

**Louisiana's Temporary Assistance to Needy
Families (TANF) State Plan**

The document listed below was found complete by ACF effective July 1, 2009:

G-227 – LA 4 Public Pre-Kindergarten Program

The documents listed below were found complete by ACF effective June 30, 2009:

G-214 - Early Childhood Supports and Services

G-215 - Substance Abuse Treatment Program

The documents listed below were found complete by ACF effective January 1, 2009:

B-810 – Resources

G-226 – Legal Access and Visitation

The following document was found complete by ACF effective March 3, 2009:

G-210 – Jobs for America's Graduates – LA

The document listed below was found complete by ACF effective October 1, 2008:

G-212 - OCS Child Welfare Programs

The following documents were found complete by ACF effective February 1, 2008:

G-204 – Domestic Violence

G-205 – After School Tutorial

G-207 – Community Response Initiative

G-208 – Drug Courts Program

G-210 – Jobs For America's Graduates LA

G-214 – Early Childhood Supports and Services

G-215 – Substance Abuse Treatment Program

G-219 – Truancy Assessment and Services Center

	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	A. Introduction to the TANF State Plan
	Section No./Name	A-100 Introduction
	Document No./Name	A-110 Introduction

The Louisiana Temporary Assistance For Needy Families State Plan is submitted in accordance with Section 402 of the Social Security Act as revised by the [Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996](#) and the [Deficit Reduction Act of 2005](#).

[Act 58](#) of the 2003 Regular Session of the Louisiana State Legislature, also known as the Personal Responsibility and Universal Engagement Act, represents one of the most significant steps taken by the Office of Family Support (OFS) to build a stronger Louisiana by improving its families. The act states that it is the objective of the Louisiana Legislature to ensure that all families are actively and universally engaged in work activities. It is the intent of this legislation that families in Louisiana are strong and economically self-reliant, therefore minimizing their dependence on government benefits for basic needs. It is further intended that cash assistance participants demonstrate and exercise active and diligent personal responsibility in achieving self-reliance through employment and increased workplace literacy.

[Act 110](#) and [Act 675](#) of the 2004 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature further amends and clarifies the language regarding STEP.

OFS staff serves together to empower families to attain self-sufficiency and ongoing independence through strategic approaches, customer-focused policies and supportive services, simplified processes, and community-based solutions.

	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State
	Part No./Name	B. Program Eligibility for Cash Assistance Programs
	Section No./Name	B-100 Families
	Document No./Name	B-110 Families

Needy families with, or expecting children, will be provided financial assistance and/or other services to include education, job preparation, work and support services under Louisiana’s Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program (FITAP), Kinship Care Subsidy Program (KCSP), and Strategies to Empower People (STEP) Program. A needy family is defined as a family residing in the state who meets the eligibility requirements listed below for FITAP and KCSP respectively.

For FITAP eligibility a dependent child must be:

- under 18 years of age, or
- 18 years of age and enrolled in a secondary school or its equivalent.

For KCSP eligibility a dependent child must be under 18 years of age.

Unborn children are not eligible for FITAP. A pregnant woman who has completed the fifth month of pregnancy may be certified if otherwise eligible (unborn is not eligible).

To qualify for cash assistance, a child must reside in the home of a parent or other qualified relative who is responsible for the day-to-day care of the child. The following relatives are qualified relatives:

- grandfather or grandmother (extends to great-great-great);
- brother or sister (including half-brother and half-sister);
- uncle or aunt (extends to great-great);
- first cousin (including first cousin once removed);
- nephew or niece (extends to great-great);
- stepfather or stepmother;
- stepbrother or stepsister.

These may be either biological or adoptive relatives.

	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State
	Part No./Name	B. Program Eligibility for Cash Assistance Programs
	Section No./Name	B-200 Minor Parents
	Document No./Name	B-210 Minor Parents

Unmarried parents under the age of 18 and their children living with them will be eligible for FITAP benefits only if residing with their parent, legal guardian or other adult relative, or in an adult supervised supportive living arrangement.

Families headed by unmarried parents under age 18 are exempt from the living arrangement requirement if the adult parents or guardians are deceased or their whereabouts are unknown; the adult parent or guardian will not allow the minor parent to live in their home; the minor parent has lived apart from a parent or legal guardian for at least one year before either the birth of the dependent child or the application for FITAP; the physical or emotional health or safety of the minor parent or dependent child would be jeopardized if living with the adult parent or legal guardian; or the minor has one of the following good causes to live apart from the parent or guardian:

- the adult is temporarily absent from the home;
- the parent or legal guardian lives out-of-state, is in an institution, or is addicted to drugs or alcohol;
- the minor's return to the parent's or legal guardian's home would violate their lease or local health or safety standards;
- the minor is in a licensed substance abuse treatment program which would not be available if returned to the parent's or legal guardian's home;
- the minor alleges that the home of the parent or legal guardian is the scene of illegal activity;
- the minor parent has been emancipated by court order;
- a court order has barred contact between the minor parent and the parent or legal guardian; or
- the parent or legal guardian did not provide adequate food, clothing, medical care, or other necessities for the minor parent or the child.

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	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	B. Program Eligibility for Cash Assistance Programs
	Section No./Name	B-300 Excluded Persons
	Document No./Name	B-310 Excluded Persons

Certain family members must not be included in the FITAP certification as they have failed to comply with certain eligibility requirements or meet a certain status. Members excluded from the certification include:

- a child receiving either federal or state foster care payments;
- a child receiving benefits through the Kinship Care Subsidy Program;
- those receiving SSI or who are SSI-eligible with suspended payments,
- those not meeting citizenship requirements;
- those whose parental relationship have been terminated through adoption;
- those not meeting enumeration requirements;
- those convicted of misrepresentation of residence;
- those disqualified due to an intentional program violation;
- those convicted of a drug-related felony; and
- certain convicted offenders and persons who are fleeing felons or probation/parole violators.

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	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	B. Program Eligibility for Cash Assistance Programs
	Section No./Name	B-400 Standard Filing Unit
	Document No./Name	B-410 Standard Filing Unit

The mandatory filing unit for FITAP shall contain at least one eligible child and the parents, including stepparents. All siblings residing in the home, including half siblings of children included in the assistance unit must be included in the assistance unit.

In the case of the child of a minor parent, the filing unit shall include the child, the minor parent, the minor parent's siblings, (including half and step siblings) and the parents of any children living in the home.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients and children receiving Kinship Care Subsidy Payments may not be included in the filing unit.

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	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	B. Program Eligibility for Cash Assistance Programs
	Section No./Name	B-500 Residency
	Document No./Name	B-510 Residency

Families assisted by the Louisiana TANF Program must be residents of Louisiana. Louisiana residence is established by living in the state and having no current intent to leave.

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	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	B. Program Eligibility for Cash Assistance Programs
	Section No./Name	B-600 Citizenship Status
	Document No./Name	B-610 Citizenship Status

Each recipient must be a United States Citizen, a non-citizen national (person born in an outlying possession of the United States [American Samoa or Swain's Island] on or after the date the U.S. acquired the possession, or a person whose parents are U.S. non-citizen nationals), or a qualified alien as defined below:

1. an alien who is lawfully admitted for permanent residence under the [Immigration and Nationality Act](#);
2. an alien who is granted asylum under [Section 208](#) of such Act;
3. a refugee who is admitted to the United States under Section 207 of such Act;
4. an alien who is paroled into the United States under Section 212(d)(5) of such Act for a period of at least one year;
5. an alien whose deportation is withheld under §243(h) of such Act (as in effect immediately before the effective date [April 1, 1997] of §307 of Division C of Public Law 104-208) or §241(b)(3) of such Act (as amended by Section 305(a) of Division C of Public Law 104-208);
6. an alien who is granted conditional entry pursuant to §203(a)(7) of such Act as in effect prior to April 1, 1980; or
7. an alien who is a *Cuban* or *Haitian* entrant, as defined in §501(e) of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980;
8. an alien who has been battered or subjected to extreme cruelty in the United States by a spouse or parent, or by a member of the spouse's or parent's family residing in the same household as the alien if the spouse or parent consented to, or acquiesced in, such battery or cruelty. The individual who has been battered or subjected to extreme cruelty must no longer reside in the same household with the individual who committed the battery or cruelty. The agency must also determine that a substantial connection exists between such battery or cruelty and the need for the benefits to be provided. The alien must have been approved or have a petition pending which contains evidence sufficient to establish:
 - a. the status as a spouse or a child of a United States citizen pursuant to clause (ii), (iii), or (iv) of §204(a)(1)(A) of the [Immigration and Nationality Act](#); (INA); or
 - b. the classification pursuant to clause (ii) or (iii) of Section 204(a)(1)(B) of the INA; or
 - c. cancellation of removal under section 1229b of the INA (as in effect prior to April 1, 1997); or
 - d. the status as a spouse or child of a United States citizen pursuant to clause (i) of §204(a)(1)(A) of the INA, or classification pursuant to clause (i) of Section 204(a)(1)(B) of the INA; or

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9. an alien child of a battered parent or the alien parent of a battered child as described in §1223A.8.; or
10. an alien who is a victim of a severe form or trafficking in persons, or an eligible relative of a victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons.

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	Part No./Name	B. Program Eligibility for Cash Assistance Programs
	Section No./Name	B-600 Citizenship Status
	Document No./Name	B-620 Qualified Aliens Entering the U.S. On or After August 22, 1996

An alien who is a qualified alien as defined in B-610 and who enters the United States on or after August 22, 1996, is not eligible for any Federal means-tested public benefit for a period of 5 years beginning on the date of the alien's entry into the United States unless

Exception for refugees and asylees:

- An alien who is admitted to the United States as a refugee under section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act [\[8 U.S.C. 1157\]](#).
- An alien who is granted asylum under section 208 of such Act [\[8 U.S.C. 1158\]](#).
- An alien whose deportation is being withheld under section 243(h) of such Act [\[8 U.S.C. 1253\]](#) (as in effect immediately before the effective date of section 307 of division C of Public Law 104–208) or section 241(b)(3) of such Act [\[8 U.S.C. 1231 \(b\)\(3\)\]](#) (as amended by section 305(a) of division C of Public Law 104–208).
- An alien who is a Cuban and Haitian entrant as defined in section 501(e) of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980.
- An alien admitted to the United States as an Amerasian immigrant as described in section [1612 \(a\)\(2\)\(A\)\(i\)\(V\)^{\(1\)}](#) of this title.
- an alien who is a victim of a severe form or trafficking in persons, or an eligible relative of a victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons.

Veteran and active duty exception:

- A veteran who has met the minimum active duty service requirements of [Section 5303A\(d\) of Title 38, United States Code](#) (24 months or the period for which the person was called to active duty) and who is honorably discharged for reasons other than alienage and his spouse, and unmarried dependent children.
- An alien on active duty (other than active duty for training) in the Armed Forces of the United States, or
- The spouse or unmarried dependent child of an individual on active duty as described above or the unremarried surviving spouse of an individual described above who is deceased if the marriage fulfills the requirements of section [1304](#) of title [38](#).

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	Part No./Name	B. Program Eligibility for Cash Assistance Programs
	Section No./Name	B-700 Felons
	Document No./Name	B-710 Felons

No cash assistance shall be provided to a person:

- fleeing to avoid prosecution, or custody or confinement after conviction, under the laws of the place from which the individual flees, for a crime, or an attempt to commit a crime, which is a felony under the laws of the state from which the individual flees. This does not apply with respect to the conduct of an individual, for any month beginning after the President of the United States grants a pardon with respect to the conduct, or
- violating a condition of probation or parole imposed under federal or state law. This does not apply with respect to the conduct of an individual, for any month beginning after the President of the United States grants a pardon with respect to the conduct.

