

## For More Information, Call the Legal Aid In Your Community.

Legal Hotline open Monday to Friday  
9:00am to 11:30am  
1:00pm to 3:30pm

Oahu call 536-4302  
Maui call 242-0724  
Hilo call 934-0678  
Kona call 329-8331  
Kauai call 245-7580  
Molokai call 553-3251  
Lanai call 565-6089

Visit our Web site: <http://www.legalaidhawaii.org>

### Remember:

This brochure is meant to give you general information and not to give you specific advice about your case.

The law often changes. Each case is different.

If you have problems or questions about AFDC, call our hotline.



**Legal Aid  
Society  
Of Hawai`i**

## AFDC Facts

### WHAT IS AFDC?

AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) is a financial assistance program to help families that have children living with them. AFDC is distributed through the Department of Human Services (DHS). Sometimes it is also called TANF, TAONF, AFDC-F, AFDC-S, or PONO. Families on AFDC will receive a cash amount depending on the amount of people in the household. Families will also be automatically enrolled in QUEST medical program.

## **I. Can I get AFDC for my children?**

Yes, you may be able to get AFDC if you meet certain requirements:

- You have children under the age of 19 living with you; AND
- Your family income (before deductions) is below limits set by the government. For example, the limit in 2001 for a family of 4 is \$2,544; AND
- You have no more than \$5,000 in the bank or other assets. One car is automatically exempt no matter what the value.

## **II. Can both parents live in the home?**

Yes, but if your household is not an exempt household, the adult(s) will have to participate in work activity as required by the welfare office.

## **III. My husband can't work and is waiting to hear about his disability case. Can our family get AFDC?**

Yes. The state AFDC program has some exceptions for families who cannot meet the work requirements. Some examples of the exceptions is to give benefits to eligible families where one parent is disabled and can't work OR if the parent must take care of the children for a medical reason.

## **IV. Can I get AFDC for my grandchild?**

Yes. Grandparents, aunts, uncles, sisters, brothers, and some other relatives can get AFDC for children they are taking care of as long as they meet all the other AFDC rules. You don't have to have legal custody papers to get AFDC. Talk to your worker for more information.

## **V. Can I get AFDC if my boyfriend lives with me?**

Yes. The amount of benefits you get will depend on whether or not he is the father of your child(ren). Also, if your household is not an exempt household, you will have to follow work requirement rules.

## **VI. Will I get medical benefits if I get AFDC?**

Yes. You can get QUEST even if you don't get a monthly AFDC check. DHS doesn't issue AFDC benefits of less than \$10.00, but you will still get QUEST coverage. If you lose AFDC because you get a job, a raise, or child support, you can keep getting QUEST for a few months.

## **VII. Where do I go to get AFDC?**

You need to apply at your local Benefit Employment and Support Services Division of the Department of Human Services (DHS).

## **VIII. What should I take when I go to DHS?**

The AFDC application is more than 11 pages long so be prepared to spend some time filling it out. If you have problems with the questions, you can have a DHS worker help you.

Be sure to take the following with you:

- Proof of identity for you and any children under 19 years old. Bring birth certificates if you have them.
- Social Security cards for you and any children under 19 years old. If the children do not have Social Security numbers, you will have to get them.
- Paycheck stubs from any job you have.
- Bank books, insurance policies, and deeds to any property you own.
- Business records if you own a farm or business.
- Names and phone numbers of people DHS can contact to check on your information.

If you don't have the documents you need, DHS should help you get any information you need to fill out the application.

## **IX. What happens after I apply for AFDC?**

DHS must either grant you benefits or turn you down in writing within 45 days from when you apply. AFDC benefits are distributed through Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) accounts that you access with an EBT card and a PIN number.. DHS must let you sign an application the first time you come into the office. That is the date that counts, even if you have your interview later.

If they turn you down, you will have 90 calendar days from the DHS notice mailing date to appeal DHS's decision and request a hearing where you can try to prove why you should get AFDC. Legal Aid can give you information on the appeal process.

**Call Legal Aid for more information.**