

TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)

States that include TANF in the Combined State Plan must outline how the State will meet the requirements of section 402 of the Social Security Act including how it will:

(OMB Control Number: 0970-0145)

- A. CONDUCT A PROGRAM DESIGNED TO SERVE ALL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS IN THE STATE (NOT NECESSARILY IN A UNIFORM MANNER) THAT PROVIDES ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES WITH (OR EXPECTING) CHILDREN AND PROVIDES PARENTS WITH JOB PREPARATION, WORK, AND SUPPORT SERVICES TO ENABLE THEM TO LEAVE THE PROGRAM, SPECIFICALLY CASH ASSISTANCE, AND BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT (SECTION 402(A)(1)(A)(I) OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT)**

The Temporary Assistance (TA) cash program shall include requiring an applicant for or recipient of cash assistance to participate in work activities as defined in an individual employment plan.

Parents and needy caretaker relatives will not be referred as mandatory for work participation services but may be referred as a volunteer, in the following situations:

- Child only cases;
- Parents and needy caretaker relatives exempt for children under the age of twelve (12) weeks;
- Parents and needy caretaker relatives who are permanently disabled;
- Parents and needy caretaker relatives who are sixty (60) years of age or older;
- Parents and needy caretaker relatives who are needed in the home to care for a disabled individual; or
- Parents and needy caretaker relatives who received forty-five (45) months Temporary Assistance and are currently extended due to an existing hardship and not employment and training ready.

The eligibility requirements for the Temporary Assistance cash program shall include:

- Requiring an applicant or recipient of cash assistance to participate in work activities as defined in this plan with exclusions as provided;
- Requiring a recipient of assistance and each dependent child to be:
 - A resident of the State of Missouri; and
 - A citizen of the United States; or
 - A qualified alien defined in 8 United States Code section 1641 residing in the United States for a period of five (5) years on or after August 22, 1996, except as provided in 8 United States Code section 1622(b).
- Public Law 111-118 enacted on December 19, 2009 provides that Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrants are eligible for benefits to the same extent and for the same period as refugees

pursuant to Section 207 of the Immigrations and Nationality Act. The new legislation supersedes Public Law 110-161 and Public Law 110-181, which granted certain Iraqi and Afghan immigrants special immigrant status under section 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) effective December 26, 2007 and was time limited. Provided that other eligibility requirements are met, Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrants are eligible for benefits indefinitely;

- Requiring an applicant for assistance to provide all Social Security numbers for each parent, caretaker, and child and requiring the applicant for or recipient of assistance to cooperate with Family Support Division to obtain Social Security numbers;
- The assistance provided under the Temporary Assistance Program is used for the benefit of the child or children;
- Recipients of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) shall not be eligible for Temporary Assistance. Their income, expenses, and resources are excluded when determining household eligibility. They are excluded for purposes of determining household size; and Meeting other eligibility requirements contained in this plan;
- Application for benefits and timely investigation of eligibility for benefits will be consistent with sections 208.060 and 208.070, RSMo. In Temporary Assistance cases where an eligible individual does not receive the first payment for the month in which the thirtieth day after application falls, a delayed payment will be made for that month and any later months that occur before the application was approved.
- The real and personal property considered in determining eligibility for Temporary Assistance shall be as follows:
 - Real or personal property of any kind or character that is not excluded that the recipient owns or possesses, has an interest in, of which s/he is the record or beneficial owner, less encumbrances of record.
 - An applicant may not own personal property with equity greater than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), and a recipient who signs an IEP may not own personal property with equity greater than five thousand dollars (\$5,000).
 - Any combination of more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for applicants and five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for recipients who have signed IEPs will make the family ineligible.
- In determining eligibility for Temporary Assistance benefits real property that the family is making a good faith effort to sell shall be excluded. A claimant must provide proof of good faith effort as requested by Family Support Division. Good faith effort to sell includes the following:
 - Listing the real property with a reputable real estate agent and cooperating in marketing the property. Cooperation in marketing the property includes acts such as showing the property and setting a realistic sales price;
 - Publicly advertising the property for sale on no less than a weekly basis in a general newspaper, instead of listing the property with a reputable real estate

- agent;
 - Accepting reasonable purchase offers, for example, reflecting a reasonable market value; and
 - Initiating any legal action necessary to force a sale when other owners outside the Temporary Assistance cash assistance group do not wish to sell.
- “Earned Income” encompasses income in cash or in kind earned by a needy individual through the receipt of wages, salary, commissions, or profit from activities in which s/he is engaged as an employee or as a self-employed individual.
- Temporary Assistance shall be granted on behalf of an eligible child or children in otherwise eligible families. Temporary Assistance may be granted to the parents or other needy relatives caring for a child or children meeting all eligibility criteria, and who are deprived of parental support or care for the following reasons:
 - Death;
 - Continued absence from or never living in the home;
 - Physical or mental incapacity of a parent;
 - Divorce/separation;
 - Desertion or abandonment;
 - Need; or
 - Confinement in a penal, medical, or custodial institution.
- The relative with whom a child may be living, in order to receive Temporary Assistance, including father, mother, grandfather, grandmother, brother, sister, stepfather or stepmother (but not their parents), stepbrother, stepsister, uncle, aunt, first cousin, first cousin of a parent, nephew, niece, adoptive father or adoptive mother, grandfather-in-law or grandmother-in-law (meaning the spouse of a second marriage of one of the child’s biological grandparents), great-grandfather or great-grandmother (including great-great-grandfather or great-great-grand-mother), brother or sister of half-blood, adoptive brother or adoptive sister, brother-in-law or sister-in-law, uncle or aunt of the half blood, uncle-in-law or aunt-in-law, great-uncle or great-aunt (including great-great-uncle or great-great-aunt), and other relatives by adoption, in addition to those specifically mentioned here, may be considered eligible payees within the same degree of relationship as apply to blood relatives. The biological relatives of an adopted child may also continue to be eligible payees. A legal guardian may also serve as a payee for Temporary Assistance, and if the legal guardian is otherwise eligible, may be eligible for a cash payment.
- Home is interpreted to mean a family setting maintained or in the process of being established as evidenced by the assumption or continuance of responsibility for the child. Usually the child shares the family household with the parent or relative. A home exists as long as the parent or relative takes responsibility for the care and control of the child, even though circumstances may require temporary absence of either the child or the parent or relative from the customary family setting.