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	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	B. Program Eligibility for Cash Assistance Programs
	Section No./Name	B-900 Income Eligibility
	Document No./Name	B-910 Income Eligibility

B-911 FAMILY INDEPENDENCE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (FITAP)

Income is any gain or benefit to a household that has monetary value and is not considered a resource. All income is counted when determining eligibility and payment amounts except income from sources listed in Louisiana Administrative Code (LAC) [67:III.1235.A](#).

B-911-1 FITAP Need Standards

The FITAP Need Standards are as follows:

Size of Household	Current Need Standard
1	\$ 245.00
2	472.00
3	658.00
4	809.00
5	955.00
6	1,089.00
7	1,217.00
8	1,347.00
9	1,471.00
10	1,595.00
11	1,731.00
12	1,870.00
13	2,005.00
14	2,146.00
15	2,291.00
16	2,444.00
17	2,564.00
18	2,727.00

NOTE 1: To determine the need standard amount for households **exceeding** 18 persons, the need standard amount for the number in excess of 18 shall be added to the need standard amount for 18 persons.

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	Section No./Name	B-900 Income Eligibility
	Document No./Name	B-910 Income Eligibility

B-911-2 FITAP Monthly Flat Grant Amounts

The FITAP monthly flat grant amounts are as follows:

Number of Persons	Flat Grant Amount
1	\$ 122
2	188
3	240
4	284
5	327
6	366
7	402
8	441
9	477
10	512
11	551
12	590
13	630
14	670
15	712
16	757
17	791
18	839
18+	See note 2

Note 2: To determine the amount for households **exceeding** 18 persons, add the flat grant amount for the number in excess of 18 to the flat grant amount for 18 persons and subtract \$50.

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	Section No./Name	B-900 Income Eligibility
	Document No./Name	B-910 Income Eligibility

B-912 KINSHIP CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM (KCSP)

Income is any gain or benefit to a household that has monetary value and is not considered a resource. All income is counted when determining pretest eligibility except income from sources listed in Louisiana Administrative Code [67:III.1235.A](#). In order to meet this requirement, the gross countable income of the caretaker relative's KCSP income unit must be less than 150% of the federal poverty threshold for the family size.

- For purposes of this pretest, the caretaker's KCSP income unit is defined to include the child, the caretaker relative, and anyone residing in the home for whom the caretaker relative claims financial responsibility.
- For purposes of this pretest, income is defined as countable income belonging to any member of the KCSP income unit.

B-912-1 Income After Pretest

Income After Pretest - The child is determined eligible for KCSP if the child's countable income is less than \$280. If the child's countable income is \$280 or more, the child is ineligible.

Payment amount is \$280 a month for each eligible child.

A child who receives federal or state foster care payments or SSI is not eligible to receive KCSP benefits.

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	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	B. Program Eligibility for Cash Assistance Programs
	Section No./Name	B-1000 Child Support Requirement
	Document No./Name	B-1010 Child Support Requirement

Each applicant for, or recipient of, FITAP/KCSP is required to assign to the Louisiana Department of Social Services, Office of Family Support, any accrued rights to support for any other person that such applicant or recipient may have, including such rights in his own behalf or in behalf of any other family member for whom the applicant or recipient is applying for or receiving.

By accepting FITAP/KCSP for, or on, behalf of a child or children, the applicant or recipient shall be deemed to have made an assignment to the department of any and all right, title, and interest in any support obligation and arrearage owed to, or for, such child or children or caretaker up to the amount of public assistance money paid for, or on behalf of, such child or children or caretaker for such term of time as such public assistance monies are paid; provided, however, that the department may thereafter continue to collect any outstanding debt created by such assignment which has not been paid by the responsible person. The applicant or recipient shall also be deemed, without the necessity of signing any document, to have appointed the Support Enforcement Services Program administrator as his or her true and lawful attorney-in-fact to act in his or her name, place, and stead to perform the specific act of endorsing any and all drafts, checks, money orders or other negotiable instruments representing support payments which are received on behalf of such child or children or caretaker as reimbursement for the public assistance monies paid to such applicant or recipient.

Each applicant for or recipient of FITAP/KCSP is required to cooperate in identifying and locating the parent of a child with respect to whom aid is claimed, establishing the paternity of a child born out of wedlock with respect to whom aid is claimed, obtaining support payments for such applicant or recipient and for a child with respect to whom aid is claimed, and obtaining any other payment or property due such applicant or recipient unless good cause is established. Good cause exists when:

- the client's cooperation with Support Enforcement Services is reasonably anticipated to result in physical or emotional harm to the child or caretaker relative which reduces his capacity to care for the child adequately;
- the child was conceived as a result of incest or rape;
- legal proceedings for adoption are pending before a court; or
- the client is being assisted by a licensed or private social agency to resolve the issue of whether to keep the child or relinquish him for adoption. The issue must not have been under discussion more than three months.

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	Part No./Name	B. Program Eligibility for Cash Assistance Programs
	Section No./Name	B-1100 Personal Responsibility
	Document No./Name	B-1110 Family Success Agreement

The Family Success Agreement (FSA) is a mutually developed contract between work-eligible FITAP recipients, on behalf of their family, and the department. The FSA sets forth mutual and time-bound responsibilities, expectations, activities, and goals designed to transition a recipient from welfare to self-sufficiency.

The purpose of the FSA is to formalize the understanding that assistance is temporary and to encourage the family to set goals that will enable them to become self-sufficient.

The FSA should be completed by the worker and the client and shall:

- include the clients time-bound goals, responsibilities, and work activity participation designed to enable self sufficiency,
- include an agreement that states the expectations of the program and the client and the natural consequences of not meeting expectations,
- specify the departments obligation to provide supportive services, assessments, notifications, information and case management to enable the clients to transition off cash assistance,
- be updated at least every six months or as the clients needs, goals, barriers, and family circumstances change.
- include any referrals to outside sources such as food banks, domestic violence counseling, etc.

The FSA will be completed on each work-eligible household member, and will be used to identify needs of other household members. Work-eligible is defined as a FITAP family (including cases which do not receive cash because their benefit would be less than \$10) which includes at least one adult under age 60 or a teen head of household who is not disabled or incapacitated, or who is not caring for a family member who is disabled or incapacitated as documented by a medical professional. A work-eligible recipient is defined as an adult under age 60 or a teen head of household who is included in a work-eligible family and who is not disabled or incapacitated, or who is not caring for a family member who is disabled or incapacitated, as documented by a medical professional.

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	Part No./Name	B. Program Eligibility for Cash Assistance Programs
	Section No./Name	B-1200 Time Limits
	Document No./Name	B-1210 Time Limits

Families containing a parent who has received FITAP as an adult at least 24 months, whether consecutive or not, during the prior 60-month may no longer receive benefits unless eligible for one of the exemptions listed below. Only months of FITAP receipt after the January 1, 1997 date of implementation count toward the 24-month limit.

B-1211 EXEMPTIONS FROM 24-MONTH TIME LIMIT

The following situations represent exemptions from the 24-month time limit:

- all adults included in the assistance unit are incapacitated or disabled
- months after June 1999 in which a recipient receives the earned income disregard shall not count toward the 24-month time limit.

B-1212 EXTENSION OF 24-MONTH TIME LIMIT

An extension of the 24-month time limit may be granted in the following situations:

- an individual maintains compliance with the Family Success Agreement (FSA);
- factors relating to job availability are unfavorable;
- an individual loses his job as a result of factors not related to his job performance;
- other hardships have occurred which affect the individual's ability to obtain employment.

B-1213 60 MONTH TIME LIMIT

Eligibility for cash assistance under a program funded by Part IV of the [Social Security Act](#) is limited to a lifetime limit of 60 months. No cash assistance will be provided to a family that includes an adult who has received assistance for 60 months (whether or not consecutive) unless one of the following hardships exist (in households with two caretaker relatives, both caretaker relatives must meet at least one of these criteria):

- factors relating to job availability are unfavorable;
- an individual loses his job as a result of factors not related to his job performance;
- other hardships have occurred which affect the individual's ability to obtain employment

Any month for which such assistance was provided will be disregarded from the 24- and 60-month time limits with respect to the individual, if the individual was a minor child and not the head of a household or married to the head of a household.

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	Part No./Name	B. Program Eligibility for Cash Assistance Programs
	Section No./Name	B-1300 Other Eligibility Factors
	Document No./Name	B-1310 Other Eligibility Factors

Other eligibility factors that must be met in order to qualify for FITAP or KCSP benefits include:

1. Enumeration

Each applicant for, or recipient of, FITAP/KCSP is required to furnish a Social Security number or to apply for a Social Security number if such a number has not been issued or is not known, unless good cause has been established.

2. Immunization

FITAP and KCSP recipients are required to follow the schedule of immunizations as promulgated by the Louisiana Office of Public Health for any child under 18 years of age. No person is required to comply with this provision if that person or his/her parent or guardian submits a written statement from a physician stating that the immunization procedure is contraindicated for medical reasons, or if the person or his/her parent or guardian objects to the procedure on religious grounds.

3. School Attendance

Work-eligible FITAP recipients, in order to ensure appropriate child development, educational attainment, and school attendance for each minor child included in the Family Success Agreement (FSA), must agree in the FSA to:

- actively participate in their child's education through parent-teacher conferences, homework assistance, or other activities, and
- provide documentation to the department that they are ensuring school attendance and are engaged in the child's learning.

Work-eligible, minor parents who have not yet received a high school diploma or equivalency must attend school or related education classes designed to obtain a high school diploma or its equivalent.

4. Drug Screening, Testing, Education and Rehabilitation Program

All adult recipients of FITAP must be free from the use of or dependency on illegal drugs. All applicants for and recipients of FITAP, age 18 and over, must satisfactorily comply with the requirements of the drug screening, testing, education, and rehabilitation process. An illegal drug is a controlled substance as defined in [R.S. 40:961](#) et seq.- Controlled Dangerous Substance.

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	Document No./Name	B-1310 Other Eligibility Factors

5. Work Requirements

FITAP recipients must meet the work requirements outlined in LAC [67:III.Chapter 57](#).

6. Sanctions for Refusal to Accept a Job

Refusal to accept a job will result in the appropriate sanction being imposed on a work-eligible family as defined in section C-100. The case of a family that is not work-eligible shall have their case closed for at least one month and until the family complies.

7. Parenting Skills Education

Any work-eligible recipient or minor in a FITAP case and any child under age 18 in a KCSP case, who is pregnant or has a child under the age of one, is required to participate in a parenting skills education program.

8. Strikers

FITAP benefits cannot be paid to families in which the caretaker relative or stepparent is participating in a strike on the last day of the month and, if any other member of the household is participating in a strike, his or her needs cannot be considered in computing the FITAP benefits.

9. Individuals Convicted Of a Felony Involving A Controlled Substance

An individual convicted under federal or state law of any offense which is classified as a felony by the law of the jurisdiction involved and which has as an element the possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance (as defined in Section 102(6) of the Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C. 802[6]) shall be disqualified from receiving FITAP/KCSP benefits for a period of one year commencing on the date of conviction if an individual is not incarcerated, or from the date of release from incarceration if the individual is incarcerated. This shall apply to an offense which occurred after August 22, 1996.

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	Part No./Name	B. Program Eligibility for Cash Assistance Programs
	Section No./Name	B-1400 Reporting Requirements
	Document No./Name	B-1410 Reporting Requirements

A FITAP/KCSP household must report any change that affects eligibility or the amount of monthly benefits. Changes in income must be reported if the household's gross monthly income changes by more than \$100 in earned income or \$50 in unearned income. Changes shall be reported within 10 days of the knowledge of the change unless the FITAP/KCSP household is included in a food stamp semi-annual reporting household. The FITAP/KCSP household is then subject to the semi-annual household reporting requirements in accordance with [LAC 67:III.2013](#).

