

CA 12 Month Time Limit

Questions and Answers

12-MONTH STATE BENEFIT LIMIT (STBL)

What is the 12-month State Benefit Limit (STBL)?

House Bill 2681 was passed in 07/2015. This new legislation requires FAA to limit the number of months of Cash Assistance (CA) a family may receive in Arizona. The State Benefit Limit (STBL) requires that adults can only receive CA in Arizona for themselves or a dependent child for a total of 12 months in a lifetime. The months do not need to be consecutive.

IMPORTANT

Months that count toward the STBL include payments received on or after 10/01/02.

When will this change take effect?

This change affects CA payments issued beginning with the benefit month of 07/2016. When a participant has received 10 or more months of CA in Arizona, by the benefit month of 04/2016, AZTECS will generate a letter, informing them of the total countable months already received. The letter states that their final CA payment will be received in the benefit month of 06/2016, unless they show that it is a hardship for their CA to stop.

What happens when the participant has received 12 months of CA?

Effective 07/01/2016, CA benefits will be terminated unless the participant requests a hardship extension and the request is approved by FAA.

What months do NOT count in the 12-month STBL?

Monthly CA benefits:

- That were received before 10/01/02
- When the payment amount was for less than a full month
- Which the participant was totally ineligible to receive because of an overpayment
- Received as a Grant Diversion payment
- Received while living on an Indian Reservation with more than 50% unemployment
- Received as Tribal CA
- Received ONLY for a child who was in the custody of the State (for example: Foster Care)
- Received as Refugee CA
- Received from a State other than Arizona

How does the participant know which months are counted toward the 12 Month STBL?

- FAA staff must discuss the countable months with the participant at each renewal of the case.
- DES will list the months counted toward the 12 month STBL in the letter sent when a participant has received at least 10 months of CA benefits.
- The participant can go to a DES eligibility office and request a printout of the Arizona Tracking Display (AZTD) screen as a written record of the months that are counted in the 12 month STBL. (AZTD is the AZ Limit Display screen accessed through WERE).

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What if the participant still needs CA after they have received cash benefits for 12 months in Arizona?

The participant may ask for an extension of CA if losing cash benefits will cause a hardship. When the hardship extension is approved, they will receive additional CA benefits.

What is a hardship?

A hardship is a situation that prevents the participant from engaging in employment activities or otherwise supporting their family without CA benefits.

When can the participant apply for a hardship extension?

The participant may apply for a hardship extension after they have received 10 months of CA or any time after their CA was stopped because of the 12-month STBL.

How can the participant apply for a hardship extension?

The participant can apply for a STBL hardship extension in the following ways:

- Verbally.
- Complete a request for a hardship extension on the letter they received. A list of hardship reasons will be included in CA letters beginning 12/2015 and continuing for the next 12 months or more. Instructions for completing the request and how to submit will be included in the letters.
- Fill out a State Benefits Limit (STBL) Extension Request Form: FAA-1440A or FAA1440AS for Spanish.
- Write the request on any piece of paper.

They may provide the request in any of the following ways:

- Mail in their request
- Fax in their request to (602)-257-7031 or (844)-680-9840 toll free
- Over the phone or in person at the DES Family Assistance office

NOTE: It may be necessary for the participant to provide verification to support their hardship claim

What kinds of hardship reasons can the participant claim?

- Being Homeless
- Having a Disability
- Needed as a full time caretaker of a disabled person
- Being age 60 or older and caring for a child
- Being a victim of Domestic violence or a crime
- Being unable to find or afford childcare
- Having no readily available transportation in their area to go to work
- Being unable to finish their current education or training in the next 6 months without cash benefits
- Any other reason that is preventing them from engaging in employment activities or otherwise supporting their family

NOTE: While the participant may be able to claim any of the above STBL hardships, the eligibility for a STBL hardship is determined on a case by case basis, based on the verification provided.