- Determining the Amount of Cash Payments:
 - The following persons are considered members of the household for purposes of determining household size and Temporary Assistance grant, if eligible: eligible children under the age of eighteen (18), or age eighteen (18) and in secondary school or the equivalent vocational or technical school if expected to graduate; natural or adoptive parents of one or more of the eligible children; and any needy non-parent caretaker relative or related or unrelated guardian. The non-parent caretaker relative or the guardian, if found to be eligible for inclusion, has the option to be excluded from the assistance group.
- Consideration of Available Income
- All income of the following persons in the household shall be considered in determining whether the children (including a stepchild and adopted child) are in need and, if so, the amount of that need:
 - Eligible children;
 - Biological or adoptive parents of one or more eligible children;
 - Needy non-parent caretaker relative, or related or unrelated guardian, if s/he desires to be included in the assistance group and is eligible for inclusion;
 - Income of a stepparent living in the same home as such child which exceeds the sum of the first ninety (\$90) dollars of the stepparent's earned income, the full need standard, payments by the stepparent to individuals claimed by him/her as dependents, and payments by the stepparent of court ordered alimony or child support;
 - A biological or adoptive brother or sister of an eligible child, if the brother or sister meets certain conditions and is living in the home;
 - With respect to an eligible child who is living with a parent or legal guardian who is under age eighteen (18), the income of such minor parent's parents who are living in the home shall be included to the same extent that the income of a stepparent is included. The minor parent's parents' earned income shall be disregarded up to 100% of the federal poverty level; and
 - Income of all other persons in the household will be considered in the amount made available to the household.
- In computing the income of an applicant or program recipient or of the household of which s/he is a member only the income that is available during the period under consideration shall be taken into account.
- Earned Income Exemption and Disregards: In determining the need and amount of grant for applicants for or program recipients in the Temporary Assistance program earned income exemptions will apply. These include:
 - Standard Work Exemption – An amount for each employed person for all employment related expenses except child care. It includes employment related

expenses such as taxes, transportation to and from work, work clothing, etc. The standard work exemption is ninety (\$90).

- \$30 Plus 1/3 Disregard – An amount for each employed person that is deducted after deducting the standard work exemption from adjusted gross income. The \$30 plus 1/3 disregard is allowed for individuals that are employed when they apply for Temporary Assistance. The \$30 plus 1/3 disregard is allowed for 4 consecutive months. Once the \$30 plus 1/3 disregard is applied for 4 consecutive months, the individual is not eligible for the \$30 plus 1/3 disregard until the individual has not received Temporary Assistance benefits for 12 consecutive months. An applicant's eligibility is determined without the \$30 plus 1/3 disregard unless the applicant received a Temporary Assistance grant in at least one of the 4 months prior to the month of application, except when the applicant previously received the \$30 plus 1/3 disregard for 4 consecutive months and has not been off Temporary Assistance for twelve (12) consecutive months.
- \$30 Disregard – After receiving the \$30 plus 1/3 disregard for four (4) consecutive months, the recipient is eligible for a continuance of the \$30 earned income disregard for the next eight (8) months. The 8-month period begins with the month following the fourth consecutive month in which the \$30 plus 1/3 disregard is applied. It ends with the eighth consecutive month regardless of whether the \$30 disregard is actually applied to the person's earned income.
- Two-Thirds Disregard – An amount for each employed person that is deducted from the adjusted gross income for twelve (12) consecutive months. Once the two-thirds disregard is applied for 12 consecutive months, the individual is not eligible for the two-thirds disregard until the individual has not received Temporary Assistance for twelve (12) consecutive months. The two-thirds disregard is allowed only when an active Temporary Assistance individual becomes employed. An applicant's eligibility is determined without the two-thirds disregard. If an applicant received a Temporary Assistance grant in at least one of the 4 months prior to the month of application, they can receive the two-thirds disregard for the remainder of the 12 consecutive months, except when the applicant previously received the \$30 plus 1/3 disregard for four (4) consecutive months and has not been off Temporary Assistance for twelve (12) consecutive months.
- New Spouse Disregard – When an active Temporary Assistance recipient gets married, the new spouse's income and resources are disregarded when determining continued eligibility for six months of consecutive receipt of Temporary Assistance. This is allowed once-in-a-lifetime for the TA recipient that marries, and applied to both parents in a two parent household that marry, if both are active TA recipients on the marriage date. This disregard excludes all income of the individual who is the new spouse of the TA recipient and will be used before other earned income disregards.
- 185% Test: No family shall be eligible for Temporary Assistance benefits if for that month the total income of the family (other than Temporary Assistance benefits) without

application of the earned income disregards equals or exceeds one hundred eighty five percent (185%) of the Standard of Need for a family of the same composition. There are no disregards or deductions allowed for the 185% Test other than overhead expenses for self-employment.