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	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	B. Program Eligibility for Cash Assistance Programs
	Section No./Name	B-1500 Application Disposition and Initial Date of Eligibility
	Document No./Name	B-1510 Application Disposition and Initial Date of Eligibility

The time within which the worker shall dispose of the application is limited to within 30 days from the date on which the signed application is received in the local office. The applicant shall:

- have benefits available through Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT),
- be mailed his first payment or notified that he has been found ineligible for a grant by the 30th day, unless an unavoidable delay has occurred.

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	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	C. Work and Self-Sufficiency
	Section No./Name	C-100 Strategies to Empower People (STEP) Program
	Document No./Name	C-110 STEP Overview

To assist Louisiana families in becoming economically self-reliant so that their dependence on government benefits for basic needs is minimized, the department implemented the STEP Program effective October 1, 2003, so that all cash assistance recipients, with certain exceptions, are actively engaged in meaningful activities designed to enable their transition from cash assistance to self-reliance. It is further intended that cash assistance recipients demonstrate active and diligent personal responsibility in achieving self-reliance through employment and increased workplace literacy. All appropriate state agencies responsible for employment, training, and educating Louisiana's citizens are expected to cooperate in the pursuit of this goal.

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	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	C. Work and Self-Sufficiency
	Section No./Name	C-100 Strategies to Empower People (STEP) Program
	Document No./Name	C-120 Work Activities

Work-eligible recipients shall participate in appropriate work activities as agreed upon in the Family Success Agreement. Work-eligible is defined as families containing an adult under sixty years of age, or teen head of household, that is not disabled, incapacitated, or caring for a family member who is disabled or incapacitated as documented by a medical expert to which the status of disability is clearly established and explained. Work-eligible excludes cases in which only the child portion of need that is unrelated to a sanction or penalty, known as a child-only case, is considered in determining eligibility.

The work activities may include but are not limited to:

- unsubsidized employment,
- subsidized employment,
- unpaid work experience,
- on-the-job training,
- job search/job readiness,
- vocational education,
- satisfactory attendance at secondary school or in course of study leading to a certificate of general equivalence, in the case of recipients who have not completed secondary schools or received a certificate,
- education directly related to employment, in the case of a recipient who has not received a high school diploma or certificate of equivalency,
- job skills training directly related to employment,
- community service, and
- the provision of child care to an individual who is participating in community service.

Participants who are found not to possess basic workplace or basic literacy skills, as determined by an assessment, shall combine employment and job readiness and job search activities with activities designed to increase their basic and workplace literacy skills.

	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	C. Work and Self-Sufficiency
	Section No./Name	C-100 Strategies to Empower People (STEP) Program
	Document No./Name	C-130 Temporary Exceptions

A work-eligible applicant or recipient of cash assistance shall immediately participate in work activities for the minimum number of hours per week required by federal law unless one of the following exceptions applies. These temporary exceptions shall not exceed six months and shall occur only once in a twelve-month period. The exceptions include:

- inability to obtain appropriate child care; or
- status as a victim of domestic violence based on evidence presented to the department which may include, but not be limited to, information from law enforcement agencies or domestic violence providers.

Participants who receive a temporary exception shall be informed that this time is counted against their federal 60-month time limit and state 24-month time limit for receipt of cash assistance.

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	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State
	Part No./Name	C. Work and Self-Sufficiency
	Section No./Name	C-100 Strategies to Empower People (STEP) Program
	Document No./Name	C-140 Family Assessment

A Family Assessment shall be completed on all FITAP/STEP applicants included in the certification in order to assist the worker in identifying family strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and barriers as well as determining programs that the applicants will need to become self-sufficient.

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	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	C. Work and Self-Sufficiency
	Section No./Name	C-100 Strategies to Empower People (STEP) Program
	Document No./Name	C-150 Job Readiness

A work-eligible applicant for cash assistance must participate in job readiness activities as part of the core services available under STEP. The applicant will receive an initial employability assessment designed to determine their level of employability, immediate needs, and family circumstances. Job developers, through performance-based contracts, will provide job readiness services that can include, but are not limited to:

- workplace literacy assessment;
- resume development;
- interview skills;
- job search;
- workplace standards and soft-skills development;
- work ethics;
- interest inventories related to job market and skills;
- assistance with identification of available jobs and employers;
- life skills development;
- budget and financial management; and
- client follow-up.

	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	C. Work and Self-Sufficiency
	Section No./Name	C-100 Strategies to Empower People (STEP) Program
	Document No./Name	C-160 Comprehensive Assessment

Once an applicant is certified for eligibility, a comprehensive assessment will be conducted and include workplace literacy, basic skills and educational attainment, interests and aptitude related to employment, barriers to employment, need for education, supportive services such as child care and transportation, and other supportive services. Specialized assessments can occur for issues that arise after an initial assessment has been completed and could include substance abuse, domestic violence, mental health screening, or others as determined by the department.

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	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	C. Work and Self-Sufficiency
	Section No./Name	C-100 Strategies to Empower People (STEP) Program
	Document No./Name	C-170 Family Success Agreement

Upon determination of eligibility and after completion of the comprehensive assessment, work-eligible participants shall enter into a contractual agreement, known as the Family Success Agreement (FSA), with the department. The FSA will specify:

- the client's time-bound goals, responsibilities, and work activity participation and
- the department's obligation to provide necessary supportive services, assessments, notifications, information, and case management.

The FSA shall be updated at least every six months or as the client's needs, goals, barriers, and family circumstances change.

	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	C. Work and Self-Sufficiency
	Section No./Name	C-100 Strategies to Empower People (STEP) Program
	Document No./Name	C-180 Family Transition Assessment

The department shall complete a Family Transition Assessment (FTA) to assist participants with their transition from cash assistance.

The plan will be completed with:

- participants who have received three of the first six months of the earned income disregard,
- work-eligible families whose cases are closed for reasons other than non-compliance, and
- work-eligible families who have received 54 months of FITAP benefits.

The FTA shall include but is not limited to:

1. a plan for on-going success in the work force;
2. identification of short and long-term goals;
3. identification of potential barriers and an action plan to overcome these barriers; and
4. information regarding eligibility for supportive services including, but not limited to: Medicaid benefits, Food Stamp benefits, Child Care, transportation, Louisiana Child Health Insurance Program, the earned income tax credit, and TANF-funded services.

	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	C. Work and Self-Sufficiency
	Section No./Name	C-200 Supportive Services
	Document No./Name	C-210 Supportive Services

Supportive services provided to clients include but are not limited to:

- a full range of case maintenance and case management services designed to lead to self-sufficiency,
- transportation assistance,
- food stamp benefits,
- Medicaid,
- child care,
- TANF-funded services, other services necessary to accept or maintain employment.

Services may be provided to persons participating in the Family Assessment and to persons referred by the analyst to other activities, such as drug counseling, prior to their participation in a work activity. It also includes providing services to FITAP recipients participating in approved activities necessary to meet exemptions to the FITAP time limits.

In addition, although participation in the FITAP Drug Testing Program is not countable as a STEP activity, appropriate supportive services may be provided to FITAP recipients to facilitate attendance in these activities. Appropriate supportive services may also be provided to allow participation in educational activities for FITAP recipients who are exempt from STEP.

	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	C. Work and Self-Sufficiency
	Section No./Name	C-300 Community Services Option
	Document No./Name	C-310 Community Services Option

Louisiana has chosen to opt out of the provision of Section 402 (A)(1)(B)(iv) of Title IV of the Social Security Act which would have required a parent or caretaker to participate in community service employment after receiving assistance for two months.

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	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	D. Sanctions
	Section No./Name	D-100 Sanctions
	Document No./Name	D-110 Sanctions

Sanctions will be used as a last resort to inform participants that they have not met the expectations set forth in the Family Success Agreement (FSA). Participants shall be sanctioned for the following violations:

- failure of the participant to provide documentation to the department that they are ensuring school attendance and are engaged with their child's learning;
- failure of a work-eligible, minor parent with a child who has not yet received a high school diploma or equivalency, to attend school or related education classes designed to obtain a high school diploma or its equivalent;
- failure of a public assistance recipient who is pregnant or has a child under age one to attend parenting education and other training conducive to the unique needs of new parents;
- failure of work-eligible families to meet the required employment and education activities for the minimum number of hours without good cause, as specified in the Family Success Agreement;
- failure or refusal to accept the opportunity for employment, quitting a job without good cause, or acceptance of voluntary reduction in earnings; or
- failure of work-eligible families to meet other requirements such as but not limited to immunization, cooperation with Support Enforcement Services, compliance with substance abuse screening, testing, treatment, etc. as specified in the Family Success Agreement.

	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	D. Sanctions
	Section No./Name	D-100 Sanctions
	Document No./Name	D-120 Sanction Periods

If it is determined that a work-eligible family has failed to meet the required activities as specified in the Family Success Agreement without good cause, that family shall be ineligible for FITAP benefits as follows:

- first sanction - a minimum of one month or until compliance, whichever is longer;
- second sanction - a minimum of two months or until compliance, whichever is longer;
- third or subsequent sanction - a minimum of three months or until compliance, whichever is longer.

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	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	D. Sanctions
	Section No./Name	D-100 Sanctions
	Document No./Name	D-130 Good Cause

The following represent good cause for not complying with the requirements set forth in the Family Success Agreement:

- Appropriate child care or transportation is unavailable within a reasonable distance from the participant's home or worksite after efforts have been made, and assistance has been offered, to secure child care or transportation.
- Situations related to domestic violence supported evidence presented to the department which may include but not limited to, information from law enforcement agencies or domestic violence providers.
- Situations related to the treatment of a mental or physical illness, including substance abuse treatment, where there is verification that participation in required activities would impair a treatment plan of a mental health or medical professional. Any participant that receives a good cause exception related to mental or physical illness shall incorporate the completion of the identified treatment plan in the Family Success Agreement.
- Temporary, short-term illness or the temporary care of a family member who is ill, as documented by a medical professional.
- Temporary emergency crisis, such as homelessness, fire, accident, dislocation due to natural causes, hurricane, flood, or similar circumstances that can be substantiated.

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	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	E. Client Rights
	Section No./Name	E-100 Client Notification
	Document No./Name	E-110 Client Notification

FITAP and KCSP applicants will be sent written notification of the disposition of the application. The applicant must either be issued a Louisiana Purchase Automated Benefit Card and be able access benefits, or notified that he has been found ineligible for benefits by the 30th day, unless an unavoidable delay has occurred.

In the month proceeding the final month of certification, a notice of expiration and Application for Continued Assistance will be provided to the household. The notice shall inform the household that failure to timely reapply will result in closure and include the right to a fair hearing. If the payee fails, without good cause, to keep a scheduled appointment, the case will be closed without further notification.

A notice of adverse action shall be sent at least 13 days prior to taking action to reduce or terminate benefits in FITAP cases or to terminate benefits in KCSP cases. In some circumstances advance notice is not required. A concurrent notice shall be sent to the client at the time of action in the following situations:

1. the agency has factual information confirming the death of the FITAP/KCSP payee;
2. the client signs a statement requesting reduction or closure and waiving the right to advance notice;
3. the client's whereabouts are unknown and agency mail directed to the client has been returned by the Post Office indicating no known forwarding address;
4. a client has been certified in another state and that fact has been established;
5. a child is removed from the home as a result of a judicial determination, or is voluntarily placed in foster care by his legal guardian;
6. the client has been admitted or committed to an institution;
7. the client has been placed in a skilled or intermediate nursing care facility or long-term hospitalization;
8. the agency disqualifies a household member because of an Intentional Program Violation and the benefits of the remaining household members are reduced or terminated because of the disqualification;
9. the case is closed due to the amount of child support collected through Support Enforcement Services;

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	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	E. Client Rights
	Section No./Name	E-100 Client Notification
	Document No./Name	E-110 Client Notification

10. the worker reduces or ends FITAP benefits or terminates KCSP benefits at the end of a normal period of certification when the client timely reapplies for FITAP/KCSP;
11. the client has been certified for Supplemental Security Income and that fact has been established; (applies only in FITAP cases);
12. the child is certified for Kinship Care Subsidy Payments; (applies only in FITAP cases);
13. the agency receives a written report signed by the head of household or other responsible household member which provides sufficient information for the agency to determine the household's benefit amount or household/client's ineligibility;
14. the agency receives a report of change through the semi-annual reporting process that would reduce or terminate benefits; or
15. mass changes.

