

NOTICE OF INTENT

**Department of Children and Family Services
Child Welfare**

**Louisiana Pregnancy and Baby Care Initiative
(LAC 67:V.901, 903, 905, 907, 909)**

In accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act R.S. 49:950 et seq., the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) proposes to adopt LAC 67:V, Subpart 2, Chapter 9, Louisiana Pregnancy and Baby Care Initiative (PBCI).

These rules are promulgated pursuant to R.S. 46:972.1, to establish oversight provisions, measures to clinical efficacy and financial viability, and benchmarks to achieve best practice outcomes for the Louisiana Pregnancy and Baby Care Initiative.

Title 67

SOCIAL SERVICES

Part V. Child Welfare

Subpart 2. Community Services

Chapter 9. Louisiana Pregnancy and Baby Care Initiative (PBCI)

§901. Definitions

A. For purposes of this chapter:

Best Practice Outcomes—measurable performance standards aligned with evidence-based social service models for pregnancy support, parenting assistance, and care coordination.

Clinical Efficacy—the demonstrated effectiveness of non-medical, supportive services in improving pregnancy stability, parenting readiness, continuity of care, and participant engagement.

Financial Viability—the responsible stewardship of public funds, cost-effective service delivery, and administrative practices that ensure sustainability of the initiative and subcontractor.

General Contractor—the nonprofit organization competitively selected and contracted by the department pursuant to R.S. 46:972.1(A)(2).

Subcontractor—a nonprofit organization providing direct participant services on a fee-for-service basis under the initiative.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 46:972.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Children and Family Services, Division of Child Welfare, LR 52:

§903. Oversight Authority and Penalties

A. The department will exercise ongoing oversight of the Pregnancy and Baby Care Initiative to ensure compliance with R.S. 46:972.1, these rules, and the terms of the contract.

B. All subcontracts and subcontractors will be reviewed and approved by the department.

C. The department may deny approval of any subcontract or subcontractor.

D. Approved subcontractors must represent proportionate shares of nonprofit pregnancy centers, adoption agencies, maternity homes, and social service organizations and demonstrate statewide coverage.

E. The department will cap the annual contract amount for the general contractor not to exceed five percent of the annual appropriated amount for the PBCI.

F. The department will conduct routine monitoring activities, including program monitoring of services and subcontractors, fiscal monitoring, and data validation.

G. The department will determine noncompliance or failure to achieve program objectives based on:

1. failure to meet established clinical efficacy, financial viability, or best practice benchmarks;

2. material inaccuracies in reporting;
3. failure to maintain required documentation;
4. misuse or misallocation of program funds;
5. failure to comply with statutory prohibitions under

R.S. 46:972.1(E); and/or

6. systemic service delivery deficiencies.

H. The general contractor will be subject to financial penalties for failure to achieve program objectives.

I. The department may require repayment of funds attributable to subcontractor noncompliance.

J. Participant documentation must be compliant with all HIPAA regulations.

K. The department will establish a process for program participants to file a complaint.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 46:972.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Children and Family Services, Division of Child Welfare, LR 52:

§905. Measures to Ensure Clinical Efficacy

A. The general contractor shall implement uniform performance measures to evaluate the effectiveness of program services.

B. Measures will rely on documentation, participant reporting, and service verification and will not include medical diagnoses or outcomes.

C. Measures of clinical efficacy shall be reported in the annual report and include:

1. participant engagement;
2. care coordination effectiveness;
3. service utilization;
4. parenting readiness and stability; and
5. continuity.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 46:972.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Children and Family Services, Division of Child Welfare, LR 52:

§907. Measures to Ensure Financial Viability

A. The general contractor shall maintain financial management systems sufficient to ensure accountability, transparency, and cost-effective use of program funds.

B. Financial viability measures must minimally include:

1. average cost of participant served;
2. distribution of expenditures across service areas of counseling, classes, referrals, and material supports;
3. controls to prevent disproportionate spending on a single service category absent documented need;
4. administrative and marketing expenditure consistent with approved program budget;
5. timely payment to subcontractors in accordance with contract terms;
6. maintenance of financial records; and
7. compliance with all applicable state and federal contracting and fiscal requirements.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 46:972.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Children and Family Services, Division of Child Welfare, LR 52:

§909. Benchmarks for Best Practice Outcomes

A. The department will establish annual benchmarks to assess whether the initiative is achieving best practice outcomes.

B. Benchmarks may be adjusted annually by the department based on program performance, statewide maternal/fetal outcomes, availability of services, and other statewide needs.

C. Benchmarks will include:

1. minimum participant engagement;
2. target percentages for services; and
3. reasonable cost-per-participant ranges based on service mix and geographic factors.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 46:972.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Children and Family Services, Division of Child Welfare, LR 52:

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 defined by R.S. 49:973.

Small Business 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 to Yazan Rantisi, DCFS Policy and Rulemaking Director, Department of Children and Family Services, P.O. Box 3776, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, or by email to DCFSPublicHearings@la.gov. The deadline for submitting written comments is 4:30 p.m. on March 31, 2026.

Public Hearing

A public hearing on the proposed Rule will be held on March 31, 2026, at DCFS, Iberville Building, 627 North Fourth Street, Room 127, Baton Rouge, LA, beginning at 9:00 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 DCFS Policy and Rulemaking Unit at least seven working days in advance of the hearing. For assistance, call (225) 219-0210 (voice and TDD).



Rebecca Harris
Secretary

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

Person Preparing Statement:	<u>Yazan Rantisi</u>	Dept.:	<u>Children and Family Services</u>
Phone:	<u>225-219-0210</u>	Office:	<u>Family Support</u>
Return Address:	<u>627 N 4th St, P.O. Box 3776</u>	Rule Title:	<u>Louisiana Pregnancy and Baby Care Initiative</u>
	<u>Baton Rouge, LA 70821</u>	Date Rule Takes Effect:	<u>June 1, 2026</u>

SUMMARY
(Use complete sentences)

In accordance with Section 961 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)

As a result of the proposed rule, an expenditure increase for implementation costs of \$1.74 M, publication costs of \$1,385, and a minimal increase in workload are anticipated to impact the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). Implementation of the initiative will be supported by state general funds and/or federal funds as appropriated by the Louisiana legislature.

The proposed rule will include a minimal increase in workload because the initiative will be managed by one (1) Contract Monitor within the department, while implemented by a general contractor who will administer subcontracts for the provision of services and material goods to eligible participants.

II. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)

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, SMALL BUSINESSES, OR NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS (Summary)

This proposed rule is not anticipated to provide economic cost or benefit to small businesses; however, the Louisiana Pregnancy and Baby Care Initiative will assist pregnant women and their families in the form of services and material items, and eligible nonprofit organizations (i.e., non-governmental groups) as general contractors and subcontractors to manage the program and provide services.

IV. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT (Summary)

This proposed rule is not anticipated to have a significant impact on competition. The PBCI provides funding exclusively to eligible nonprofit organizations, and participation in the program may provide a competitive advantage to the selected general contractor and subcontractor, limited to nonprofit organizations offering similar services.

The proposed rule is not anticipated to have a significant impact on employment levels statewide. Program funding may support the continuation or modest expansion of employment within the nonprofit organizations, including counselors, case managers, and administrative staff. Additionally, program services may indirectly support workforce participation among recipients by reducing barriers related to pregnancy and parenting.



Signature of Head or Designee



Legislative Fiscal Officer or Designee

Christopher Bahm DCFS Undersecretary

Typed Name & Title of Agency Head or Designee

02/06/2026

Date of Signature

2/6/26

Date of Signature