- Standard of Need Test: No family shall be eligible for Temporary Assistance benefits if for that month the total income of the family (other than Temporary Assistance benefits) without application of the earned income disregards equals or exceeds the Standard of Need for a family of the same composition. The ninety (\$90) standard work exemption, child care costs, and overhead expenses for self-employment are deducted from gross earnings in the Standard of Need Test.
- Percentage of Need Test: No family shall be eligible for Temporary Assistance benefits if for that month the total income of the family (other than Temporary Assistance benefits) after application of the earned income disregards equals or exceeds 34.526% of the Standard of Need. The ninety (\$90) standard work exemption, child care costs, and two-thirds disregard or \$30 plus 1/3 disregard, or \$30 disregard, and overhead expenses for self-employment are deducted from gross earnings in the Percentage of Need Test.
- When considering an application for Temporary Assistance the income tests must indicate income below the respective standard. If determined eligible after the application of the tests in paragraphs 11, 12, and 13, the grant will be the deficit determined in the Percentage of Need Test.
- In the payment of Temporary Assistance benefits the amount shall always be lowered to the nearest dollar interval.
- In Temporary Assistance cases the initial assistance payment benefit must be prorated when the case is approved in the same month as the filing of the application.
- Restitution and recovery may be required if at any time it is determined that a program recipient has received benefits to which s/he was not entitled because of a state or federal statutory or regulatory requirement.
- Transitional Employment Benefit is a fifty (\$50) payment to families with earned income who are no longer eligible for Temporary Assistance benefits due to an increase in income, removal of an earnings disregard or an allowable expense deduction, or a household composition change which causes ineligibility due to income guidelines for Temporary Assistance provided—
 - The family received Temporary Assistance cash benefits for at least one (1) month;
 - There is a work eligible individual, as defined in 45 C.F.R.261.10, included in the family;
 - Work eligible individuals in the family continue to meet the minimum work participation hours as outlined in 42 U.S.C. 607; and
 - The family continues to meet all other eligibility requirements contained in 13 CSR 40-2.300 through 13 CSR 40-2.370 with the exception of income.
- All earned income is disregarded in determining eligibility for Transitional

Employment Benefit, but the eligible family must continue to meet the regular Temporary Assistance 185% Test, Standard of Need Test, and Percentage of Need Test.

- The family is eligible to receive the fifty dollar (\$50.00) Transitional Employment Benefit payment for up to six (6) consecutive months as long as the family meets the requirements.
- There is no limit on the number of times a family may receive Transitional Employment Benefit payments as long as the family loses eligibility for Temporary Assistance as outlined above.
- The Transitional Employment Benefit is not included in the 45-month lifetime limit for Temporary Assistance as referenced in 42 U.S.C. 608.
- Families who receive Transitional Employment Benefits shall not assign to the Family Support Division in behalf of the state any rights to support from any other person on behalf of any member of the family.
- Temporary Assistance Cash Diversion Program is a single lump sum benefit an applicant may opt to receive instead of monthly Temporary Assistance benefits. This payment is intended to resolve a one-time financial need, and to prevent the family from becoming dependent upon monthly benefits. The process for applying for the Cash Diversion program is the same as applying for the Temporary Assistance program. To be eligible for Cash Diversion a household:
 - Must be eligible for the Temporary Assistance Program; and
 - Must meet a verified good cause reason. Acceptable reasons are: Involuntary loss of employment, catastrophic illness, domestic violence or human trafficking victim, or inability to care for the basic needs of their family due to an emergency event.
- The Cash Diversion payment's one-time lump sum amount is equal to the maximum benefit based on household size for a two (2) or three (3) month period. The head of household must state the amount of money that will satisfy their immediate need and what the money will cover.
- A family is not eligible for Cash Diversion if an adult in the household has reached his or her Temporary Assistance Cash benefit lifetime limit. Months that a family receives a payment under the Cash Diversion program do not count toward the Temporary Assistance Cash benefit lifetime limit.
- A head of household can only receive a total of five (5) Cash Diversion payments in his or her lifetime as the parent, caretaker, or guardian in the household. This counts Cash Diversion payments received in another state.
- A family can only receive one (1) Cash Diversion payment during a twelve (12)-month period. A family who has received the Cash Diversion payment cannot receive regular Temporary Assistance Cash benefits for the number of month's equivalent to the months covered by the Cash Diversion payment.
- Missouri provides emergency assistance that is authorized under prior law, including but not limited to, child care, respite care and services for children and youth placed

under DSS' care.

The state must indicate how victims of sexual harassment and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking will be identified and served to be in compliance with the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022.

- Ensure all applicants and potential applicants know of assistance made available by the state to victims of sexual harassment and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
- All Family Support Division Staff responsible for administering the TANF program will be trained in:
 - The nature and dynamics of sexual harassment and domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking;
 - State standards and procedures relating to the prevention of, and assistance for, individuals who are victims of sexual harassment of survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking;
 - Methods of ascertaining and ensuring the confidentiality of personal information and documentation related to applicants for assistance and their children who have provided notice about their experiences of sexual harassment, domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.
- Establish and enforce standards and procedures regarding the screening for and identification of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking and provide information about the options available to current and potential beneficiaries. Ensure that caseworkers and other agency personnel receive training regarding relevant state standards and procedures.

