for self-sufficiency, look for work or cooperate with child support enforcement rules, a progressive penalty may be applied. This means that the longer you choose not to follow program rules, the more severe the penalty.

- 1st month: 40% benefit reduction
- After 4 months: 75% benefit reduction
- After 8 months: Your TANF case may close.

**Q.** What if I have a good reason?

**A.** If you have a reason for not following the program's rules, a penalty may be avoided. Some examples may be illness, lack of transportation or child care, or threats to you and your family's safety. Please discuss your situation with your case manager right away.

At times you may have good reasoning behind not following program rules.

**REMEMBER:** Always contact your case manager to explain what has happened. It's your Best Bet!

### Self-Sufficiency Plan & Work Activities

**Q.** What if I don't complete or follow my FSSP, or complete other Work Activity assignments or Training?

**A.** Establishing and following your FSSP is the best way your family can become independent. If you choose not to create or follow your plan, or choose not to do your work or training activities, your TANF benefits may be reduced or terminated.

Always talk with your case manager right away when you are not able to complete Work Activities or other requirements.

**Q.** How long do the FSSP and Work Activity penalties last?

**A.** FSSP and work activity penalties last until you again choose to follow program rules. At any penalty level, your family's TANF benefits will be restored when you follow through with your plan, and participate in work or training activities.

The months you are penalized count toward your family's 60 month limit on Temporary Assistance.

## Child Support

**Q.** What happens if I don't cooperate with the Child Support Services Division (CSSD)?

**A.** Receiving regular and reliable child support payments is an important step toward self-sufficiency. If you choose not to cooperate with CSSD in pursuing child support, your family's TANF benefit may be reduced or terminated. In addition, the adults in your family may not be eligible for Medicaid.

This penalty lasts until you cooperate with CSSD. If you have a good reason for not cooperating with CSSD, talk with your case manager right away.

### Quitting or Cutting Back Work Hours

**Q.** What if I don't take a job offer, quit the job I have, or cut back on my hours?

**A.** If you choose to quit or refuse work with out a good reason, you and your family may not receive any help. The TANF Program provides temporary help until you can find work and become self-sufficient. If you choose not to work, your family will not be eligible for TANF.

**Q.** How long do job refusal, quit, or reduction penalties last?

- A.**
- **1st time:** No benefits for 1 month
  - **2nd time:** No benefits for 6 months
  - **3rd time:** No benefits for 12 months