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The money will usually be paid directly to the person or company providing you with the service, such as a landlord.

What if I disagree with the decision or don't get a response from DHS?

You have a right to an expedited hearing if:

- You do not get a decision after two business days,
- Your request for TA-DVS benefits is turned down, or
- You disagree with the amount of benefits you are given.

Requesting a hearing

- Fill out DHS Form 443 (Administrative Hearing Request), which you can get at the local DHS Self Sufficiency office or online at: <https://apps.state.or.us/Forms/Served/de0443.pdf>.
- Make a copy for yourself.
- Turn in the hearing request to your local Self Sufficiency office.

Timing and format of hearing

The hearing must be held within five working days from the date you asked for the hearing. The hearing will probably be held over the telephone. You may be able to ask for an in-person hearing.

Do you need an attorney at the hearing?

You can represent yourself at the hearing. If you want to have an attorney represent you, call the Public Benefits Hotline (1-800-520-5292) or your local Legal Aid office. To find your local legal aid office, go to oregonlawhelp.org.

Preparing for the hearing

Whether you represent yourself or have an attorney represent you at the hearing, it is a good idea to prepare for the hearing in advance.

- Be ready to explain to the judge why the money that you asked for is needed for your safety
- Make a list of what you need to stay safe
- Get information about how you would like to deal with your safety concerns. For example, if you need money to change your locks, it is a good idea to get the name of a locksmith and find out how much the locksmith thinks it will cost.
- Review the TA-DVS rules and/or policies to see if the reason you were turned down is allowed. The rules that apply are OAR 461-135-1200 to 461-135-1235. You can also ask your local DHS or legal aid office for a copy of the rules.

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Legal Aid Services of Oregon & Oregon Law Center



Financial help when you need it the most.

Information on the Temporary Assistance for Domestic Violence Survivors (TA-DVS) program.

This brochure is provided by Legal Aid Services of Oregon for general informational use only. It is not a substitute for individual legal advice. Consult an attorney for more information or for advice. The information in this pamphlet is accurate as of August 2017.

The Temporary Assistance for Domestic Violence Survivors (TA-DVS) program is intended to help survivors escape domestic violence and stay safe.

TA-DVS is run by the Department of Human Services (DHS). If you are eligible, you can receive up to \$1,200 in a 90-day period to help you escape domestic violence or stay safe. Once the 90-day period expires, you can reapply for additional TA-DVS money.

Eligibility for TA-DVS

To receive TA-DVS money, you must be:

- Fleeing domestic violence or trying to stay safe from domestic violence.** This includes physical, emotional, or sexual abuse by a current or former intimate partner or a relative. You do not need to provide proof that you were abused, your words alone are enough.
- A parent or caregiver of a minor child or a pregnant woman.**
- Income eligible.** Your local DHS office will only look at the money that is available to you. If your abuser controls your finances, you can still receive TA-DVS money.
- A resident of Oregon.** You can receive benefits even if you are temporarily in Oregon in order to escape domestic violence or are undocumented.

You can use TA-DVS money for:

- Securing new or temporary housing, including paying a security deposit, first month's rent, or moving expenses
- Purchasing used furniture items that are essential, such as a bed or crib
- Changing your locks
- Replacing personal items left behind when you fled, such as toiletries or clothing
- Purchasing a motion detector or security camera
- Opening a PO box

TA-DVS cannot be used for:

- Hiring an attorney
- Paying a fine or other penalty
- Purchasing a firearm
- Buying a car
- Paying past due rent or utility bills if you do not intend to stay at that residence
- Purchasing a TV, computer, or paying for cable, satellite, or internet
- Getting a pet or guard animal
- Paying to relocate household or other personal items from another state

Before you apply for TA-DVS:

- Make a list of the things you need to help keep you safe
- Gather information about where to get those items or who offers that service
- Figure out how much everything will cost and get documentation of the cost

How to apply for TA-DVS

You can apply in person or by phone through your local DHS self-sufficiency office. To find the closest office, go to: oregon.gov/DHS/Offices/Pages/Self-Sufficiency.aspx.

What documents do you need when you apply?

- Identification.** If you do not have a photo ID, you can also use:
 - Birth certificate
 - Wage stubs
 - School records
 - Collateral contacts—friends, shelter employees, or neighbors can all be used to verify your identity
- Proof of income.** If you cannot provide proof of income when you apply, you can still qualify for TA-DVS, but you will need to provide documentation later.

What happens after you apply?

A DHS caseworker will talk with you about safety concerns and make a plan to deal with the concerns. The caseworker may talk to you about community resources and ask you questions about what you need the money for. Provide the caseworker with the information you collected about the things you need and how much you expect it to cost.

How soon is the money available?

After you submit your application, DHS must decide within two business days if you will be given TA-DVS benefits. If you're approved, the funds are usually available that same day.

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