	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	E. Client Rights
	Section No./Name	E-200 Right to Appeal
	Document No./Name	E-210 Right to Appeal

The DSS Bureau of Appeals is responsible for providing a system of hearings that must meet the due process standards set forth in Federal Regulations, State laws, and Goldberg vs. Kelly [397 US 254](#) (1970).

Each applicant is informed by the application form and by the appropriate notification forms (as decisions are made affecting his case) of his right to a hearing, of the method by which a hearing may be requested, and who may present his case. Detailed information concerning the Fair Hearing procedure is contained in the Fair Hearing Pamphlet, form [OFS 5F](#), which is provided by the DSS Bureau of Appeals when a Fair Hearing is requested.

The claimant may represent himself at the hearing or be represented by any authorized agent.

When a decision is made on a case, the client is notified and is allowed the following number of days from the date of the notice to request a Fair Hearing:

- FITAP 30 days
- STEP Program 30 days
- KCSP 30 days

The client may appeal at any time during a certification period for a dispute of the current level of benefits.

An appeal is timely requested if the appeal request:

- is delivered on or before the due date, or
- mailed on or before the due date. If the appeal request is received by mail on the first working day following the due date, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that the appeal was timely filed.

Recipients of FITAP and KCSP who request a Fair Hearing prior to the expiration of the Advance Notice of Adverse Action or within 13-days of the date of Concurrent Notice must have benefits continued at, or reinstated to, the benefit level of the previous month, unless:

- the recipient indicates he does not want benefits continued;
- a determination is made at the hearing that the sole issue is one of existing or changing state or federal law; or,
- change unrelated to the appeal issue affecting the client's eligibility occurs while the hearing decision is pending and the client fails to request a hearing after receiving the notice of change.

	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	E. Client Rights
	Section No./Name	E-200 Right to Appeal
	Document No./Name	E-210 Right to Appeal

A decision by the hearing authority shall be binding on the Department of Social Services and shall summarize the facts of the case, specify the reasons for the decision, and identify the supporting evidence and the pertinent State or Federal regulations. The decision shall become a part of the record. The household shall be notified in writing of the:

- decision,
- reasons for the decision,
- available appeal rights, and
- right to pursue judicial review of the decision.

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	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	emporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	E. Client Rights
	Section No./Name	E-300 Confidentiality
	Document No./Name	E-310 Confidentiality

Client information may only be used for the administration of the program. Use and disclosure of information will be restricted in accordance with all applicable state laws and federal regulations. Use of information for commercial, personal, or political purposes is prohibited.

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	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	E. Client Rights
	Section No./Name	E-400 Interpretive Services
	Document No./Name	E-410 Interpretive Services

While OFS is adhering to Office of Civil Rights policy by utilizing procedures that serve non-English speaking clients, it is the agency's intention to continue finding ways to better locate these persons and provide them access to all TANF programs and services.

The Contract Accountability Review Team (CART) within OFS reviews contracts with providers of TANF services to ensure that all aspects of the contract are being adhered to, including conducting assessments for disabilities and for limited English proficiency.

	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	F. Additional Program Provisions
	Section No./Name	F-100 Benefit Delivery
	Document No./Name	F-110 Benefit Delivery

Needy families, through the FITAP, KCSP, and STEP programs, will be provided financial assistance, job preparation, work and supportive services. Payment and Need Standards for financial assistance are set forth in B-910, Income Eligibility, of this State Plan. Financial assistance is delivered through Electronic Benefits Transfer.

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	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	F. Additional Program Provisions
	Section No./Name	F-200 Statewide Program Uniformity
	Document No./Name	F-210 Statewide Program Uniformity

The TANF Programs will be operated statewide in all political subdivisions of the state. No specific provisions will be applied to families moving to Louisiana from another state.

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	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	F. Additional Program Provisions
	Section No./Name	F-300 Customer Service
	Document No./Name	F-310 Customer Service

The Mission of the Office of Family Support (OFS) is to build and support a team of engaged staff serving together to empower families to attain self-sufficiency and ongoing independence through:

- strategic approaches,
- customer-focused policies and supportive services,
- simplified processes, and
- community-based solutions.

The goals are to redesign the department into a catalyst for development of self-support and self-sufficiency for those individuals and families served; to deliver efficient, effective and quality services to our customers; to improve the quality of work life towards achieving departmental unity; and to maximize the use and effectiveness of technology.

Administration of the Child Care Program, Food Stamp Program, and the various TANF-funded programs requires the agency to coordinate activities between programs to ensure that the best services are provided.

	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	F. Additional Program Provisions
	Section No./Name	F-400 Child Support Enforcement
	Document No./Name	F-410 Child Support Enforcement

Applicants and recipients of cash assistance programs will be automatically referred to the Child Support Enforcement Program through an interface of the L'AMI and LASES systems. Notice of failure to cooperate will also be automatically generated through this interface and will result in sanctions.

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	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	F. Additional Program Provisions
	Section No./Name	F-500 Tribes
	Document No./Name	F-510 Tribes

Members of Indian tribes will be afforded equitable access to the program by application of all policies and procedures without discrimination.

	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	F. Additional Program Provisions
	Section No./Name	F-600 Parental Responsibility
	Document No./Name	F-610 Parental Responsibility

The following provisions/program requirements encourage parental responsibility:

- Immunization of recipients under age 18;
- School attendance;
- Parenting skills training;
- Restriction in payments to minor unmarried parents;
- Cooperation with Office for Addictive Disorders;
- Development of the Family Success Agreement;
- Access and visitation program for non-custodial parents;
- Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program.

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	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	F. Additional Program Provisions
	Section No./Name	F-700 Waivers
	Document No./Name	F-710 Waivers

No waivers will be applicable.

	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	F. Additional Program Provisions
	Section No./Name	F-800 State Options
	Document No./Name	F-810 State Options

- Louisiana has chosen to opt out of the provision at [§402\(a\)\(1\)\(B\)\(iv\)](#) of Title IV of the Social Security Act which would have required a parent or caretaker to participate in community service employment after receiving assistance for two months.
- Louisiana will not sanction single custodial parents or caretakers, caring for a child who has not attained six years of age, who have demonstrated an inability to obtain needed child care, per [§407\(e\)\(2\)](#) of Title IV of the Social Security Act.
- On a case by case basis, Louisiana may exempt single custodial parents caring for a child under age one from the work requirements for a maximum of 12 months per individual, and may disregard such an individual in determining the participation rate, per [§407 \(b\)\(5\)](#) of Title IV of the Social Security Act.
- Per [§404\(j\)](#) of Title IV of the Social Security Act, Louisiana has chosen not to mandatorily sanction a family that includes an adult between age 20 and 51 if such adult does not have or is not working toward attaining a secondary school diploma or equivalent. These adults will be required to participate in allowable work activities.
- Per [§408 \(b\)\(2\)\(B\)](#) of Title IV of the Social Security Act, Louisiana has chosen to conduct assessments within 180 days of the effective date for current recipients and within 90 days of certification for new applicants. Louisiana has also chosen to develop individual responsibility plans called a Family Success Agreement based on the assessments for all adult recipients.
- Per [§402](#) of Title IV-A of the Social Security Act, Louisiana has chosen to waive, pursuant to a determination of good cause, program requirements including: STEP Program participation; time-limited benefits; child support or paternity establishment cooperation requirements; refusal to accept or termination of full-time employment; residency, school attendance, and any other program requirement when the requirement makes it more difficult for the individual to escape domestic violence or places them at risk of further violence.

	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	F. Additional Program Provisions
	Section No./Name	F-900 Administration
	Document No./Name	F-910 Administration

The FITAP, KCSP, and STEP Program, will be state administered through the Department of Social Services, Office of Family Support, and parish offices. The TANF Initiatives Programs will be state administered through the Department of Social Services, Office of Family Support, State Office.

1. Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program (FITAP) – provides cash benefit assistance for needy families designed to strengthen families and promote job preparation and work. Funding method consists of federal and state dollars.
2. Strategies to Empower People (STEP) Program - provides FITAP recipients with employment-related activities and support services such as child care, transportation, and other expenses necessary for education, training or employment. Funding method consists of commingled federal and state dollars. The STEP program replaced the FIND Work program effective October 1, 2003. The STEP program was implemented to more effectively provide employment and training services to participants. Partners playing key roles in the administration of STEP are the Louisiana Workforce Commission and the Departments of Labor and Education.
3. Kinship Care Subsidy Program (KCSP) - provides cash assistance for children who reside with a qualified relative other than the parent. Funding method consists of federal and state dollars.
4. TANF Initiative Programs - the Office of Family Support through the TANF Initiatives works with a wide variety of community partners in order to provide quality services to the citizens of the state. These partners include other governmental agencies, non-profit, community-based and faith-based organizations, and many private businesses. Other state agencies such as the Departments of Education, Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Economic Development, Health and Hospitals, Louisiana State University, the Governor’s Office, and the Supreme Court of Louisiana also partner with OFS to provide TANF-funded services through Memoranda of Understanding with our agency.

	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	G. Additional Uses of TANF Block Grant Funds and State Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Funds
	Section No./Name	G-100 TANF Initiatives
	Document No./Name	G-110 TANF Initiatives Overview

In addition to the programs described in this Plan which provides cash assistance and supportive services to needy families meeting the financial criteria contained in Section B of this Plan, the State of Louisiana intends to provide services to accomplish the goals or purposes outlined in Section 401 of the [Social Security Act](#) (42 USC 601 et seq), that is:

1. to provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives;
2. to end dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage;
3. to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies; and
4. to encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

The programs known collectively as the TANF Initiatives provide benefits in the form of services to needy families, defined as families who have earned income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level, or a family in which any member receives a Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program (FITAP) grant, Kinship Care Subsidy Program (KCSP) grant, Food Stamp benefits, Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) services, Title IV-E, Medicaid, Louisiana Children's Health Insurance Program (LaCHIP) benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or free or reduced school lunch.

Not all TANF Initiatives require a family to be "needy" as defined above in order to receive services. There are initiatives that target children, parents, or caretaker relatives of minor children and require only that the person be in need of the services provided by the initiative.

The various TANF Initiatives are listed in Section G-200, TANF Initiative Programs, of this State Plan.

	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	G. Additional Uses of TANF Block Grant Funds and State Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Funds
	Section No./Name	G-200 TANF Initiative Programs
	Document No./Name	G-201 Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program

The agency shall enter into Memoranda of Understanding or contracts to prevent or reduce out-of-wedlock and teen pregnancies by enrolling youth ages 8 through 20 in supervised, safe environments, with adults leading activities according to a research-based model aimed at reducing teen pregnancy. These programs consist of curriculums which include, but are not limited to, topics designed to educate males 18 years and older on the problem of statutory rape.

Services offered by providers meet TANF goal 3, to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies by providing research-based prevention and intervention programming for students who live in poor communities and/or show evidence of academic underperformance, dropping out, or engaging in negative behaviors that can lead to dependency, out-of-wedlock births, or imprisonment.

Eligibility for services is not limited to needy families. Custodial and non-custodial parents, legal guardians, or caretaker relatives of youth who are participants in the program may also receive parenting training and educational services. Services are considered non-assistance by the agency. Funding method consists of federal-only dollars.