B. REQUIRE A PARENT OR CARETAKER RECEIVING ASSISTANCE TO ENGAGE IN WORK (DEFINED BY THE STATE) ONCE THE STATE DETERMINES THE PARENT OR CARETAKER IS READY TO ENGAGE IN WORK, OR ONCE HE OR SHE HAS RECEIVED 24 MONTHS OF ASSISTANCE, WHICHEVER IS EARLIER, CONSISTENT WITH THE CHILD CARE EXCEPTION AT 407(E)(2) (SECTION 402(A)(1)(A)(II) OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT)

- Based on assessment, parents and needy caretaker relatives who are not otherwise exempt or temporarily excluded from participation will, in collaboration with a case manager, develop an Individual Employment Plan (IEP) to assist individuals in overcoming barriers to employment by developing a job readiness plan.
- Agencies that contract or have agreements with the Department of Social Services for work and training activities are responsible for placing families referred to them by Family Support Division in a work activity as outlined below. Federal, state and agency policy related to work activities, hours of participation; exemptions, exclusions, and good cause for not participating in a work activity are followed. In Missouri, work participation services are called Missouri Work Assistance (MWA).
- The Family Support Division requires providers must make referrals to mental health providers, substance abuse service providers, domestic violence service

providers, support groups, and any other entities to help recipients find appropriate resources and services to achieve the goal of employment and economic self-sufficiency. This collaboration is to be structured to include contacts and an infrastructure to facilitate access by Temporary Assistance recipients and their families.

- Missouri is using a “Best Interest of the Participant” approach when assisting participants.
- An individual in a single-parent family with a child age six or older is engaged in work if s/he participates an average of 30 hours per week.
- A single custodial parent or caretaker relative with a child under age six is engaged in core work activities if the individual participates in work activities for at least an average of 20 hours per week.
- If the individual is a single custodial parent caring for a child under age six and if the individual has demonstrated the inability to work as determined by the Family Support, the Family Support Division shall not reduce assistance because of the individual’s refusal to engage in required work because of one or more of the following reasons:
 - Unavailability of appropriate child care within reasonable distance from the individual’s home or work site;
 - Unavailability or unsuitability of informal child care by a relative or under other arrangements; or
 - Unavailability of appropriate and affordable child care arrangements.
- Workforce Development Expansion Program: The workforce development program expansion projects funded through TANF will serve Food Stamp recipients with child(ren) at or below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level. The Food Stamp recipients will be enrolled in the SkillUP program which provides a variety of employment and training services through multiple providers to reduce and end the dependency on government benefits. These funds will also allow for short-term payment of services to ensure the participant’s success, such as, childcare copayments; housing assistance; and utilities. This program meets TANF purpose 2.

C. ENSURE THAT PARENTS AND CARETAKERS RECEIVING ASSISTANCE ENGAGE IN WORK IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 407 (SECTION 402(A)(1)(A)(III) OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT). CONSISTENT WITH THE REQUIRED STRATEGIC ELEMENTS DISCUSSED IN SECTION II (A)(2) HEREIN, PROVIDE A SPECIFIC ANALYSIS OF HOW THE STATE’S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ARE ADDRESSING EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICES FOR PARENTS OR CARETAKERS RECEIVING ASSISTANCE

- Work participation services will include, but are not limited to:
 - Development of service/employability plan;
 - Job readiness workshop activities;

- Skills training;
- Job Search assistance;
- Vocational skill assessments;
- Authorization of work related expenses and/or transportation expenses;
- Assistance with locating child care providers;
- Job development; and
- Development of work experience and transitional job opportunities.
- Unless expressly provided in the plan, a parent or caretaker receiving assistance must engage in work activities. The purpose of work participation services is to provide the necessary services and supports to assist Temporary Assistant recipients to be successful in obtaining employment that will lead to self-sufficiency.
- The following individuals, if eligible for assistance, are exempt from participating in work activities but may voluntarily participate:
 - An individual claiming or receiving permanent and total disability and who has applied for or is receiving Old Age Survivor's and Disability Insurance (OASDI) benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits, or employer-sponsored disability insurance.
 - Caretaker-payees sixty (60) years of age or older.
 - Individuals who are needed in the home to care for a disabled individual in their household who has a physical or mental handicap.
 - A single custodial parent caring for a child who has not attained twelve (12) weeks of age. A referral is sent to the provider to contact the client to determine if they want to volunteer.

EXCLUSIONS FROM WORK ACTIVITIES

- Individuals, if eligible for assistance, may be temporarily excluded from participating in work activities if they are victims of domestic violence; temporarily disabled; lack transportation or child care; or if they actively participate with a Children's Division plan.

GOOD CAUSE FOR NOT PARTICIPATING IN A MWA WORK ACTIVITY

- If an individual in a family subject to work participation requirements fails to cooperate in developing the IEP, without good cause fails to comply with the IEP, or without good cause refuses to engage in a required work activity, the Family Support Division shall reduce the amount of assistance otherwise payable to the family by fifty (50%), if non-compliance continues a full family sanction is imposed.
- The following constitute good cause for failure to participate or accept employment:
 - The employment would result in the family of the recipient experiencing a net loss of cash income. Net loss of cash income results if the family's gross income less

necessary work-related expenses is less than the cash assistance the individual was receiving when the offer of employment was made. Gross income includes, but is not limited to, earnings, unearned income, and cash assistance;

