ADC & EMPLOYMENT FIRST

ADC (Aid to Dependent Children) is Nebraska’s cash welfare program for low-income families with children. You can apply for ADC online by visiting accessnebraska.ne.gov

Employment First is the part of the ADC program that helps parents get the skills and support they need to secure a job that allows them to meet their family’s needs.

Everyone who applies for ADC is asked the following:

1. Have you been hurt, threatened, or intimidated by someone within the past year?
2. Do you feel safe in your current relationship?
3. During the past year, did a partner, spouse, or relative try to control you by keeping you from going to work or looking for a job?
4. During the past year, did a partner, spouse, or relative try to prevent you from spending money, getting a bank account or credit card, looking for a new place to live, or making important decisions about your life?
5. Would you be interested in more information or talking to someone about your relationship with your spouse or partner?

What happens if I talk about domestic violence?
If your answers to these questions show experience with domestic violence, you may be eligible for the Family Violence Option, which provides special options under the Employment First program. If your answers to these questions change at any time, consider contacting your Employment First caseworker.

THE FAMILY VIOLENCE OPTION

If you decide to apply for ADC, you should know about the Family Violence Option in the Employment First program. This option allows survivors of domestic violence to receive a temporary exemption from certain rules such as time limits and work requirements.

An exemption means you may be able to receive ADC for a longer period of time and may not need to start working, volunteering, or going to school right away if it is not safe for you to do so. The exemption can last up to six months, and it can be renewed later if needed.

Who qualifies for the Family Violence Option?
--Someone who would be placed at risk of abuse if he or she has to follow certain rules (such as working)
--Someone who would have difficulty escaping a domestic violence situation while following certain rules
--Someone who would be unfairly penalized by certain requirements because they are a domestic violence survivor (for example, you might not need to meet rules about state residency when fleeing an abusive situation)

How can I be approved for the Family Violence Option?
You have the right to talk to your Employment First caseworker about the Family violence Option at any time—even if you are already receiving ADC.

You will be asked to complete a domestic violence assessment. Your caseworker might help you with it or refer you to another agency to complete the assessment. You are also entitled to be referred to counselors and other services.

Your Employment First caseworker is required to keep your information confidential.

CHILD SUPPORT

If you apply for public assistance and you have children whose other parent(s) do not live in your home, you will be asked to apply for child support.

If you get public benefits or child support, the other parent(s) may try to get visitation or custody rights. This could be dangerous if you have a history of domestic violence. Because of this, you may want to ask about the Good Cause Waiver.

What is the Good Cause Waiver?
The Good Cause Waiver allows you to get public benefits without applying for child support.

You might be able to get this waiver if you believe that applying for or receiving child support could be dangerous for you or your child(ren). You have the right to ask ACCESS Nebraska or the Child Support Enforcement Office about the Good Cause Waiver.

How will my information be used?
The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) may use information about the other parent(s) of your child(ren) for other purposes. You have the right to ask that your information be kept confidential if you believe that you or your children are in danger for any reason.

How do I get more information about child support?
To apply for child support or to ask about the Good Cause Waiver, call the Nebraska Child Support Enforcement Office at 877-631-9973.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic Violence is a pattern of behavior including physical violence, threats, intimidation, stalking, coercion, isolation, and mental, emotional, sexual, and/or economic abuse. Domestic violence is often used as a way for one person in a relationship to control the other. Anyone can be a victim.

FREE & CONFIDENTIAL HELP

Nebraska Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Hotline
1-800-876-6238

National Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-799-7233

Nebraska Appleseed is a nonprofit organization that fights for justice and opportunity for all Nebraskans. We take a systemic approach to complex issues – such as child welfare, immigration policy, affordable healthcare and poverty – and we take our work wherever we believe we can do the most good, whether that’s at the courthouse, in the statehouse or in the community.