Temporary Cash Assistance

What is the Assessment Process?
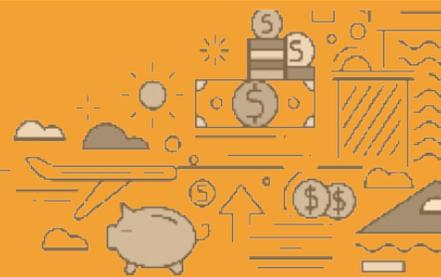
The TCA program wants to find the best way to help you and your family. The first tool a Local Department will use is called an assessment.

What is an assessment and why do I need to complete one?

The assessment is an opportunity for you and your Local Department to determine your needs and will assist you with reaching your goals. An assessment is also an interview with a Local Department that will help you identify barriers which can be addressed to allow you to participate in a work activity program.

What is a Family Independence Plan (FIP)?

You and your Local Department will work together to create a plan that will assist your family in becoming self-sufficient. This is also an opportunity to lay out what is expected of both the Local Department and your family, the plan is signed by both parties.

What is expected of me during the assessment?

During the assessment the Local Department will ask many questions about different topics such as your work history, educational background, housing situation, etc. It is important to answer all the questions to the best of your ability and be honest with the Local Department.

What is expected of my Local Department during the assessment?

The Local Department will explain the requirements of the work program and what is expected of you. Based on your discussion with the Local Department, they will guide you to the most appropriate path to assist you in achieving your goals.

How often am I assessed or have my FIP updated?

You will be assessed at the time of application and at re-certification of TCA benefits. The FIP is updated when a work program has changed. This may include: if there is a change in family circumstances, if you need to address barriers, or if you have stopped participating in a work program.

Wes Moore, *Governor* | Aruna Miller, *Lt. Governor* | Rafael López, *Secretary*