	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	G. Additional Uses of TANF Block Grant Funds and State Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Funds
	Section No./Name	G-200 TANF Initiative Programs
	Document No./Name	G-202 Nonpublic School Early Childhood Development

OFS shall enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Governor's Office, Office of Community Programs, to provide early childhood education to certain four-year-olds in non-public schools.

These services meet TANF goal 3, to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and TANF goal 4, to encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families by placing children in learning environments at the pre-school level to foster an interest in learning, increase literacy levels, and increase the likelihood of developing responsible behavior.

Eligibility for services is limited to families in which the child is one year younger than the eligible age for public school kindergarten and who have earned income at or below 200% of federal poverty level. A needy family consists of minor children residing with custodial parents, or caretaker relatives of minor children.

Services are considered non-assistance by the agency. Funding is federal dollars only.

	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	G. Additional Uses of TANF Block Grant Funds and State Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Funds
	Section No./Name	G-200 TANF Initiative Programs
	Document No./Name	G-203 Alternatives to Abortion

The Office of Family Support shall enter into contracts with public agencies, non-profit organizations, or for-profit organizations to provide intervention services including crisis intervention, counseling, mentoring, support services, and pre-natal care information, in addition to information and referrals regarding healthy childbirth, adoption, and parenting to help ensure healthy and full-term pregnancies as an alternative to abortion.

These services meet TANF goal 1 to provide assistance to needy families so children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives and TANF goal 4 to encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families by providing pregnancy and parenting support to low-income women, their male partners, and families who are experiencing an unplanned pregnancy.

Eligibility for services is limited to pregnant women, their male partners, and/or pregnant minors whose family's income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Services are considered non-assistance by the agency. Funding is federal dollars only.

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	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)		
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan		
	Part No./Name	G. Additional Uses of TANF Block Grant Funds and State Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Funds		
	Section No./Name	G-200 TANF Initiative Programs		
	Document No./Name	G-204 Domestic Violence Services		
	Date	Issue:	October 7, 2008	Effective:

The Office of Family Support shall enter into Memoranda of Understanding or contracts to provide services for victims of domestic violence and their children, including but not limited to rural outreach and community collaboration training for the purpose of educating attendees about domestic violence and the available services provided by the Department of Social Services including but not limited to TANF, Food Stamps, Childcare, and Employment Training. As a result, the organizations that attend the training will be knowledgeable about the resources available from the Department of Social Services and be able to refer the victims to the Department for services such as Food Stamps, child care, etc.

These services meet TANF goal 4 to encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

Eligibility for services is not limited to needy families. Eligibility for services is limited to children and/or their parents or caretaker relatives who are victims of domestic violence. A family consists of a minor child residing with a custodial parent or caretaker relative of the minor child, and non-custodial parents.

Services are considered non-assistance by the agency. Furthermore, direct services that are provided in response to an episode of need or a specific crisis situation and are non-recurrent such as but not limited to food, clothing, and shelter assistance, will not be provided beyond (4) four months. Funding is federal dollars only. TANF funds will not be used to fund services that are being funded by the Family Violence Prevention Act or any other source of funding. However, TANF funds may be used for the expansion of services already funded by this act or any other sources of funding.

	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)		
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan		
	Part No./Name	G. Additional Uses of TANF Block Grant Funds and State Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Funds		
	Section No./Name	G-200 TANF Initiative Programs		
	Document No./Name	G-205 After-School Tutorial and Summer Enrichment Programs		
	Date	Issue:	October 7, 2008	Effective:

The agency has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Education to provide after-school tutorial services and summer enrichment programs.

Services meet TANF goal 3 to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies by providing intervention and improved life prospects for students who show evidence of academic underperformance, dropping out, or engaging in negative behaviors that can lead to dependency and out-of-wedlock pregnancies, imprisonment, etc.

Eligibility for services is not limited to needy families. A family consists of a minor child residing with a custodial parent or caretaker relative of the minor child, and non-custodial parents. Services are considered non-assistance by the agency. Funding method consists of federal-only dollars.

	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	G. Additional Uses of TANF Block Grant Funds and State Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Funds
	Section No./Name	G-200 TANF Initiative Programs
	Document No./Name	G-206 Court-Appointed Special Advocates

The agency has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Supreme Court of Louisiana to provide services to needy children identified as abused or neglected who are at risk of being placed in foster care or, are already in foster care. Community advocates provide information gathering and reporting, determination of and advocacy for the children's best interests, and case monitoring to provide for the safe and stable maintenance of the children or return to their own home.

The services meet TANF 1 goal to provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the home of relatives by ensuring that the time children spend in foster care is minimized.

Eligibility for services is limited to needy families, that is, one in which any member receives a Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program (FITAP) grant, Kinship Care Subsidy Program (KCSP) grant, Food Stamp benefits, Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) services, Title IV-E, Medicaid, Louisiana Children's Health Insurance Program (LaCHIP) benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Free or Reduced School Lunch, or who has earned income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. A family consists of minor children residing with custodial parents, or caretaker relatives of minor children. Services are considered non-assistance by the agency. Funding method consists of federal-only dollars.

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	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)		
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan		
	Part No./Name	G. Additional Uses of TANF Block Grant Funds and State Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Funds		
	Section No./Name	G-200 TANF Initiative Programs		
	Document No./Name	G-207 Community Response Initiative		
	Date	Issue:	October 7, 2008	Effective:

The Agency may enter into Memoranda of Understanding or contracts with for-profit organizations, non-profit organizations (exempt from taxation under [Section 501\(c\) of the Internal Revenue Code](#)), and state or local public or quasi-public agencies, to develop innovative and strategic programming solutions suited to the unique needs of Louisiana's communities.

Services provided through this initiative include, but are not limited to: mentoring opportunities, development of a Family Resource Center, crisis intervention and family counseling, character education, life skills and self-esteem building for at-risk youth, individual counseling and home buyer education to prepare needy families to make informed decisions regarding building assets through home ownership, referrals to decent and affordable housing, programs developed to address needs of at-risk youth and their families who come in contact with the juvenile justice system, home-based family-centered alternatives to out-of-home placements, establish family stability by reducing poverty, revitalizing communities, and empowering low-income families and individuals to become self-sufficient, job preparation and job placement for low-income individuals who are TANF eligible or living below the federal poverty line for two or more consecutive years, increase the literacy levels of parents, increase the capacity for wage advancement of low-income parents with minor children, increase the awareness of a healthy marriage, literacy and skills training for employment, and services to victims and families of sexual trauma and violent crimes.

None of the services provided through the Community Response Initiative meet the TANF regulatory definition of assistance as defined in 45 CFR §260.31.

The services provided by the various partners must meet one, or a combination of, the four TANF goals:

- TANF goal 1 - to provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives;
- TANF goal 2 - to end dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage;
- TANF goal 3 - to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies; and
- TANF goal 4 - to encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

Eligibility for those services meeting TANF goals 1 and 2 is limited to needy families, that is, a family in which any member receives a Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program (FITAP) grant, Kinship Care Subsidy Program (KCSP) grant, Food Stamp benefits, Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) services, Title IV-E, Medicaid, Louisiana Children's Health Insurance Program (LaCHIP) benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Free or Reduced Lunch, or who has earned income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. For TANF goals 1 and 2 a family consists of minor children residing with custodial parents, or caretaker relatives of minor children.

	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)		
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan		
	Part No./Name	G. Additional Uses of TANF Block Grant Funds and State Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Funds		
	Section No./Name	G-200 TANF Initiative Programs		
	Document No./Name	G-207 Community Response Initiative		
	Date	Issue:	October 7, 2008	Effective:

Eligibility for those services meeting TANF goals 3 and 4 may include any family in need of the provided services regardless of income. For TANF goals 3 and 4 a family consists of a minor child residing with a custodial parent or caretaker relative of the minor child, and non-custodial parents, and legal guardians.

Funding method for services provided consists of State Maintenance of Effort and federal dollars.

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	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)		
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan		
	Part No./Name	G. Additional Uses of TANF Block Grant Funds and State Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Funds		
	Section No./Name	G-200 TANF Initiative Programs		
	Document No./Name	G-208 Drug Courts Program		
	Date	Issue:	October 7, 2008	Effective:

The agency has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Supreme Court of Louisiana to provide services to drug court clients that may include non-medical treatment, assessment, counseling, education, and training. Eligible services shall not include drug court administrative costs.

These services meet TANF goal 3 to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies, and TANF goal 4 to encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families by providing assessment, counseling, education, training, non-medical treatment, etc.

Eligibility for services meeting TANF goals 3 and 4 may include any family in need of the provided services regardless of income. A family consists of a minor child residing with a custodial parent or caretaker relative of the minor child, and non-custodial parents. Services are considered non-assistance by the agency. Funding method consists of federal-only dollars.

	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	G. Additional Uses of TANF Block Grant Funds and State Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Funds
	Section No./Name	G-200 TANF Initiative Programs
	Document No./Name	G-209 Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

The agency has entered into contracts to provide a public awareness, education, and targeted outreach strategies regarding the benefits of claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Program, state tax credit programs, and free taxpayer assistance to EITC-eligible families and to provide financial literacy to families receiving services under this program. Strategies include collaboration with the IRS, various state departments, and the targeted expansion of existing outreach activities to assure that free taxpayer assistance to EITC-eligible families is available statewide.

These services meet TANF goal 2 to end dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage.

Eligibility for services is limited to those families with minor children who meet the Internal Revenue Service's [EITC](#) income eligibility standards. A family consists of minor children residing with custodial parents or caretaker relatives of minor children. Services are considered non-assistance by the agency. Funding is federal-only dollars.

	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	G. Additional Uses of TANF Block Grant Funds and State Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Funds
	Section No./Name	G-200 TANF Initiative Programs
	Document No./Name	G-210 Jobs for America's Graduates Louisiana (JAG-LA) Program

Through the current Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Education, the agency has expanded the age range of participants and the scope of services for the Jobs for America's Graduates Louisiana (JAG-LA) Program to keep in school those students at risk of failing in school, to capture out-of-school youth in need of a high school education, to provide an avenue for achieving academically, and to assist students in ultimately earning recognized credentials that will make it possible for them to exit school and enter post-secondary education and/or the workforce.

Services provided will meet TANF Goal 3 to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies by providing intervention and improved life prospects for students who show evidence of failing, dropping out or engaging in negative behaviors that can lead to dependency, out-of-wedlock births, imprisonment, and/or other undesirable outcomes which may lead to the detriment and impoverishment of youth.

Eligible participants in the JAG-LA Program shall be 12-22 years of age and must face at least two designated barriers to success that include economic, academic, personal, environmental, or work related barriers.

Services are considered non-assistance by the agency. Funding method is federal dollars only.

	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	G. Additional Uses of TANF Block Grant Funds and State Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Funds
	Section No./Name	G-200 TANF Initiative Programs
	Document No./Name	G-211 Remediation and Tutoring Programs

The agency has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Education, Office of Student and School Performance, to establish programs designed to increase the likelihood of a student scoring above the "unsatisfactory" achievement level on the Graduate Exit Exam and the LEAP 21 exam and include:

- Graduate Exit Exam Summer Remediation - designed to provide additional remedial instruction to targeted students, that is, students who scored "unsatisfactory" on the English language arts and/or mathematics components of the Graduate Exit Exam;
- Louisiana Education Assessment Program ([LEAP](#)) 21 Summer Remediation - designed to provide additional remedial instruction to targeted students, that is, fourth and eighth grade students who did not take the spring LEAP 21 test and fourth and eighth grade students who scored "unsatisfactory" on the English language arts and/or mathematics components of the LEAP 21; and
- Louisiana Education Assessment Program ([LEAP](#)) 21 Tutoring - designed to provide intense early intervention and remedial instruction to targeted students in an effort to increase the likelihood of them scoring above the "unsatisfactory" level on the [LEAP](#) 21. The targeted group includes fourth and eighth grade students who have been retained because of their having scored at the "unsatisfactory" level on the English language arts and/or mathematics components of the LEAP 21 tests, and fourth and eighth grade students whose third and seventh grade IOWA test scores were below the thirtieth percentile and are considered to be at risk of scoring at the "unsatisfactory" level on the English language arts and/or mathematics components of the LEAP 21 tests.

