

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Children and Family Services

Economic Stability

Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Grants

(LAC 67:III.5599)

In accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B), the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) proposes to adopt LAC 67:III, Subpart 15 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Initiatives, Chapter 55 TANF Initiatives, Section 5599 Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Grants. Adoption is pursuant to the authority granted to the department by the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant. This emergency rule shall be effective November 1, 2013 and shall remain in effect for a period of 120 days.

The adoption of Section 5599 is necessary to govern the collection of eligible tuition expenditures for low income students 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 14 of the 2013 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

Title 67

SOCIAL SERVICES

Part III. Economic Stability and Self-Sufficiency

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

Chapter 55. TANF Initiatives

§5599. Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Grants

A. The department through an agreement with the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) shall collect information on tuition assistance expenditures provided to eligible low income students who are pursuing postsecondary education for the purpose of claiming eligible expenditures that may count as Maintenance of Effort (MOE) effective TANF State Plan FY 2011 for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) grant. The eligible tuition assistance expenditures that may be claimed as MOE are from the following programs:

1. Louisiana Go Grants - A need based student financial aid grant that supports nontraditional and low income students in their pursuit of postsecondary education. To receive the Go Grants, a student must be receiving a federal Pell grant and have remaining financial need, as determined in accordance with a formula established by the Louisiana Board of Regents. The formula for determining financial need is subject to change on a yearly basis in order to ensure that the greatest number of students will benefit from the funds appropriated for the program by the Louisiana Legislature.

2. Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) - A state scholarship program for Louisiana residents who attend Louisiana postsecondary institutions.

B. These services meet TANF goal three, to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies, by providing financial aid to eligible students who are pursuing postsecondary education. The services provide the students with the tools necessary to reduce risky behaviors and increase positive decision making.

C. Financial eligibility for these services attributable to TANF/Maintenance of Effort (MOE) funds is limited as follows:

1. Certification for TANF MOE for Go Grant expenditures will be those students who receive Pell Grants and

have a remaining financial need and are defined as dependent by the U.S. Department of Education. The amount used for TANF maintenance of effort is not duplicated in determining match or maintenance of effort for any other program.

2. TANF eligibility for students receiving TOPS will be determined by receipt of a Go Grants. Certification for TANF MOE for TOPS expenditures will be for those students who simultaneously receive TOPS and Go Grants and are defined as dependent by the U.S. Department of Education.

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 39:

Suzy Sonnier
Secretary