

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES FAMILY INVESTMENT ADMINISTRATION	TEMPORARY DISABILITY ASSISTANCE MANUAL
CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION	COMAR 07.03.05
SECTION 1: PURPOSE AND CHANGES	

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

In response to fiscal concerns in 2003 in the Transitional Emergency, Medical, and Housing Assistance (TEMHA) program, the Department of Human Resources (DHR) took steps to strengthen this program for disabled adults, and to make it more financially solvent. This included regulation changes which ensure that the Program stay within the appropriated amount, and new policies that limit the period of eligibility for individuals with short term disability yet continues to provide critical assistance to certifiably disabled adults who are in the process of applying for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). The regulations adopted by DHR created the Temporary Disability Assistance Program (TDAP) effective beginning October 1, 2004.

CHANGES

TDAP serves the same population formerly served by the TEMHA program. Individuals who are receiving TEMHA on the effective date of this policy continue the established eligibility period. These recipients are subject to TDAP policy upon expiration of their TEMHA eligibility certification period.

While TDAP serves the same population as previously served by TEMHA, there are marked differences, and changes in policy. The name change more accurately reflects the purpose of the program as being temporary, and emphasizes a program redesign. The significant changes are as follows:

- TDAP cases with medical reports of less than a twelve-month disability are eligible for benefits for 9 out of 36 months.
- To receive TDAP for more than 9 months, recipients must be certified as medically disabled by SRT **and** accepted by DEAP, which continues to pursue the case; and have a pending application for SSI that has not been withdrawn or finally denied.
- Local departments may contract with an entity for medical examination services and require applicants to use that entity for the medical evaluation. *
- Subject to availability of resources, local departments may require drug screening and assessment, and if positive, substance abuse treatment.
- There is no disregard of unearned income. TDAP requires a dollar-for-dollar deduction of unearned income from the grant amount.
- TDAP allows for recoupment/recovery of overpayments.

*** Prior to implementation of this component, local departments must have an approved plan that meets criteria set forth by the Family Investment Administration (FIA).**