These services meet TANF goal 3 to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies by encouraging youths to remain in school, reducing their risk of engaging in negative behavior and increasing opportunities for families to become self-sufficient through education and training.

Eligibility for services is limited to families which include a minor child living with a custodial parent or an adult caretaker relative. A family in which any member receives a Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program (FITAP) grant, Kinship Care Subsidy Program (KCSP) grant, Food Stamps, Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) benefits, Medicaid, Louisiana Children's Health Insurance Program (LaCHIP), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or Free or Reduced School Lunch is eligible. Services are considered non-assistance by the agency. Funding is through State Maintenance of Effort.

	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)		
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan		
	Part No./Name	G. Additional Uses of TANF Block Grant Funds and State Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Funds		
	Section No./Name	G-200 TANF Initiative Programs		
	Document No./Name	G-212 OCS Child Welfare Programs		
	Dates	Issue:	January 8, 2009	Effective:

The agency has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Office of Community Services (OCS), the state child welfare agency, for collaboration in identifying and serving needy families where one or more children living in the home are at risk of abuse or neglect. The methods of collaboration include:

- **Child Protection Investigation (CPI)** - comprises services to assess the validity of a report of child abuse or neglect involving a minor child or children residing with a custodial parent, an adult caretaker relative, or a legal guardian, to determine whether an emergency exists, and when deemed necessary, to develop a safety plan which may include coordination of services, emergency removal and placement, referral to OCS Family Services or another appropriate agency, short term counseling, parenting guidance, and/or arrangements for concrete services, such as the Preventive Assistance Fund (PAF) and Reunification Assistance Fund (RAF).
- **Family Services** - comprises services to needy families including a child or children and their parents or adult caretaker relatives, where one or more minor children living in the home are at risk of abuse or neglect, after an allegation of child neglect or abuse has been validated, to assist in preventing the removal of a child from his care giver. Services are also provided to a family who requests protective services on its own when it is believed that a child in the family would be at risk of abuse or neglect. Elements of Family Services include problem identification, family assessment, risk assessment, safety planning, case planning, counseling, problem resolution, provision of or arrangements for needed services, and/or concrete aid through the Preventive Assistance Fund.
- **Services to Parents** - comprises services to needy families, where one or more minor children living in the home are at risk of abuse or neglect, after an allegation of child neglect or abuse has been validated, and where temporary emergency removal has already occurred in validated abuse and/or neglect cases. Reasonable efforts to maintain the child or children in the home without further risk of harm will be assessed, the case will be staffed prior to removal, and an order will be obtained from the judiciary. Elements of Service to Parents are comprised of problem identification, family assessment, risk assessment, safety planning, problem resolution, provision of or arrangement for needed services, and/or concrete aid through the Preventive Assistance fund. In any temporary emergency placement, TANF funds will only be used in those cases in which the child is placed with a caretaker relative to the fifth degree. These services can be provided when a child is absent from the home for a period of up to 180 days.

Financial eligibility is limited to needy families which include a minor child living with a custodial parent or an adult caretaker relative. A needy family is a family in which any member receives a Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program (FITAP) grant, Kinship Care Subsidy Program (KCSP) grant, Food Stamps, Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) benefits, Medicaid, Louisiana Children's Health Insurance Program (LaCHIP), or Supplemental Security Income (SSI). These

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	Section No./Name	G-200 TANF Initiative Programs		
	Document No./Name	G-212 OCS Child Welfare Programs		
	Dates	Issue:	January 8, 2009	Effective:

services meet TANF goal 1 to provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives.

Direct services which provide for basic needs, that may be provided in response to an episode of need or a specific crisis situation and are non-recurrent, such as but not limited to food, clothing, utilities, and shelter assistance, will not be provided beyond four months. Medical expenses and/or services are not eligible TANF funded services.

A family consists of a child or children and their parents or adult caretaker relatives within the fifth degree of relationship, where one or more minor children living in the home is at risk of abuse or neglect.

Services are considered non-assistance by the Agency. Funding is federal dollars only.

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	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	G. Additional Uses of TANF Block Grant Funds and State Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Funds
	Section No./Name	G-200 TANF Initiative Programs
	Document No./Name	G-213 Individual Development Account Program

OFS shall establish the Individual Development Account (IDA) Program to provide asset and savings opportunities to low-income families for specific purposes as well as provide financial management education. The agency will contract with qualified non-profit organizations, or state or local governments who work with non-profit organizations, to develop and administer the IDA Program for low-income families.

An IDA is a financial account established by, or on behalf of, an individual eligible for assistance to allow that individual to accumulate funds for specific purposes. Funds deposited into the account may be matched by the agency using Temporary Assistance For Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant funds. The balance of the account cannot exceed \$6000, including interest, at any time. Funds deposited by the individual into the account must be derived from earned income. All matching contributions must be deposited in a separate matching fund account and used in accordance with the purposes outlined below. The program will also provide financial management and organization education to eligible families.

IDA funds may be used for one or more of the following qualified purposes as determined by the Secretary:

1. postsecondary educational expenses paid from an IDA directly to an eligible educational institution;
2. first home purchase - qualified acquisition costs with respect to a qualified principal residence for a qualified first-time homebuyer, if paid from an IDA directly to the persons to whom the amounts are due.
3. business capitalization - amounts paid from an IDA directly to a business capitalization account which is established in a federally-insured financial institution and is restricted to use solely for qualified business capitalization expenses.

These services meet TANF goal 1 to provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives. A family consists of minor children living with custodial parents or caretaker relatives of minor children.

Eligibility is limited to low-income families at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. Services are considered non-assistance by the agency. Funding method consists of federal-only dollars.

	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	G. Additional Uses of TANF Block Grant Funds and State Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Funds
	Section No./Name	G-200 TANF Initiative Programs
	Document No./Name	G-214 Early Childhood Supports and Services

The agency has entered into Memoranda of Understanding or contracts to create programs to identify and provide supports and services to young children, ages 0 - 5, and their families who are at risk of developing cognitive, behavioral, and relationship difficulties. Services provided under this program will be limited to eligible families. Services may include but are not limited to:

1. referral to appropriate supports and services provided by network members and other resources in the community;
2. case management;
3. clinical case management;
4. behavior modification;
5. counseling;
6. parent support groups;
7. training and technical assistance;
8. consultation to other providers and agencies;
9. infant mental health screening;
10. infant mental health assessment;
11. non-recurrent, short-term emergency intervention funds for use in a crisis situation; and
12. other services as specified in the Individualized ECSS Family Services Plan.

Services offered by providers meet one or more of the following:

TANF goal 1: to provide assistance to needy families so that children can be cared for in their own home or the home of a relative;

TANF goal 2: to end dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage; and

TANF goal 4: to encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

Eligibility for services is limited to at-risk families that include a child age 0-5 years, and who have earned income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. A family consists of a minor child residing with a custodial parent or caretaker relative of the minor child, and non-custodial parents.

None of the services provided through the Early Childhood Supports and Services Initiative meet the TANF regulatory definition of assistance as defined in 45 CFR 260.31.

Services are considered non-assistance. Effective July 1, 2009 funding is federal dollars only.

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	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	G. Additional Uses of TANF Block Grant Funds and State Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Funds
	Section No./Name	G-200 TANF Initiative Programs
	Document No./Name	G-215 Substance Abuse Treatment Program

The agency has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Office for Addictive Disorders (OAD) wherein OFS shall fund the cost of substance abuse screening and testing and the non-medical treatment of members of needy families to the extent that funds are available.

These services meet TANF goal 2 to end the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by providing needy families with substance abuse treatment so that they may become self-sufficient in order to promote job preparation, work, and marriage.

Eligibility for services is limited to needy families, that is, a family in which any member receives a Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program (FITAP) grant, Kinship Care Subsidy Program (KCSP) grant, Food Stamp benefits, Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) services, Medicaid, Louisiana Children's Health Insurance Program (LaChip) benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Free or Reduced Lunch, or who has earned income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. A needy family includes a minor child living with a custodial parent or caretaker relative who has earned income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Services are considered non-assistance by the agency. Funding method consist of federal-only dollars.

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	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	G. Additional Uses of TANF Block Grant Funds and State Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Funds
	Section No./Name	G-200 TANF Initiative Programs
	Document No./Name	G-216 Parenting-Fatherhood Services Program

The agency has entered into contracts with public agencies, non-profit, or for-profit organizations to create programs that will assist low-income fathers with various skills including employment, life, parenting, and other skills in order to increase their ability to provide emotional and financial support for their children, and to create a network of community- and faith-based programs that will provide linkages to and for state entities, specifically Child Support Enforcement Services.

These services meet the TANF goal 2 to end the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage and TANF goal 4 to encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families by eliminating emotional, social, financial, and legal barriers that hinder a father's ability to be fully engaged in his children's lives.

Eligibility for services is limited to fathers of minor children, who have earned income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Services are considered non assistance. Funding method consists of federal-only dollars.

	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	G. Additional Uses of TANF Block Grant Funds and State Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Funds
	Section No./Name	G-200 TANF Initiative Programs
	Document No./Name	G-217 Community Supervision Program (CSP)

The agency has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Public Safety and Corrections -Youth Services, Office of Youth Development (DPSC-YS/OYD), to provide services to youth and their families as a result of an adjudication and disposition by a court that orders DPSC-YS/OYD to supervise youth in their communities in an effort to prevent removal from the home.

OYD/CSP will complete an intake/assessment and develop a case plan for addressing the needs of the youth. The case plan will contain goals for all need areas and when indicated, include referrals to community programs for both youth and parents. These referrals may include but are not limited to:

1. case management, counseling, and in-home services;
2. parenting education and training, either in-home or out-of-home;
3. diagnostic and evaluation services provided in an attempt to make the most appropriate out-of-home placement;
4. supervision or non-residential programs for youth who remain in the home.

These services meet TANF goal 1 to provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives by providing services to youth, who are in jeopardy of removal from their homes, and their families.

Financial eligibility for those services attributable to TANF/Maintenance of Effort (MOE) funds is limited to eligible families, that is a family that includes a minor child living with a custodial parent or an adult caretaker relative. An eligible family is one in which any member receives a Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program (FITAP) grant, Kinship Care Subsidy Program (KCSP) grant, Food Stamp benefits, Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) services, Title XIX (Medicaid) Medical Assistance Program benefits, Louisiana Children’s Health Insurance Program (LACHIP) benefits, or Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Services are considered non-assistance by the agency. Funding method is State Maintenance of Effort.

	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	G. Additional Uses of TANF Block Grant Funds and State Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Funds
	Section No./Name	G-200 TANF Initiative Programs
	Document No./Name	G-218 Early Childhood Education and Parenting

The Department of Social Services, Office of Family Support, shall enter into Memoranda of Understanding or contracts to create quality, early childhood education and parenting services programs at various sites, such as schools, Head Start and Early Head Start Centers, churches, Class A Day Care Centers, and Family Child Day Care Homes to provide children with age-appropriate services during the school year, school holidays, summer months and before-and-after school and to provide parents, legal guardians, or caretaker relatives of children with parenting and adult/family educational services. The development of public education materials and training_for parents, providers, professionals, and interested parties to educate and promote the services offered by this program and to encourage participation in the programs as well as the Child Care Assistance Program may be included in the contracts or be entered into as specific contracts promote applications for CCAP; assist providers; encourage eligible families to apply for services offered through OFS; and educate parents and others who have an interest in children and families about criteria of quality child care and the needs of young children.

