

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Children and Family Services

Economic Stability

**Pre- and Post-Release Family Strengthening Program
(LAC 67:III.5577)**

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Economic Stability, has exercised the emergency provision of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B) to adopt LAC 67:III, Subpart 15 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Initiatives, Chapter 55 TANF Initiatives, Section 5577 Pre- and Post-Release Family Strengthening Program. This emergency rule shall be effective January 28, 2016 and shall remain in effect for a period of 120 days.

Pursuant to Louisiana's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant, adoption of Section 5577 is necessary to govern the collection of eligible rehabilitation expenditures for incarcerated and released male offenders who are fathers of minor children who are members of a needy family that may be counted as Maintenance of Effort (MOE) for the TANF grant.

The department considers emergency action necessary to facilitate the expenditure of TANF funds. The authorization to promulgate emergency rules to facilitate the expenditure of TANF funds is contained in Act 16 of the 2015 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

Title 67

SOCIAL SERVICES

Part III. Economic Stability

**Subpart 15. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
Initiatives**

Chapter 55. TANF Initiatives

§5577. Pre- and Post-Release Family Strengthening Program

A. The department shall enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections to collect information on rehabilitation expenditures for the purpose of claiming eligible expenditures that may count as Maintenance of Effort (MOE) effective Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan FY 2015 for the TANF grant. The eligible rehabilitation expenditures that may be claimed as MOE are from the following programs:

1. *Regional Reentry Program* - This program provides the following services to incarcerated male inmates to assist them in becoming self-sustaining individuals upon release: life skills training; two forms of identification; discharge planning which includes residence, employment, and referral/connection to community resources; high school equivalency classes consisting of literacy, adult basic education, and Pre-HiSET classes; and vocational training opportunities. The program attempts to alter the offender's negative attitudes and behavior through treatment and training, reconnect families separated by incarceration, and prepare the family to receive the offender upon release.

2. *Day Reporting Program* - This program offers the following services to released offenders with technical violations who face revocation and re-incarceration: non-medical substance abuse treatment, life skills, employment skills, job placement assistance, cognitive-behavioral interventions, and intensive case management. Additional services may also include adult basic education and HiSET preparation, parenting and family relations skills, anger management, pro-social family and community support, relapse prevention activities, and pro-social cognitive decision-making as needed. The program seeks to identify critical thinking and decision making errors that can be addressed, substance abuse and mental health needs, as well as assist with family dynamics to ensure the offender has the

resources and tools necessary to remain in the community and avoid a return to prison.

3. Local Jail Transition Specialists - This program uses mobile transition specialists who provide the following services to incarcerated state offenders that are housed at local jails: parenting and anger management programming, behavior modification, and case management. The program seeks to reduce the offender's risk of recidivism, increase pro-social decision making, and ensure offenders are routed to the Regional Reentry Programs and/or Day Reporting Centers as appropriate.

B. 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.

C. Eligibility for services attributable to TANF/MOE funds is limited to incarcerated and released male offenders who are fathers of minor children who are members of a needy family. A family meets financial eligibility if any member receives a Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program (FITAP) grant, Kinship Care Subsidy Program (KCSP) grant, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit, Title XIX (Medicaid) Medical Assistance Program benefit, Louisiana Children's Health Insurance Program (LaCHIP) benefit, or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefit.

D. Services are considered non-assistance by the department.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.; P.L. 104-193, and R.S. 36:474.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Children and Family Services, Economic Stability Section, LR 42:

Suzy Sonnier
Secretary