



Policy/Procedure:	CW Diversion (State and County)
Purpose:	Identify eligibility criteria for diversion payments
Reference:	C.R.S. 26-2-706.6
Rule/Statute:	CDHS Volume 3.606.8
Effective Date:	7/1/2021

Policy

Routt County will provide cash or cash-equivalent payments to eligible and suitable families based upon established need, in conjunction with the determination that the need is not expected to be ongoing.

Eligibility

To receive a state diversion payment, applicants must be found eligible for Basic Cash Assistance (BCA) by Colorado Benefits Management System (CBMS). Payments will be issued through CBMS. Those who are otherwise eligible for BCA but are over the income guidelines (needs standard) and whose income is less than \$75,000 annually may be eligible for County Diversion.

Family Stabilization/State Diversion

Routt County will provide a family stabilization/state diversion grant not to exceed \$5,000 for no more than 4 consecutive months for eligible TANF/Colorado Works applicants/participants.

All applicants/participants:

- will be determined as eligible for Basic Cash Assistance,
- will not demonstrate a need for long term assistance,
- will demonstrate a need for a specific item or type of assistance, including but not limited to, cash, housing, transportation etc.
- will agree not to apply for Basic Cash Assistance for a period of time, up to 4 months established by the county where the application was submitted nor any other county within the State of Colorado,



All applicants/participants will be assessed in the diversion period for a need of TANF/Colorado Works long-term assistance. The TANF/Colorado Works Case Manager will provide intensive case management while assessing the need for long term assistance. All applicants will enter into a written mutual agreement through the plan that defines the terms and conditions of the diversion grant. The Individual Plan will document:

- Why the applicant/participant does not need long term assistance,
- The need and type of services to be provided during the diversion period.
- The expectations and terms of the diversion payment.
- Specify the possible impacts on other assistance including Medicaid, SNAP and childcare.

Family Stabilization/Statewide diversion funds may be used for, but are not limited to the following services:

- Transportation expenses such as car repairs, tires, batteries, other parts, etc.
- Relocation expenses for employment or to return to where they have family support.
- Medical expenses such as glasses or dental work related to employment.
- Tools, uniforms or clothing related to employment.
- Housing assistance.
- Utility expenses and deposits.

Family Stabilization/State Diversion Payments will be given 1 month at a time for up to a 4-month period and issued through the CBMS system. If the recipient is found to have a need for long-term assistance within the 4-month diversion period, recipient will submit a new application and assessment for the TANF/Colorado Works program.

The recipient of a Family Stabilization/ State diversion payment who has not demonstrated a need for long-term assistance will not be eligible for a BCA payment until the 4 months of the diversion period is completed.

If the recipient through circumstances beyond his/her control is unable to abide by the time period agreement, within the Individual Plan, he/she may make an application for assistance. The County Department can end the POI period before it expires if good cause exists or applicant/participant shows a need for long-term assistance.



County Diversion

The TANF/Colorado Works staff may determine County Diversion Assistance for applicants and former participants, who are not eligible for Basic Cash Assistance, yet who demonstrate a need for assistance in order to maintain economic security.

The Routt County Department of Human Services may provide county diversion grants to applicants who are not eligible for Basic Cash Assistance and whose income is under \$75,000 per year and who meet all non-financial eligibility criteria for Colorado Works:

- the applicant does not need long-term assistance.
- the applicant demonstrates a need for a particular type of service or assistance.
- the applicant will agree not to apply for further Colorado Works assistance for a period of time established by the county nor with any other county within the State of Colorado.
- the applicant must enter into an Individual Plan that defines the terms and conditions of the diversion grant.

County diversion funds may be used for, but are not limited to the following services:

- Transportation, car repairs, tires, batteries, other parts, etc.
- Relocation expenses necessary to relocate the family for employment or to return to where they have family support.
- Medical expenses such as glasses or dental work related to employment.
- Tools, uniforms or clothing related to employment.
- Housing assistance.
- Utility expenses and deposits.

Applicants must demonstrate and provide appropriate documentation that their family needs diversion assistance and has a practical plan to maintain self-sufficiency in the future. The maximum payment amount will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

A County Diversion is based on individual need and does not have a monetary cap in a twelve-month period per household. However, the County Director or designee has the discretion to override the number county diversions if an extreme hardship exists.



Post-TANF Diversion

The Routt County Department of Human Services may provide other assistance, incentives, and expense reimbursement to former Colorado Works recipients for up to one year after discontinuation of basic cash assistance. Receipt of assistance, commonly referred to as "Post-TANF" assistance, is dependent upon satisfactory compliance with the terms of the individual's plan.

Former participants who complete three consecutive months of full time (30 hours per week) unsubsidized employment (compensated at least at minimum wage level per hour of employment) will receive a \$250 incentive payment. The participant will receive a \$250 incentive payment upon completion of six consecutive full months of full-time unsubsidized employment and a \$250 incentive payment upon completion of 12 consecutive months of full time employment. These payments will be a one-time only payment to the participant and will be paid through the CBMS system.

Former participants who complete three consecutive months of part time (20 hours, at minimum, per week) unsubsidized employment (compensated at least at minimum wage level per hour of employment) will receive a \$175 incentive payment. The participant will receive a \$175 incentive payment upon completion of six consecutive full months of full-time unsubsidized employment and a \$175 incentive payment upon completion of 12 consecutive months of full time employment. These payments will be a one-time only payment to the participant and will be paid through the CBMS system.

If the recipient through circumstances beyond his/her control is unable to abide by the time period agreement, within the Individual Plan, he/she may make an application for assistance. The County Department can end the POI period before it expires if good cause exists or applicant/participant shows a need for long term assistance.

Child Protection County Diversion

Families involved with Child Protection may be granted a diversion if eligibility criteria are met:

- The Family income is under \$75,000 yearly and



- The child must meet out of home placement criteria and
- The child lived with a specific relative within the last six months.

The family will complete a TANF/CW application and an interview with a TANF/Colorado Works case manager. The assessment will be completed by the child welfare worker. The child protection treatment/services plan may substitute as the Individual Plan.

Child Protection County Diversions are not subjected to the state/county time limits.

Payment

A County Diversion does not have a monetary cap per twelve-month period per household.

A Family Stabilization/State Diversion may not exceed \$5,000 per four-month period. However, the County Director or designee has the discretion to override the number and amount of county or family stabilization/state diversions if an extreme hardship exists.

A diversion payment may not be made in the same month that basic cash assistance is received.

Payments will be issued on an EBT card (via direct deposit) or paid directly to vendors.

Diversion payments will be made at the discretion of Routt County, and as budgets allow. No applicant is entitled to a diversion payment. When necessary, recoveries may be pursued.

Routt County Commissioner Signature

Date