

# 2024 Temporary Assistance for Domestic Violence Survivors (TA-DVS) Grant Increase

## Frequently Asked Questions

October 10, 2024

### **Q: What is TA-DVS?**

The TA-DVS program helps provide eligible families and pregnant individuals who are experiencing domestic violence with temporary cash assistance to flee or stabilize from abuse. Eligible individuals may receive up to \$3,200 over a 90-day certification period to help meet individual safety needs as determined by their safety plan and policy.

For more information on program use, eligibility and how to apply, please see the [TA-DVS Program website](#).

### **Q: What's changed with the TA-DVS grant?**

The Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) received investment in the 2024 legislative session to increase the TA-DVS grant amount from \$1,200 up to \$3,200 per certification period.

### **Q: How does this change the benefits for survivors?**

This is the program's first increase since it began more than 26 years ago. This needed change ensures the grant's value remains supportive to survivors in consideration of rising housing costs and other safety needs.

### **Q: When can survivors use the increased grant amount?**

The grant amount increased effective August 11, 2024, and can be used now.

### **Q: Is this change permanent?**

The increase is not permanent. Self-Sufficiency Programs will track the

difference it makes for survivors during this biennium. The investment in the increase is an extremely important step forward. The information we gather will help as we strive for a permanent increase.

**Q: Will survivors who have an open TA-DVS grant on August 11, 2024, be able to access the increased grant amount?**

Individuals with an open case on August 11, 2024, have access to the increased grant amount for the remainder of their 90-day certification period and will be notified of the increase in whatever method is determined safe by the survivor.

Survivors who have a current or future domestic violence safety concern and have previously received TA-DVS are always encouraged to reapply.

**Q: Does the grant increase affect who may be eligible for the TA-DVS program or how survivors apply for the program?**

The grant increase does not change any eligibility requirements or how survivors access TA-DVS; it only increases the amount available to eligible survivors.

The program continues to be funded through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant utilizing federal funds. The same application process and eligibility requirements remain in effect.

**Q: What happens after someone applies for TA-DVS?**

After a survivor has established a request for TA-DVS, ODHS staff will offer to address their immediate safety. Eligibility will be determined within 16 working hours unless otherwise requested by the survivor.

During interactions with the agency, survivors will develop a safety plan in collaboration with a family coach. In addition, survivors may connect with a confidential domestic violence advocate and receive referrals and recommendations for other needed resources.

TA-DVS eligible survivors will continue to work with a family coach throughout their 90-day certification period for support in safety planning and ongoing stability.

**Q: Is funding guaranteed through the TA-DVS grant?**

Community resources and lower-cost options must first be utilized to meet the requested need. If community resources are unavailable, payment amounts for those who are eligible are based on individual safety needs and must align with the safety plan created by the eligible grant recipient and family coach.

**Q: Once approved for the TA-DVS grant, what are examples of potential payment types?**

- Deposits for rent or utilities such as first and last month's and/or security deposits if required for move-in or initial costs
- Relocation costs
- Security items such as new locks, cameras, alarm system, etc.
- In some cases, replacing items left behind or damaged like clothes or furniture
- Post office boxes and more.

**Q: Is there any material that can be printed and displayed in partner agencies or the community to make survivors aware of this resource?**

Check out the [Everyone Deserves to Feel Safe \(ODHS 2384\) Flyer](#) available on the [ODHS/OHA Publications and Forms](#) site as a resource to display for community awareness.

The flyer is available in [Arabic](#), [Burmese](#), [Simplified Chinese](#), [Traditional Chinese](#), [Dari \(Persian\)](#), [English](#), [Farsi](#), [French](#), [Haitian Creole](#), [Pashto/Pashtu](#), [Rohingya](#) (audio), [Russian](#), [Somali](#), [Spanish](#), [Ukrainian](#) and [Vietnamese](#).

Flyers can be printed on demand as needed directly from the [ODHS/OHA Publications and Forms](#) site in color or black and white. Please reach out to [TA-DVS Policy](#) for any questions or concerns.

**Q: Do survivors applying need to be a United States citizen or have a social security number to qualify?**

No. Citizenship criteria and the need to have or provide a social security

number can be waived for the TA-DVS program for any household members when there is a domestic violence safety concern.

**Q: Would receiving these benefits affect survivors' immigration status in the future?**

No. TA-DVS benefits are meant to address a specific crisis situation and are not intended to meet ongoing needs. Therefore, payments from the program are not counted as public charge.

See the [Know the Facts about Public Charge](#) handout for more information and resources to attain legal advice.

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