- Court-required appearance or incarceration;
 - Emergency family crisis that renders participation unreasonable;
 - Breakdown in transportation arrangements with no readily accessible alternative means of transportation;
 - Breakdown in child care arrangements or availability of child care not suited for special needs of the child for whom it is intended; or
 - Lack of identified social services necessary for participation and set forth in the IEP.
- If the individual is a single custodial parent caring for a child under age six and if the individual has demonstrated the inability to work as determined by the Family Support, the Family Support Division shall not reduce assistance because of the individual's refusal to engage in required work because of one or more of the following reasons:
 - Unavailability of appropriate child care within reasonable distance from the individual's home or work site;
 - Unavailability or unsuitability of informal child care by a relative or under other arrangements; or
 - Unavailability of appropriate and affordable child care arrangements.
 - If the Division determines after an investigation that a participant is not cooperating with a work participation activity requirement, the Division shall schedule a meeting with the participant to explain the potential sanctions and the requirements to end the sanction.
 - The participant shall be given at least ten (10) business days' notice from the date of mailing of the meeting notice of the date, time and Location (including virtual) designated by Division for the participant to appear. If the participant is unable to attend the meeting, the participant must contact the Division to reschedule the meeting prior to the scheduled meeting to request an alternative meeting date, time or place. The meeting must occur prior to or during the same calendar week as the original meeting, unless good cause exists.
 - The participant shall have six (6) weeks from the first business day of the week following the meeting to comply with the work participation activity requirements as required by Division. The participant's TA benefits shall not be sanctioned during the six (6) week period.
 - If the participant fails to appear for the scheduled meeting they shall have six (6) weeks from the first business day of the week following the most recent scheduled meeting with Division to comply with the work participation activity requirements. The participant's TA benefits are not sanctioned during the six (6) week period. This six (6) week period is the conciliation period.
 - If the participant does not comply with the work participation activity requirements during the six (6) week period the Division shall apply a sanction terminating fifty (50) percent of

the full amount of TA benefit to the participant and the participant's family for a period of no more than ten (10) weeks.

- During this ten week period the participant shall remain in sanction status. To end the sanction the participant shall perform work participation activities for a minimum average of thirty (30) hours per week for four consecutive (4) weeks.
- Failure to complete these requirements will result in the participant's TA case being closed.

D. TAKE SUCH REASONABLE STEPS AS THE STATE DEEMS NECESSARY TO RESTRICT THE USE AND DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION ABOUT INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES RECEIVING ASSISTANCE UNDER THE PROGRAM ATTRIBUTABLE TO FUNDS PROVIDED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (SECTION 402(A)(1)(A)(IV) OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT)

- Officers and employees of the state of Missouri are prohibited, except as described below, from disclosing any information obtained by them in the discharge of their official duties relative to the identity of applicants for or recipients of benefits or the contents of any records, files and communication except in proceedings where the eligibility for benefit level of a recipient is called into question.
- No person, association, firm, corporation, or other agency shall make use of any name or list of names of recipients of cash assistance.
- Information can be released for the administration of any Federal or federally assisted program which provides assistance in cash, in-kind, or services directly to individuals on the basis of need.

E. ESTABLISH GOALS AND TAKE ACTION TO PREVENT AND REDUCE OUT-OF-WEDLOCK PREGNANCIES, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON TEENAGE PREGNANCIES (SECTION 402(A)(1)(A)(V) OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT)

Extended Women's Health Services Program

- As a part of Missouri's Medicaid 1115 Waiver, uninsured women losing MO HealthNet for Pregnant Women (Missouri's Medicaid Program for pregnant women) eligibility 12 months after the birth of their child will remain eligible for coverage of women's health services. The coverage continues for a maximum of one year any time Medicaid eligibility due to pregnancy expires. There is no income limit. Eligibility automatically extends following the current 12 month post -partum period. The recipient must not currently have insurance that provides coverage for physician's services and hospitalization. The requirement that health insurance not have been dropped in the last six months does not apply. This is a new state legislation from the 2023 session.
- Women in this category are eligible for a one year period for the following services only:
 - Approved methods of contraception;
 - Pap test;
 - Pelvic exams;

- Sexually transmitted disease testing and treatment;
- Family planning, counseling, education on various methods of birth control, and;
- Drugs, supplies, or devices related to the women's health services described above, when they are prescribed by a physician or advanced practice nurse.

Personal Responsibility Education Program

- The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services administers the Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) to support teen pregnancy prevention strategies to reduce out-of-wedlock births. PREP serves adolescents ages 12-19 in some of the highest need counties of Missouri by providing evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention education programs which also include addressing adulthood preparation topics.

Teen Outreach Program

- The Teen Outreach Program (TOP) is administrated by the Department of Health and Senior Services to replicate one of the few rigorously evaluated programs proven effective in increasing school success and protecting youth from risk factors that contribute to teen pregnancy and other negative health behaviors.

Transitional Living Placement

- The Department of Social Services (DSS) supports a Transitional Living Placement (TLP) for foster children and troubled youth. This is a two-tiered program. The first tier, Transitional Living Placement- Group Home (TLG) provides an opportunity for older youth to practice life skills in order to live successfully in the community. TLG allows the youth to apply life skills training to actual daily living in a supervised setting. Ideally, TLG offers the youth the opportunity to transition smoothly from a more restrictive environment to a less restrictive setting based on their readiness.
- The second tier, Transitional Living Placement-Scatter Sites (TLSS), is for youth who demonstrate the ability to make responsible decisions, are able to maintain employment, and are aware of the financial and emotional demands of living on their own. These youth are able to practice 'real life' skills and prepare for their future in an apartment setting. Youth who participate in this tier receive support, but have less supervision than those in the TLG.

F. CONDUCT A PROGRAM DESIGNED TO REACH STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS, THE EDUCATION SYSTEM, AND RELEVANT COUNSELING SERVICES, THAT PROVIDES EDUCATION AND TRAINING ON THE PROBLEM OF STATUTORY RAPE SO THAT TEENAGE PREGNANCY PREVENTION PROGRAMS MAY BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE MEN (SECTION 402(A)(1)(A)(VI) OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT)

- Law enforcement officers in the State of Missouri are mandated to receive 1,000 hours of training regarding sex crimes that includes extensive coverage of statutory rape. Because of their knowledge and training, the Department of Social Services (DSS) encourages the use of law enforcement to educate teen fathers, non-custodial fathers and young males participating in state sponsored or state supported programs. This resource is

most beneficial to the programs established to address the reduction of out-of-wedlock births in Missouri that are wide spread throughout the state. This includes, but is not limited to, programs within the education system, Caring Communities, programs within DSS directed toward teens, and other DSS programs such as Child Support.

G. IMPLEMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AS NECESSARY TO PREVENT ACCESS TO ASSISTANCE PROVIDED UNDER THE STATE PROGRAM FUNDED UNDER THIS PART THROUGH ANY ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSACTION IN AN AUTOMATED TELLER MACHINE OR POINT-OF-SALE DEVICE LOCATED IN A PLACE DESCRIBED IN SECTION 408(A)(12), INCLUDING A PLAN TO ENSURE THAT RECIPIENTS OF THE ASSISTANCE HAVE ADEQUATE ACCESS TO THEIR CASH ASSISTANCE (SECTION 402(A)(1)(A)(VII) OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT)

- For the purpose of the administration of Temporary Assistance payments shall be defined as payments by electronic or other means made to the payee at regular intervals. Temporary Assistance benefits will be paid monthly.
- Temporary Assistance benefits are delivered by Electronic Benefits Transfer or are directly deposited into a bank account and are made available monthly in advance. The schedule for availability of benefits is:
 - Benefits for cases in which the payee's birth month is January through March shall be available on the first day of the month;
 - Benefits for cases in which the payee's birth month is April through June shall be available on the second day of the month;
 - Benefits for cases in which the payee's birth month is July through September shall be available on the third day of the month; and
 - Benefits for cases in which the payee's birth month is October through December shall be available on the fourth day of the month.
- Temporary Assistance benefits are to be used for the needs of the child(ren).
- Transactions using Temporary Assistance benefits issued by Electronic Benefit Transfer are prohibited in the following locations:
 - Any liquor store;
 - Casino, gambling casino, gaming establishment;
 - Retail establishment providing adult-oriented entertainment in which performers disrobe or perform in an unclothed state for entertainment purposes; and Any place mainly for or used by adults 18 or older and/or not in the best interest of the child or household.
 - Transactions using Temporary Assistance benefits issued by Electronic Benefit Transfer are prohibited for the following items:
 - Alcoholic beverages;
 - Lottery tickets, gambling, bingo;
 - Tobacco products;

- Controlled drugs without a valid prescription; and
- Any item mainly for or used by adults 18 or older and/or not in the best interest of the child or household.
- Temporary Assistance Electronic Benefit Transfer transactions are blocked at the locations listed above based upon Merchant Category Codes (MCC) and Terminal ID. The MCC describes the type of business, and for businesses that provide multiple goods and services it reflects the greater percentage of the business. The MCC is assigned by the bank or financial institution that processed the business' application to start accepting bankcard payments. Terminal ID's have been identified to block specific ATM's that are placed in prohibited locations. Additional MCCs and Terminal ID's may be added or deleted at any time. The types of transactions blocked include:
 - Credit or debit card service;
 - Automated teller machine;
 - Point-of-sale terminals; or
 - Any online system for the withdrawal of funds or processing of payment for merchandise or a service.
- Reports and individual transactions are reviewed using Fraud Navigator, a product of the Electronic Benefit Transfer vendor that recognizes patterns for fraud detection.

H. ENSURE THAT RECIPIENTS OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED UNDER THE STATE PROGRAM FUNDED UNDER THIS PART HAVE THE ABILITY TO USE OR WITHDRAW ASSISTANCE WITH MINIMAL FEES OR CHARGES, INCLUDING AN OPPORTUNITY TO ACCESS ASSISTANCE WITH NO FEE OR CHARGES, AND ARE PROVIDED INFORMATION ON APPLICABLE FEES AND SURCHARGES THAT APPLY TO ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING THE ASSISTANCE, AND THAT SUCH INFORMATION IS MADE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE (SECTION 402(A)(1)(A)(VIII) OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT)

- Temporary Assistance recipients using Electronic Benefit Transfer transactions have access to use or withdraw assistance with minimal fees or charges. Access is available in any store that displays the QUEST Mark, or automated teller machine that displays the Quest Mark, Honor, or Shazam logos. Temporary Assistance Electronic Benefit Transfer transactions are not blocked at any retailer authorized as a vendor by the Food and Nutrition Service. Information regarding accessing benefits with no fees and when fees may apply are provided to each Temporary Assistance applicant and recipient, which includes the following information:
 - No fee is charged for the first withdrawal at an automated teller machine. There is an \$.85 charge for each additional withdrawal.
 - No fee is charged for purchases or cash withdrawal at a point-of-sale terminal.
 - There may be additional surcharges by the retailer.
- Information regarding accessing Temporary Assistance benefits is publicly available in the form of a brochure at each agency office and on the internet at:

- <https://mydss.mo.gov/temporary-assistance>
- <https://dssmanuals.mo.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/temporary-assistance-brochure.pdf>
- <https://dssmanuals.mo.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/ebt-flyer.pdf>
- The agency will review on a case-by-case basis any recipient report of inability to access their cash assistance due to the restriction of use at these locations.

