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Department of Children and Family Services

Louisiana's 2015 Annual Progress and Services Report

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) announces opportunities for public review of the state's 2015 Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR). The APSR is a report on the achievement of goals and objectives and/or outcomes for year one of the 2015-2019 Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP). This plan addresses the use of Title IV-B, Subpart 1 and Subpart 2, Title IV-E Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP), Educational and Training Vouchers (ETV), and Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) funds and serves as the applications for additional funds from these federal sources.

Louisiana, through the DCFS, provides services that include child abuse prevention, child protective services, family services, foster care, adoption and the youth transition services. The Department will use its allotted funds provided under the Social Security Act, Title IV-B, Subpart 1, entitled the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services Program, to provide child welfare services to prevent child abuse and neglect, to prevent foster care placement, to reunite families, to arrange adoptions, and to ensure adequate foster care. Title IV-B, Subpart 2, entitled Promoting Safe and Stable Families, funds services to support families and prevent the need for foster care. The CFCIP funds services to assist foster children 15 years of age and older who are likely to remain in foster care until 18 years of age. Former foster care recipients who are 18 years of age who have aged out of foster care, and those who were adopted or entered guardianship at age 16 years of age or older, are also eligible for services. The services include basic living skills training and education and employment

opportunities. The CAPTA funding is used to complement and support the overall mission of child welfare with emphasis on developing, strengthening, and carrying out child abuse and neglect prevention and treatment programs.

The DCFS is encouraging public participation in the planning of services and the writing of this document. The report can be found for review on the internet under <http://www.dss.state.la.us/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&pid=132> then the 2014 APSR link. Inquiries and comments on the plan may be submitted in writing to the DCFS, Attention: Child Welfare Administrator, P.O. Box 3318, Baton Rouge, LA 70821. The deadline for receipt of written comments is May 6, 2015 at 4 p.m.

All interested persons will have the opportunity to provide comments and/or recommendations on the plan, orally or in writing, at a public hearing scheduled for May 6, 2015 at 10:30 a.m. in Room 1-129 of the Iberville Building located at 627 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge.

Individuals with disabilities who require special services should contact the Bureau of Appeals at least seven working days in advance of the hearing. For assistance, call (225) 342-4120 (Voice and TDD).

Suzy Sonnier
Secretary