Services offered by providers meet TANF goal 3, to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies by providing supervised, safe environments for children thus limiting the opportunities for engaging in risky behaviors, and TANF goal 4, to encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families by providing educational services to parents or other caretakers to increase their own literacy level and effectiveness as a caregiver, and to foster positive interaction with their children. Services are considered non-assistance by the agency. Funding method is federal dollars only.

Eligibility for services is limited to needy families. A needy family is a family in which any member receives a Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program (FITAP) grant, Kinship Care Subsidy (KCSP) grant, Food Stamp benefits, Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) services, Title IV-E, Medicaid, Louisiana Children's Health Insurance Program (LaCHIP) benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Free or Reduced Lunch, or who has earned income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. A needy family consists of minor children residing with custodial parents, or caretaker relatives of minor children.

	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)		
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan		
	Part No./Name	G. Additional Uses of TANF Block Grant Funds and State Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Funds		
	Section No./Name	G-200 TANF Initiative Programs		
	Document No./Name	G-219 Truancy Assessment and Service Centers		
	Date	Issue:	October 7, 2008	Effective:

The Department of Social Services, Office of Family Support, shall enter into Memoranda of Understanding or contracts for Truancy Assessment and Service Centers designed to identify, assess, and provide counseling to children in kindergarten through sixth grade and family members to assure regular school attendance and improved academic and behavioral outcomes.

These services meet TANF goal 3 to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies by providing counseling to children and family members designed to assure regular school attendance and improved academic and behavioral outcomes.

Eligibility for services is not limited to needy families. A family consists of a minor child residing with a custodial parent or caretaker relative of the minor child, and non-custodial parents. Services are considered non-assistance by the agency. Funding is federal dollars only.

	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	G. Additional Uses of TANF Block Grant Funds and State Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Funds
	Section No./Name	G-200 TANF Initiative Programs
	Document No./Name	G-220 Temporary Emergency Disaster Assistance Program

The Department of Social Services, Office of Family Support, shall enter into contracts to provide disaster emergency services to needy families with dependent children or pregnant women who are displaced because of disasters. The program will provide nonrecurring, short-term benefits not to exceed 4 months. Such services and benefits include, but are not limited to the provision of such items as basic personal items, household items, housing and utility assistance, living accommodations, transportation, job skills or employment assistance, child care vouchers, non-medical substance abuse treatment, mental health services, property repair, and moving assistance. Funding is federal dollars only.

These services meet TANF goal 2, to end dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work and marriage and TANF goal 4, to encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

Eligibility for services is limited to needy families with minor dependent children, or minor dependent children living with caretaker relatives within the 5th degree of relationship, or pregnant women:

1. who are displaced citizens of parishes or counties for which a major disaster has been declared under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Assistance Act and
2. whose income is at or below 250% of the federal poverty level or who are categorically eligible because a member of the family receives a Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program (FITAP) grant, Kinship Care Subsidy Program (KCSP) grant, Food Stamps, Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) benefits, Medicaid, Louisiana Children's Health Insurance Program (LaCHIP), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or Free or Reduced School Lunch.

The Secretary may establish criteria whereby needy families are deemed to be needy based on their statement, circumstances, or inability to access resources and may also relax verification requirements for other eligibility factors.

The program shall be effective for the parishes or counties and time frames as designated by the Secretary.

Services are considered non-assistance by the agency.

	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	G. Additional Uses of TANF Block Grant Funds and State Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Funds
	Section No./Name	G-200 TANF Initiative Programs
	Document No./Name	G-221 Homeless Initiative

The Office of Family Support shall enter into contracts with public agencies, non-profit organizations, or for-profit organizations to end the cycle of homelessness in Louisiana by providing services to homeless families which include but are not limited to comprehensive case management, educational and employment opportunities for adult participants, community referrals, life skill modules, housing options. Furthermore, direct services that are provided in response to an episode of need or a specific crisis situation and are non-recurrent such as but not limited to food, clothing, and shelter assistance, will not be provided beyond (4) four months.

These services meet TANF goal 1 to provide assistance to needy families so children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives by providing educational and employment opportunities to increase the literacy level and effectiveness of a caregiver.

Eligibility for services is limited to needy families, that is a family in which any member receives a Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program (FITAP) grant, Kinship Care Subsidy Program (KCSP) grant, Food Stamp benefits, Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) services, Title IV-E, Medicaid, Louisiana Children’s Health Insurance Program (LaCHIP) benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Free or Reduced Lunch, or who has earned income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. A needy family consists of minor children residing with custodial parents, or caretaker relatives of minor children. Services are considered non-assistance by the agency. Funding method is federal dollars.

	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	G. Additional Uses of TANF Block Grant Funds and State Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Funds
	Section No./Name	G-200 TANF Initiative Programs
	Document No./Name	G-222 Micro-Enterprise Development Program

The Office of Family Support shall enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Economic Development to provide assistance to low-income families who wish to start their own businesses.

These services meet the TANF goal 2 to end the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage. This goal will be accomplished by providing assistance to low-income families through the development of comprehensive micro-enterprise development opportunities as a strategy for moving parents into self-sufficiency.

Eligibility for services is limited to needy families, that is, a family in which any member receives a Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program (FITAP) grant, Kinship Care Subsidy Program (KCSP) grant, Food Stamps, Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) benefits, Medicaid, Louisiana Children's Health Insurance Program (LaCHIP), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Free or Reduced School Lunch, or who has earned income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. A family consists of a minor child residing with custodial parents or caretaker relatives. Only the parent or caretaker relative within the needy family is eligible to participate. Services are considered non-assistance by the agency. Funding is federal dollars only.

	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	G. Additional Uses of TANF Block Grant Funds and State Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Funds
	Section No./Name	G-200 TANF Initiative Programs
	Document No./Name	G-223 Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools

The agency shall enter into contracts to create supportive, nurturing, literature-rich environments for children ages 5 to 18 years by focusing on literacy, cultural heritage, parental involvement, servant-leadership, and social action. Servant Leader Interns are college-aged young adults and recent college graduates who play a key role in the CDF Freedom Schools program. Servant Leader Interns must be mature and responsible and are selected for their energy and enthusiasm, their ability to engage children, and their willingness to work hard with a spirit of servant leadership. The Freedom Schools program connects the needs of children and their families with the resources of the community.

These services meet TANF goal 3 to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies by providing improved life prospects for students who show evidence of failing, dropping out or engaging in negative behaviors that can lead to out-of-wedlock births.

Eligibility for services is not limited to needy families. A family consists of minor children residing with custodial and noncustodial parents, or caretaker relatives of minor children. Services are considered non-assistance by the agency. Funding is federal dollars only.

	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	G. Additional Uses of TANF Block Grant Funds and State Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Funds
	Section No./Name	G-200 TANF Initiative Programs
	Document No./Name	G-224 Nurse Family Partnership Program

The Office of Family Support shall enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Louisiana Office of Public Health, Maternal and Child Health Program to implement the Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) Program Initiative which will serve low-income, first-time mothers by providing nurse home visitation services beginning early in pregnancy and continuing through the first two years of the child’s life. First time mothers may enroll as early as possible during their pregnancy, through week 28 of their pregnancy. The goals of the program include, but are not limited to, improving child health and development and increasing the economic self-sufficiency for eligible participants.

Examples of the activities used to achieve these goals include, but are not limited to, engaging in activities centered on child development, parenting skills, developing a plan to continue the mother’s education, and assisting the mother in finding employment. Medical services are not provided.

These services meet TANF goals 1 thru 4:

1. to provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives;
2. to end dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage;
3. to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies; and
4. to encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

Eligibility for services is limited to needy first time mothers. Eligible participants in the NFP Program shall be first-time mothers who are no more than 28 weeks pregnant at the time of enrollment and who are at or below 200% of poverty.

Services are considered non-assistance by the agency in that they are not considered to meet an on-going basic need. Funding method is federal dollars only.

	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	G. Additional Uses of TANF Block Grant Funds and State Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Funds
	Section No./Name	G-200 TANF Initiative Programs
	Document No./Name	G-225 General Education Development (GED) Testing Program

The Office of Family Support shall enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Education for the General Educational Development (GED) Testing Program to support and enhance the educational and job readiness skills of identified students at risk of dropping out of school or engaging in negative behaviors that can lead to dependency, out-of-wedlock pregnancies, imprisonment, etc. In addition the program encourages building stable families by promoting GED attainment, leading to improved opportunities for employment. The increased literacy levels may lead to the attainment of a Louisiana High School Equivalency Diploma upon passage of the GED, and possible entry into postsecondary education or employment opportunities including vocational skill training.

The services provided consist of GED adult literacy services which prepare students for passage of the GED Test. The GED adult literacy services will address all levels of entering students such as Adult Basic Education (ABE) which will be directed toward students with literacy skills in the range of grades 0-6; Pre-GED directed toward students with literacy skills in the range of grades 7-8; and Adult Secondary Education (ASE) directed toward students with literacy skills in the range of grades 9-12.

These services will be provided to 16-21 year olds and meet TANF goal 3, to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies. TANF goal 3 will be met by supporting and enhancing the educational and job readiness skills of youth at risk of dropping out of school and those who have already dropped out of school and are at risk of engaging in negative behaviors that can lead to out-of-wedlock pregnancies. These services will also be provided to custodial and non-custodial parents who are 22 years old and older with a minor child. These services meet TANF goal 4, to encourage the formation and maintenance of a two parent families. TANF goal 4 will be met by building stable families by promoting GED attainment which will lead to improved opportunities for employment.

Eligibility for services is not limited to needy families. Services are considered non-assistance in that they are not considered to meet an on-going need. Funding method is federal dollars only for all services provided.

	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State
	Part No./Name	G. Additional Uses of TANF Block Grant Funds and State Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Funds
	Section No./Name	G-200 TANF Initiative Programs
	Document No./Name	G-227 LA 4 Public Pre-Kindergarten Program

The Office of Family Support shall enter into a contract with the Department of Education for the LA 4 Public Pre-kindergarten Program.

Services provided include providing high quality early childhood education for low income 4-year-olds in participating public school districts.

These services meet TANF goal 3, to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and TANF goal 4, to encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families by placing children in learning environments at the pre-school level to foster an interest in learning, increase literacy levels and increase the likelihood of developing responsible behavior.

Eligibility for services is limited to at risk families in which the child is one year younger than the eligible age for kindergarten and is eligible to receive free or reduced school lunch meals pursuant to the Federal Child Nutrition Program as documented by a completed application for such meals, whether or not such meals are sought. An at risk family is defined as a family experiencing one or more of at risk indicators, such as, economic stress issues, literacy issues, child development issues, physical, mental, or nutritional health issues, or other factors which contribute to the family's inability to deal with issues in a way that is healthy and productive. Local school districts accept applications and determine eligibility for free or reduced school lunch meals.

Services are considered non-assistance by the agency. Funding is federal and state dollars. The State funding in this program is counted as Maintenance of Effort. Services provided through the LA 4 Public Pre-kindergarten Program will be limited to eligible families. An eligible family consists of a minor child residing with a custodial parent or caretaker relative.

TN 08-09/ 01 Date Initial Plan Submitted to ACF: 10/29/07 Date Initial Plan Found Complete by ACF: 06/09/08
 TN 08-09/ 04 Date Amendment Submitted: 07/28/09 Initiative added effective 07/1/09 Date Amendment Found Complete: _____
 Effective Date of Amendment 7/1/2009

	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	H. List of Federal Certifications and Assurances
	Section No./Name	H-100 Federal Certifications and Assurances
	Document No./Name	H-110 List of Federal Certifications and Assurances

The state will operate programs to provide Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) so that the children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives; to end dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage; to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and establish annual numerical goals for preventing and reducing the incidence of these pregnancies; and encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

These programs are known in Louisiana as the Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program (FITAP), Strategies to Empower People (STEP) Program, Kinship Care Subsidy Program (KCSP), and the TANF Initiatives.

