

KENTUCKY WORKS PROGRAM

The Kentucky Works Program (KWP) is designed to assist eligible low-income families with a child living in the home to achieve self-sufficiency by assisting program participants in obtaining education, training, experience, and employment. KWP is available through the Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) in all 120 counties. Recipients of the Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (KTAP) are required to participate in KWP each month to continue getting benefits.

If you get KTAP, you must participate in KWP, unless you are exempt. You may be exempt if you are:

- 18 years or older and are caring for a child under 12 months of age. The longest you can use this reason is 12 months in your lifetime. The 12 months do not have to be used all at once. You may save some months for future use.
- A parent who must care for a disabled family member living in your home;
- Getting Social Security disability benefits due a permanent disability;
- Under 18 years old and have a child less than 12 weeks old, you may choose not to participate. Once the child is 12 weeks old, you will have to attend school to meet your participation requirement unless you have a high school diploma or GED.

You and a case manager will work together to choose the KWP activity that best meets your participation goals.

Some types of KWP activities may include but are not limited to:

- Employment;
- Job Readiness Training;
- Volunteer programs for a nonprofit agency;
- Vocational/Educational Training;
- Caring for a child or children for another KWP participant;
- If you are 18 or 19 and do not have a diploma, you can go to high school or work on a GED.

There are other activities you may do to get ready for work such as:

- Domestic Violence Programs;
- Substance Use Programs;
- Mental Health and Counseling;
- Life skills training to help you learn to plan a budget, plan your day, dress for work, or resolve problems;
- Vocational rehabilitation; or
- Literacy or adult education to get ready to work on a GED.

You may temporarily be excused from KWP participation if you meet one of these reasons:

- You are a survivor of domestic violence and participating can put you in danger;
- You have a physical or mental limitation;
- You are a single parent with a child under 6 years old and cannot find close or affordable child care;
- You lose your child care and it is not your fault;
- You cannot find child care to meet the special needs of your child;
- You cannot find dependent care for an incapacitated individual living in your home;

- You are incarcerated or institutionalized for 30 days or less; or
- You must travel more than 3 hours a day to participate.

If you need help to participate in an activity, talk with your case manager so you can work together to meet your participation needs.

There are supportive services available to help you with some expenses that may be needed to participate. These include:

- Transportation expenses;
- Child care expenses;
- Fees for drug tests, criminal record checks, testing fees, licensing fees, and more;
- Uniforms or clothing needed for a job or KWP activity;
- Tools required for a job;
- Driver's education classes;
- Supplies and books needed for school or training programs;
- Vehicle repair expenses;
- Liability insurance;
- Vehicle registration, license fees, vehicle property tax;
- Other vehicle expenses identified as needed to help you take part in KWP activities;
or
- Vehicle repairs that make the vehicle run safely. Labor is paid only to a reliable garage or vocational school auto program.

Call a DCBS Case Manager toll free at 1-855-306-8959 to request information about supportive services that may be available to you.