I. INDICATE WHETHER IT INTENDS TO TREAT FAMILIES MOVING FROM ANOTHER STATE DIFFERENTLY FROM OTHER FAMILIES UNDER THE PROGRAM, AND IF SO HOW (SECTION 402(A)(1)(B)(I) OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT)

- Families moving into the State from another state will be eligible for assistance in the same manner as any other resident of the State except that the State will not grant assistance for any month for which another state pays the family assistance under its Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

J. INDICATE WHETHER IT INTENDS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO NON-CITIZENS, AND IF SO INCLUDE AN OVERVIEW OF THE ASSISTANCE (SECTION 402(A)(1)(B)(II) OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT)

- Requiring an applicant or recipient of cash assistance to participate in work activities as defined in this plan with exclusions as provided;
- Requiring a recipient of assistance and each dependent child to be:
 - A resident of the State of Missouri; and
 - A citizen of the United States; or
 - A qualified alien defined in 8 United States Code section 1641 residing in the United States for a period of five (5) years on or after August 22, 1996, except as provided in 8 United States Code section 1622(b).
- Public Law 111-118 enacted on December 19, 2009 provides that Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrants are eligible for benefits to the same extent and for the same period as refugees pursuant to Section 207 of the Immigrations and Nationality Act. The new legislation supersedes Public Law 110-161 and Public Law 110-181, which granted certain Iraqi and Afghan immigrants special immigrant status under section 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) effective December 26, 2007 and was time limited. Provided that other eligibility requirements are met, Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrants are eligible for benefits indefinitely.
- Requiring an applicant for assistance to provide all Social Security numbers for each parent, caretaker, and child and requiring the applicant for or recipient of assistance to cooperate with Family Support Division to obtain Social Security numbers;
 - The assistance provided under the Temporary Assistance Program is used for the benefit of the child or children;
 - Recipients of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) shall not be eligible for

Temporary Assistance. Their income, expenses, and resources are excluded when determining household eligibility. They are excluded for purposes of determining household size; and

- Meeting other eligibility requirements contained in this plan.

K. SET FORTH OBJECTIVE CRITERIA FOR THE DELIVERY OF BENEFITS AND THE DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY AND FOR FAIR AND EQUITABLE TREATMENT, INCLUDING AN EXPLANATION OF HOW IT WILL PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECIPIENTS WHO HAVE BEEN ADVERSELY AFFECTED TO BE HEARD IN A STATE ADMINISTRATIVE OR APPEAL PROCESS (SECTION 402(A)(1)(B)(III) OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT)

- If a Temporary Assistance application is not acted upon within a reasonable length of time after the filing of the application or is denied in whole or in part, or if any benefits are canceled or modified and concurrently with each reinvestigation, the applicant or program recipient shall be notified in writing by the Family Support Division of his/her right to appeal to the Director. However, those program recipients receiving the maximum payment allowed by law will not be notified of their right to appeal on the basis of the amount of grant following the completion of a reinvestigation of their case. Procedure for the conduct of the hearings shall be simple, informal, and summary, but the rules of evidence as applied to civil cases in Missouri shall be applied.
- Within a reasonable time after the conclusion of a hearing the Director will render a decision, which will include a statement of the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law. A copy of the decision will be sent to the appellant by United States mail. A copy will also be sent to the Family Support Division and to any duly authorized representative of the appellant.
- There is established the position of state hearing officer within the Division of Legal Services in order to comply with all pertinent federal and state laws and regulations. State hearing officers shall have authority to conduct state level hearings of a pre-determination or appeal nature; they shall serve as direct representatives of the Director. All decisions issued as a result of the hearing so conducted by the hearing officers shall be in the name of the Director. Although the hearing officers may be assigned to a certain area, this authority to conduct hearings shall be statewide. The authority of the hearing officers to conduct hearings shall apply to all programs administered by the Director.

L. INDICATE WHETHER THE STATE INTENDS TO ASSIST INDIVIDUALS TO TRAIN FOR, SEEK, AND MAINTAIN EMPLOYMENT (SECTION 402(A)(1)(B)(V) OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT)—

1. PROVIDING DIRECT CARE IN A LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY (AS SUCH TERMS ARE DEFINED UNDER SECTION 1397J OF THIS TITLE); OR
 2. IN OTHER OCCUPATIONS RELATED TO ELDER CARE, HIGH-DEMAND OCCUPATIONS, OR OCCUPATIONS EXPECTED TO EXPERIENCE LABOR SHORTAGES AS, DETERMINED APPROPRIATE BY THE STATE FOR WHICH THE STATE IDENTIFIES AN UNMET NEED FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL, AND, IF SO, SHALL INCLUDE AN OVERVIEW OF SUCH ASSISTANCE.
- Missouri continues to partner with organizations that offer training in high demand fields

and advertise those opportunities to Missouri families. These partnerships help fill the gap in health care fields, state workforce, CDL drivers, and other technology fields where short-term training is offered and employment opportunities exist.

M. PROVIDE FOR ALL MOE-FUNDED SERVICES THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION: THE NAME OF THE PROGRAM BENEFIT OR SERVICE, AND THE FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA THAT FAMILIES MUST MEET IN ORDER TO RECEIVE THAT BENEFIT OR SERVICE. IN ADDITION, FOR TANF MOE-FUNDED SERVICES (CO-MINGLED OR SEGREGATED MOE) DESCRIBE THE PROGRAM BENEFIT PROVIDED TO ELIGIBLE FAMILIES (SSP SERVICES DO NOT HAVE TO INCLUDE A DESCRIPTION BUT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ENCOURAGES IT) (§263.2(B)(3) & §263.2(C) PREAMBLE PAGES 17826-7)

Missouri provides multiple programs for Missouri families that meet the four purposes of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996. Funding may be used for eligible low-income clients to support and encourage community development of local initiatives relating to services for families. Other program services may be provided to needy families or needy parents as defined elsewhere in the Plan.

