



TANF 901-1 Payment Methods

Supersedes: TANF 901-1 (1/1/18)

Reference: ARM 37.78.424; MCA 17-8-303 and 17-8-306

Overview: TANF cash assistance can be received one of three (3) ways; warrant, direct deposit, or Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT). Every TANF cash assistance household must sign the “TANF Cash Assistance Payment Selection Form” (HCS-180) each time they apply for benefits or change the payment method.

TANF clients may select a new payment method at any time.

The HCS-180 may be signed telephonically when completed via the Public Assistance Help Line (PAHL) if the statement is recorded and the link to the recording is documented in case notes. A copy of the HCS-180 is to be mailed to the TANF client when completed telephonically.

WARRANT:

Clients receive the paper check in the mail the first working day of the month after authorization and issuance.

DIRECT DEPOSIT:

Monthly deposits will be made to the client’s account on the first banking day of the month. For daily issuance, benefits will be available by the third banking day after benefit authorization.

Clients who select direct deposit must complete the “Direct Bank Deposit Authorization Form” (HCS-179). Households must attach a voided check (for a checking account) or a voided deposit slip (for a savings account) to the HCS-179. Benefits are issued via warrant until a successful pre-note has been accomplished (28 days).

Direct deposit may only be deposited into a personal checking or personal savings account; business accounts are not allowed. Bank changes require a four-week notice. Warrants are issued until a new successful pre-note has been accomplished.

MONTANA EBT CARD:

Benefits are available the first calendar day of the month after authorization and issuance, even on a weekend or holiday.

All customer service for the EBT system is handled through Solutran Customer Service at 1-866-850-1556. If an EBT card is reported as lost or stolen they must contact Solutran Customer Service immediately to report the EBT card as lost or stolen so that the EBT card can no longer be used. TANF does not replace funds from a lost or stolen EBT card. TANF clients need to be advised not to give out their password/pin or save the password/pin with their EBT card. If funds are stolen, the client is encouraged to contact their local law enforcement agency to file a report.

EBT RESTRICTIONS:

Households are restricted from using an EBT card at:

1. Any liquor store
 - a. Any retail establishment that sells exclusively or primarily intoxicating liquor. This does not include a grocery store that sells both intoxicating liquor and groceries that include staple foods.
2. Any gaming establishment
 - a. This does not include any establishment that offers casino, gambling or gaming activities that are incidental to the main purpose of the business.
3. Any retail establishment which provides adult-oriented entertainment in which performers disrobe or perform in an unclothed state.

PENALTIES FOR EBT CARD VIOLATIONS:

1st violation and 2nd violation: Warning notice

Notice sent to the primary individual informing the household of the current violation and the penalty associated with a third violation. No negative action will occur. Adequate or timely notice is not required.

3rd violation: 6-month penalty imposed

Notice sent to the primary individual informing the household of the penalty period and negative action associated with a third violation. Timely notice is required.

Penalty:

The penalty refers to the time period a household may not receive TANF cash benefits on an EBT card. Benefits are issued via warrant unless client opts to receive direct deposit and completes form HCS-180 "TANF payment selection form" and HCS-179 "Direct Bank Deposit Authorization Form" prior to issuance.

The penalty period starts on the 1st of the month after timely notice is given. Benefits continue to issue via warrant or Direct Deposit after the penalty period ends. Completion of the HCS-180 "TANF Payment Selection Form" is required to receive payment by EBT after the penalty period.

Effective Date: July 01, 2019