Executive Officer of the state: Kathleen Babineaux Blanco.

In administering and operating a program which provides Temporary Assistance for Needy Families with minor children under title IV-A of the Social Security Act, the State will:

A. Specify which State agency or agencies will administer and supervise the program under Part A in all political subdivisions of the State:

The Department of Social Services is the agency responsible for administering the program;

The Department of Social Services is the agency responsible for supervising the program;

B. Assure that local governments and private sector organizations:

1. Have been consulted regarding the plan and design of welfare services in the State so that services are provided in a manner appropriate to local populations; and
2. Have had at least 45 days to submit comments on the plan and the design of such services.

C. Operate a Child Support Enforcement program under the State plan approved under Part D;

D. Operate a Foster Care and Adoption Assistance program in accordance with Part E, and certify that the State will take all necessary actions to ensure that children receiving assistance are eligible for medical assistance;

E. Provide each member of an Indian tribe, who is domiciled in the State and is not eligible for assistance under a Tribal Family Assistance plan approved under Section 412, with equitable access to assistance under the State program funded under this part attributable to funds provided by the Federal Government.

	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)
	Chapter No./Name	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan
	Part No./Name	H. List of Federal Certifications and Assurances
	Section No./Name	H-100 Federal Certifications and Assurances
	Document No./Name	H-110 List of Federal Certifications and Assurances

F. Establish and enforce standards and procedures to ensure against program fraud and abuse, including standards and procedures concerning nepotism, conflicts of interest among individuals responsible for the administration and supervision of the State program, kickbacks, and the use of political patronage.

G. Make available to the public a summary of the State plan; and

Optional Certifications:

H. The State has established and is enforcing standards and procedures to:

1. Screen and identify individuals receiving assistance under this part with a history of domestic violence while maintaining the confidentiality of such individuals;
2. Refer such individuals to counseling and supportive services; and
3. Waive, pursuant to a determination of good cause, other program requirements such as time limits (for as long as necessary) for individuals receiving assistance, residency requirements, child support cooperation requirements, and family cap provisions, in cases where compliance with such requirements would make it more difficult for individuals receiving assistance under this part to escape domestic violence or unfairly penalize such individuals who are or have been victimized by such violence, or individuals who are at risk of further domestic violence.

CERTIFIED BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE STATE:

October 30, 2007
Date

Original Signature on File
Signature
Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
Governor, State of Louisiana



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20447

JUN 9 2008

Ms. Ann Williamson, Secretary
Louisiana Department of Social Services
P.O. Box 3776
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Dear Ms. Williamson:

In accordance with section 402(a) of the Social Security Act, Louisiana must periodically renew its funding status as an "eligible State" in order to continue to receive Federal funds under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. This renewal process requires that the State submit a TANF plan, which contains all of the necessary elements listed in section 402 of the Social Security Act, including the State certifications specified under sections 402(a)(2)-(7). I am pleased to inform you that as of January 1, 2008, Louisiana continues to qualify as an "eligible State" under the TANF program.

Within the Department's statutory authority regarding the TANF program, the Secretary has found that Louisiana submitted a plan that includes the necessary elements listed in section 402 of the Social Security Act, as amended. By this finding, the Secretary neither approves nor disapproves the policies and practices outlined in the plan. As an eligible State, Louisiana is entitled to an annual SFAG of \$163,971,985.

If you have any questions about the information in this letter, please contact Larry Brendel, the TANF Regional Program Manager for Region VI at (214) 767-6236.

Sincerely,

Robert Shelbourne
Director
Division of State TANF Policy



ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Office of Family Assistance
1301 Young St, Room 945
Dallas, TX 75202

RECEIVED
SEP 18 2008

ASSISTANT SECRETARY
OFFICE OF FAMILY SUPPORT

August 27, 2008

Ms. Ann S. Williamson, Secretary
Louisiana Department of Social Services
627 North 4th Street
P. O. Box 3776
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3776

RECEIVED
DEPT. OF SOCIAL SERVICES

SEP 09 2008

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Ms. Williamson:

We have reviewed the amendment to your Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan dated January 30, 2008. The amendment makes changes to Additional Program Provisions at Part G-200 TANF Initiative Programs, Additional Uses of TANF Block Grant Funds and State Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Funds. The amended initiatives are:

- G-204 Domestic Violence Services
- G-205 After-school Tutorial and Summer Enrichment Programs
- G-207 Community Response Initiatives
- G-208 Drug Courts Program
- G-210 Jobs for America's Graduates Louisiana (JAGS-LA) Program
- G-214 Early Childhood Supports and Services Programs
- G-215 Substance Abuse Treatment Program for Needy Families
- G-219 Truancy Assessment and Service Centers.

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OFS PLANNING

We find your amendment to be complete and have added it to your State Plan. Please contact Carol Beth Sedanko of my staff at (214) 767-1833 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Larry Brendel
TANF Program Manager
Region VI

cc: Sammy Guillory – Family Assistance
Division of State TANF Policy, Office of Family Assistance



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Regional Office VI
1301 Young St, Room 945
Dallas, TX 75202

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ASSISTANT SECRETARY
OFFICE OF FAMILY SUPPORT

December 2, 2008

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Ms. Kristy Nichols
Interim Secretary
Louisiana Department of Social Services
P.O. Box 3776
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

Dear Ms. Nichols:

This letter is to acknowledge our receipt of your amendment to Louisiana's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan. We have reviewed the amendment, Section G-212 OCS, which describes the Memorandum of Understanding with the state child welfare agency for collaboration in identifying and serving needy families where one or more children living in the home are at risk of abuse or neglect.

We find the amendment complete and have added it to your State Plan. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Beth Sedanko of my staff at (214) 767-1833.

Sincerely,

Larry Brendel
Program Manager



ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Regional Office VI
1301 Young St, Room 945
Dallas, TX 75202

April 29, 2009

Ms. Kristy Nichols, Secretary
Louisiana Department of Social Services
P.O. Box 3776
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

Dear Secretary Nichols:

We are writing to advise you that the amendment to Louisiana's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan which amends Part B. Program Eligibility for Cash Assistance Programs, Document B-810, Resources and Part G. Additional Uses of TANF Block grant Funds and State Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Funds, Document G-226 Legal Access and Visitation has been found complete.

Please contact Carol Sedanko of my staff at (214) 767-1833 if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Larry Brendel
Program Manager



ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Regional Office VI
1301 Young St, Room 945
Dallas, TX 75202

April 30, 2009

Ms. Kristy Nichols, Secretary
Louisiana Department of Social Services
P.O. Box 3776
Baton Rouge Louisiana 70821

Dear Secretary Nichols:

This is to advise that the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) State Plan amendment for Part G. Additional Uses of TANF Block Grant Funds and State Maintenance of Effort Funds, Document G210 Jobs for America's Graduates Louisiana Program has been found complete.

Please reference the Administration for Children and Families Program Instruction, TANF-ACF-PI-2008-10 dated October 23, 2008 which explains the TANF regulation at 45 CFR 236.2(a)(4)(ii) regarding the Pro-family Maintenance-of-Effort (MOE) Spending Provision. The Deficit Reduction ACT of 2005 added a new MOE spending provision, "Counting of Spending on Certain Pro-Family Activities" at section 409(a)(7)(B)(i)(V) of the Act. Under this provision, qualified non-assistance pro-family expenditures for benefits and services provided to families who are not considered "eligible families" as defined in 45 CFR 263.2(b), count towards meeting a State's basic MOE requirement. The final regulation defines "certain" for purposes of this new MOE claiming provision. The PI discusses allowable activities for the purpose of counting towards MOE under Healthy Marriage Promotion Activities and Activities Promoting Responsible Fatherhood.

Contact Carol Beth Sedanko of my staff at (214) 767-1833 if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Larry Brendel
Program Manager



*Alison
J. Dot B*

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Regional Office VI
1301 Young St, Room 945
Dallas, TX 75202

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MAY 08 2009

ASSISTANT
OFFICE OF FAMILY SERVICES

April 29, 2009

Ms. Kristy Nichols, Secretary
Louisiana Department of Social Services
P.O. Box 3776
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

Dear Secretary Nichols:

We are writing to advise you that the amendment to Louisiana's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan which amends Part B. Program Eligibility for Cash Assistance Programs, Document B-810, Resources and Part G. Additional Uses of TANF Block grant Funds and State Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Funds, Document G-226 Legal Access and Visitation has been found complete.

Please contact Carol Sedanko of my staff at (214) 767-1833 if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Larry Brendel
Program Manager

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MAY 07 2009

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Alison

To: Dot B

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Regional Office VI
1301 Young St, Room 945
Dallas, TX 75202

April 30, 2009

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MAY 08 2009

ASSISTANT SECRETARY
OFFICE OF FAMILY SUPPORT

Ms. Kristy Nichols, Secretary
Louisiana Department of Social Services
P.O. Box 3776
Baton Rouge Louisiana 70821

Dear Secretary Nichols:

This is to advise that the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) State Plan amendment for Part G. Additional Uses of TANF Block Grant Funds and State Maintenance of Effort Funds, Document G210 Jobs for America's Graduates Louisiana Program has been found complete.

Please reference the Administration for Children and Families Program Instruction, TANF-ACF-PI-2008-10 dated October 23, 2008 which explains the TANF regulation at 45 CFR 236.2(a)(4)(ii) regarding the Pro-family Maintenance-of-Effort (MOE) Spending Provision. The Deficit Reduction ACT of 2005 added a new MOE spending provision, "Counting of Spending on Certain Pro-Family Activities" at section 409(a)(7)(B)(i)(V) of the Act. Under this provision, qualified non-assistance pro-family expenditures for benefits and services provided to families who are not considered "eligible families" as defined in 45 CFR 263.2(b), count towards meeting a State's basic MOE requirement. The final regulation defines "certain" for purposes of this new MOE claiming provision. The PI discusses allowable activities for the purpose of counting towards MOE under Healthy Marriage Promotion Activities and Activities Promoting Responsible Fatherhood.

Contact Carol Beth Sedanko of my staff at (214) 767-1833 if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Larry Brendel
Program Manager

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MAY 07 2009

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY



ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Regional Office VI
1301 Young St, Room 945
Dallas, TX 75202

July 17, 2009

Ms. Kristy H. Nichols, Secretary
Louisiana Department of Social Services
627 North Fourth Street
P.O. Box 3776
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

Dear Ms. Nichols:

We have received your amendment to Louisiana's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan dated June 29, 2009. The Plan has been amended at Part G. Additional Uses of TANF Block Grant Funds and State Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Funds, documents G-214, Early Childhood Supports and Services, and G-215, Substance Abuse Treatment Program.

We have found the amendment complete. Please contact Carol Beth Sedanko of my staff at (214) 767-1833 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry Brendel".

Larry Brendel
Program Manager



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

copy

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Regional Office VI
1301 Young St, Room 945
Dallas, TX 75202

October 13, 2009

Ms. Kristy Nichols
Secretary
Louisiana Department of Social Services
P.O. Box 3776
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

Dear Ms. Nichols:

This letter is to acknowledge our receipt of your amendment to Louisiana's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan for section G-227 LA 4 Public Pre-Kindergarten Program. We have reviewed the amendment which discusses the contract with the Department of Education for the LA 4 Public Pre-Kindergarten Program to provide high quality early childhood education for low income 4 year olds in participating public school districts.

State funding is to be counted as Maintenance of Effort. We have advised your TANF policy staff that in accordance with Program Instruction 2005-1, should universal pre-k become available in Louisiana, you could no longer count these expenditures as Maintenance of Effort. A copy of the Program Instruction was sent to your staff.

We find the amendment complete and have added it to your State Plan. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Beth Sedanko of my staff at (214) 767-1833.

Sincerely,



Larry Brendel
TANF Program Manager