

Baltimore City Community Resources

Call 2-1-1 for information on food banks, energy assistance and other resources near you

Health Care for the Homeless

421 Fallsway, Baltimore, MD 21202
410-837-5533

Housing navigators can assist in applying for housing. Housing navigators are at three Pratt Libraries for walk in between 11am to 3pm on the following days:

Cherry Hill Branch

(443) 835-0764
Monday and Wednesday

Walbrook Branch

(443) 615-1232
Tuesday and Friday

Waverly Branch

(443) 546-6157
Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday

Mayor's Office of Homeless Services

(443) 984-8713

Baltimore City Shelter Hotline

443-984-9540 to connect with emergency shelter for the night.

CONTACT US

**Would you like to request free
legal representation?**

PUBLIC **JUSTICE** CENTER



(410) 625-9409

www.publicjustice.org

This brochure is provided for informational purposes only and does not act as legal advice. This information is not a substitution for a careful review of your individual situation with an attorney. Revised 8/31/25.



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Temporary Cash
Assistance (TCA):
Time Limit & Hardship
Exemption



PUBLIC **JUSTICE** CENTER



What is the time limit?

Under TCA law, a family can *only* receive TCA for a **total of 60 months**. A family can receive TCA for **more than 60 months if the family is experiencing a hardship**.



What months do not count towards the 60-month time limit?

Under the law, some months you received TCA count and some months do not count toward the 60-month time limit.

Here are months that **DO NOT** count:

- If you were experiencing domestic violence or family violence and receiving counseling.
- If you were part of a household that received TCA but you were not the parent (for example, you were the child)
- If you were living with a disability while receiving TCA and received Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits, and the state repaid itself using TCA funds.
- Any months that you worked, received both TCA and employment earnings.

What is a “hardship?”

A hardship is when a person was unable to get a job or keep a job due to circumstances beyond their control, despite their efforts.

Some examples of hardships are:

- Homelessness
- Disabilities
- Domestic Violence

These are not the only examples of hardship. There are more circumstances that can be considered.

DSS should not close a TCA case without first doing an assessment with you to see if your family is experiencing a hardship.

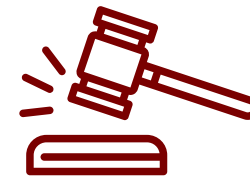
Before a TCA case closes due to the 60-month time limit, DSS is required to:

- Schedule a meeting with you to conduct an assessment to determine if your family is experiencing a hardship and can continue to receive TCA beyond the limit.
- You can call the Baltimore City Work Activity number at (443) 423-4300 to reschedule an appointment or let DSS know you need a phone-appointment instead of in-person.

Can I reapply for TCA if I already received it for 60-months?

Yes. You may reapply for TCA at anytime and can be given a hardship exemption in the future, even if you received TCA for 60 months in the past.

Remember, not all months count towards the 60-month time limit!



Any decision DSS makes can be appealed by requesting a hearing.

Some examples of decisions you can appeal:

- DSS determination that a person has reached their 60 countable months.
- A case closure due to reaching maximum 60-month time limit.
- DSS determination that the family does not qualify for a hardship exemption.

You have 90 days to file an appeal after DSS takes action or the date of the DSS notice, whichever is earlier.