

## Self-Sufficiency Grant FAQ's

Questions are in black, answers are in red.

1. If a student chooses to attend college classes, will financial assistance (PELL, etc.) be considered part of their income? (What if they currently are receiving financial assistance at the start of the program?)

Financial aid is tricky. If the student receives aid over allowable expenses (tuition & fees, supplies/equipment, misc. personal, dependent care (does not count if they received government assistance), and living expenses, the remaining aid will count. The remainder would be divided out for how many months the aid is intended to cover. With that said, I'm not sure I would get too involved with this. If the student states all aid is for educational purposes, then I would not count any of it.

2. When verifying government assistance I'm listing these 4 areas: Child care, POWER, SNAP and Medicaid.

a. Is DFS able to provide the amount of funding participants receive and can it be shared with case managers of this grant?

Information can only be shared if the client signs a release of this information.

b. If not, will word of mouth from participants be allowable? Otherwise I'm not sure how to verify this one. Any thoughts?

I would take their word for it.

3. If a participant becomes married while in program will they be disqualified or are they allowed to finish the training paths?

You will have to reassess the financial situation after the marriage. A spouse's income is available to a spouse and may make them over the income guidelines for the TANF program.

4. While pulling a community proposed grant together one of the items discussed was lack of transportation for some of the participants. Is it possible to put a stipend in for transportation. The entity funded would be the Douglas Senior Citizen Center's transportation department. Could we promise a set amount plus going rate for each trip taken to ensure that the transportation is available? Yes you can.

5. Does an agency need to be a non-profit to partner with CANDO on TANF grants.

An agency does not have to be non-profit to receive TANF funding.

6. I have a family of 6 with their oldest child being 18 and mentally disabled. I was under the impression that if the child was 18 they could not be counted; however, this child has disabilities and cannot live on his own. Do we get to count all 6 family members towards eligibility in this case?

The 18 year old would not be counted in the household. However, any income the 18 year old may have (such as disability or SSI) would not be counted either so hopefully the family still meets income eligibility.

7. One of our client's wants to attend welding classes at Casper College because our local EWC branch will not provide those classes until next fall. Can we pay for a client's gas mileage while attending those classes? **Yes, you can pay for the client's gas mileage and you are correct to verify his school attendance. I would prefer to see CANDO purchase gas cards instead of reimbursements.**

8. If a client's child has a job, does that income need to be included as theirs? **You can exempt a child's income, age 16-17, as long as that child is enrolled in school full time. If the child is not enrolled in school, then their income must count towards the family's eligibility. With that said, a parent who qualifies for TANF funding must ensure that school age children are attending school or working on getting their kids back in school if they currently are not so these situations must be monitored closely.**

9. At one time I think I made the mistake of thinking that if someone got married while in the Self-Sufficiency grant, that they would be ineligible for services. However, when looking through all my emails I can't find that information. I did find item number three on the attached form with a different response and want to make sure that's correct. (I've also listed it below) **If an individual initially qualifies as a single parent, they can remain on even if they get married but you have to reassess financial eligibility. This would include the spouse's income.**

10. Another scenario. I have a young woman who has been separated since May. I know her personally and know this to be true. She has an income of \$364.00 from her husband's disability. Child support is normally \$436 a month, but he has not made payment this month. She has received paperwork for a divorce from the Clerk of Court, but isn't sure how to fill them out. Would she be able to use the Self-Sufficiency grant?

**Yes she would. As long as the husband is not living in the home, she is eligible as a single parent. We just need to be careful about using the income the husband does contribute to the household and make sure it is used in determining eligibility. For example, using any child support he pays and he if he pays extra to the wife to support the family.**

11. I have a woman who wants to enroll in this program; however, her daughter will turn 18 on 1/24 and is currently not in school. Will she qualify?

**If a child is the age of 16 or 17, the parent must be doing all they can to get them enrolled in school to meet the TANF eligibility. However, once this child turns 18 and is not in school and is not expected to graduate before the age of 19, then they are deemed to not have a dependent child and not eligible.**

Concerning the client I emailed about below. If her daughter is enrolled at the Basic Education program through EWC Glenrock Office starting Jan. 4th does that make a difference?

**Yes it does. But please remember that she must be expected to graduate or get her GED by the time she turns 19. If that is the case, this client is eligible for services.**

12. If client is receiving unemployment compensation are they allowed to take a college class.  
Yes, for one class as long as it is less than 6 credits. (307) 473-3789.

13. If a Converse County School District paraprofessional get either an associates or college degree, they receive a separate yearly contract in addition to their current wages what is that amount? Associates: \$600, Bachelors: \$1,200