

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Children and Family Services

Economic Stability

Strategies to Empower People (STEP) Program

(LAC 67:III.5721)

In accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act R.S. 49:953(A), the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) proposes to amend LAC 67:III, Subpart 16 Strategies to Empower People (STEP) Program, Chapter 57 Strategies to Empower People (STEP) Program, Section 5721 Job Readiness.

Pursuant to Louisiana's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant, amendment of Section 5721 is necessary to give the department more flexibility in operating the STEP program by eliminating the work-eligible FITAP applicant requirement of registering for work during the application period and prior to certification with Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC). Work-eligible FITAP recipients will register for work when participating in Job Readiness activities. The proposed rule does not eliminate any work requirements as specified by law. Work activity requirements including job readiness activities are included in Section 5713 Work Activities.

This action was made effective by an Emergency Rule dated and effective July 1, 2015.

Title 67

SOCIAL SERVICES

Part III. Economic Stability

Subpart 16. Strategies to Empower People (STEP) Program

Chapter 57. Strategies to Empower People (STEP) Program

Subchapter C. STEP Program Process

§5721. Job Readiness

A. ~~A work eligible applicant of FITAP shall register for work with the Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC). Registration~~

~~for work shall be documented as a condition for certification of eligibility for FITAP. The applicant shall receive an initial employability assessment designed to determine their level of employability, immediate needs, and family circumstances.~~

B.—DCFS will ensure job readiness services are provided through other state partners or through performance-based contracts.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with P.L. 104-193, R.S. 46:231, R.S. 46:460, and ~~Act 58, 2003~~ Act 285, 2013 Reg. Session.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Social Services, Office of Family Support, LR 30:499 (March 2004), amended by the Department of Children and Family Services, Economic Stability Section, LR 40:1678 (September 2014), LR 41:

Family Impact Statement

The proposed rule is not anticipated to have an impact on family formation, stability, and autonomy as described in R.S. 49:972.

Poverty Impact Statement

The proposed rule is not anticipated to have an impact on poverty as described in R.S. 49:973.

Small Business Impact Statement

The proposed rule is not anticipated to have an adverse impact on small businesses as defined in the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

Provider Impact Statement

The proposed rule is not anticipated to have an impact on providers of services funded by the state as described in HCR 170 of the 2014 Regular Legislative Session.

Public Comments

All interested persons may submit written comments through, September 24, 2015, to Sammy Guillory, Deputy Assistant

Secretary of Programs, Department of Children and Family Services, P.O. Box 94065, Baton Rouge, LA 70804.

Public Hearing

A public hearing on the proposed Rule will be held on September 24, 2015 at the Department of Children and Family Services, Iberville Building, 627 North Fourth Street, Seminar Room 1-127, Baton Rouge, LA beginning at 9 a.m. All interested persons will be afforded an opportunity to submit data, views, or arguments, orally or in writing, at said hearing. Individuals with disabilities who require special services should contact the Bureau of Appeals at least seven working days in advance of the hearing. For assistance, call 225-342-4120 (Voice and TDD).

Suzy Sonnier
Secretary

**FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**

Person Preparing Statement: James Vidacovich Department: Children and Family Services
Phone: (225) 342-0495 Office: Economic Stability
Return Address: 627 N. 4th St., P.O. Box 94065 Rule Title: Strategies to Empower People (STEP) Program
Baton Rouge, LA 70804 Date Rule Takes Effect: December 1, 2015

SUMMARY

In accordance with Section 953 of Title 49 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes, there is hereby submitted a fiscal and economic impact statement on the rule proposed for adoption, repeal or amendment. THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS SUMMARIZE ATTACHED WORKSHEETS, I THROUGH IV AND WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE LOUISIANA REGISTER WITH THE PROPOSED AGENCY RULE.

I. Estimated Implementation Costs (Savings) to State or Local Governmental Units (Summary)

This rule proposes to continue the provisions of the July 1, 2015 emergency rule, which amends Louisiana Administrative Code (LAC), Title 67, Part III, Subpart 16 Strategies to Empower People (STEP) Program, Chapter 57 – Strategies to Empower People (STEP) Program, Section 5721 – Job Readiness. The proposed rule amends Section 5721 – Job Readiness to give the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) more flexibility in operating the STEP program.

The proposed rule eliminates the work-eligible Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program (FITAP) applicant requirement of registering for work during the application period and prior to certification with Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC). Work-eligible FITAP recipients will now register for work when participating in Job Readiness activities. The proposed rule does not eliminate any work requirements as specified by law. Work activity requirements including job readiness activities are included in Section 5713 – Work Activities.

The proposed rule will not impact the overall revenues or expenditures of the department. The rule allows the department to facilitate the expenditure of the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) grant funding. The only cost associated with this proposed rule is the cost of publishing rulemaking. It is anticipated that \$1,065 (Federal) will be expended in FY 15-16 for the state’s administrative expense for promulgation of this proposed rule and the final rule. This is a one-time cost that is routinely included in the department’s operating budget.

II. Estimated Effect on Revenue Collections of State or Local Governmental Units (Summary)

Implementation of this proposed rule will have no effect on revenue collections of State or local governmental units.

III. Estimated Costs and/or Economic Benefits to Directly Affected Persons or Nongovernmental Groups (Summary)

Implementation of this proposed rule will have no cost or economic benefit to directly affected persons or nongovernmental groups. Work-eligible FITAP recipients will now register for work when participating in Job Readiness activities.

IV. Estimated Impact on Competition and Employment (Summary)

This proposed rule will not have an impact on competition and employment for low-income families.

Signature of Agency Head
or Designee

Date

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICER
OR DESIGNEE

Sammy Guillory, Deputy Assistant Secretary
Typed Name and Title of Agency Head

DATE OF SIGNATURE

DCFS Undersecretary