Employment and Training Programs: Programs that assist individuals to obtain employment or enroll in a training that offers case management. These programs support individuals through the process to obtain skills to be competitive in the job market to obtain employment to assist with limiting government benefits. Examples of the programs may be, but are not limited to:

- Missouri Work Assistance (MWA): Missouri Work Assistance (MWA): The portion of funding claimed for purposes of TANF MOE provides services to families receiving Temporary Assistance (TA), whose income must not exceed 185% of the federal poverty level. MWA assists individuals engaging in job preparation and work activities. The goal is for families to become independent of the need for cash assistance. The MWA program provides services which include the provision of training, education, and employment preparation that will lead to employment within the shortest time possible. An assessment is completed to identify strengths and resources, identify and remove barriers, and prepare and assist them in securing and maintaining employment and self-sufficiency. This program meets TANF purpose 2.
- Jobs and Career Preparation for Youth: The portion of funding serving youth claimed for purposes of TANF MOE are those with family income not above 185% of the federal poverty level. The youth participating are between the ages of 16 – 24, or are parents of young children themselves. Contracted agencies in partnership with local businesses and community groups provide jobs or career preparation for low-income youth. Participation in the program provides work experience, skills assessments, and supportive services so that children can be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives. Participation in the program also decreases the likelihood of dependence on public assistance while preventing and reducing the number of non-marital births for these young adults. This program meets TANF purpose 1 and 3.

Meeting Basic Needs: Programs that assist individuals to obtain resources to meet basic needs. Some of these services could be non-recurring short-term benefits to address a specific crisis. Examples of the programs may be, but are not limited to:

- Domestic Violence Crisis Services: Services include both shelter and non-residential domestic violence services: meeting the needs of families in a crisis by providing housing, counseling, health supplies, clothing, and related crisis services. All services are less than 120 days in duration. In accordance with 45 CFR 260, the Family Support Division (FSD) has chosen to adopt the Family Violence Option to develop policies and procedures that will enable staff to direct and assist victims of domestic violence in obtaining financial stability. Identified victims will be allowed good cause waiver from immediate work participation. This program meets TANF purpose 1.
- Food Bank(s): The portion of funding claimed for purposes of TANF MOE are participants that include families with children 0 through 18 years of age whose family incomes are less than or equal to 185 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. The Food Banks provide food to emergency food programs, which include local food pantries, food pantry markets, soup kitchens, and short-term emergency shelters. This program meets TANF purpose 1.
- Summer Food Service Program (SFSP): SFSP funding claimed for TANF MOE helps assure that eligible families with income not above 185% of the federal poverty level have access to nutritious meals during the summer months. By providing meals with an increased nutrient value SFSP helps reduce the families risk for health problems which enhances the learning capacities of children and their parent(s). The program also improves the quality of the summer programs offered in areas of economic need. This program meets TANF purpose 1.
- Utilicare Program: When funded, the portion of funding serving families with children under 18 years of age are claimed for purposes of TANF MOE. The Utilicare program helps families with income below 135% of the federal poverty level meet their immediate energy needs. Priority is given to families with disabled household members and children under 5 years of age. The program provides utility assistance to needy families. These families have limited resources for living expenses and may be at risk of termination of utility service and/or eviction. Utilicare helps ensure these children may be cared for in their own homes, providing parents with assistance that will help them to become self-sufficient. This program meets TANF purpose 1.

Supporting Families: Programs that assist individuals or families to obtain the necessary skills to care for their family to prevent government intervention. Examples of the programs may be, but are not limited to:

- Activities Promoting Healthy Marriage: The portion of funding claimed for purposes of TANF MOE are those families served with income not above 185% of the federal poverty level. The activities funded may include: public awareness campaigns on the value of healthy marriages; programs that enhance relationship and parenting skills; marriage preparation programs and counseling; financial planning classes; divorce reduction and conflict resolution programs; providing job training to improve economic stability. Participation in these programs reduces dependence on government assistance by promoting job preparation and work, and encourages the formation and maintenance of two parent families. This program meets TANF purpose 2 and 4.
- Activities Promoting Responsible Fatherhood: The portion of funding claimed for purposes of TANF MOE are those families with income not above 185% of the federal poverty level.

The activities funded may include: involving fathers in the lives of their children; improving father's economic stability through subsidized employment; financial counseling and planning; reconnecting with their children when returning home from incarceration; and skill-based parenting education. Participation in these programs reduces dependence on government assistance by promoting job preparation and work, and encourages the formation and maintenance of two parent families. This program meets TANF purpose 2 and 4.

- Alternatives to Abortion: The portion of funding serving families claimed for purposes of TANF MOE are those with family income not above 185% of the federal poverty level, and only allowable services for TANF funding. The goals of the Alternative to Abortion (A2A) program include: improving pregnancy outcomes by helping women practice sound health-related behaviors; improving child health and development by helping parents provide more responsible and competent care for their children so that children may be cared for in their own homes; and improving families' economic self-sufficiency by helping parents continue their education and find employment which will end their dependence on government benefits. Services are provided to pregnant women and families for up to one year following childbirth. This program meets TANF purpose 1 and 2.
- Child Care Services: The portion of funding claimed for purposes of TANF MOE are for families that need child care to work, participate in work activities, or respite purposes. This includes families who receive child care during temporary periods of unemployment. This program meets TANF purpose 1.
- Community Partnerships – Community Initiatives: The portion of funding serving families claimed for purposes of TANF MOE are those with family income not above 185% of the federal poverty level with children less than 18 years of age. Capable Kids and Families (CKF) programs promote early intervention for families who have a child with a developmental delay or disability. Services provided connect families to community resources and focus on children's potential for development. Families feel less isolated, build coping skills, and are able to help their child learn and develop. By participating in this program, parents are able to provide a safe, secure, structured home environment that promotes the family and responsible parenting so that children may be cared for in their own homes. This program meets TANF purpose 1.
- Parents as Teachers: The portion of funding claimed for purposes of TANF MOE provides services of the program to all parents, regardless of income and/or resources, whose income must not exceed 185% of the federal poverty level. This program focuses on teaching parents about child development and how to promote learning by their children. It provides activities they can do with their child, and provides resources to the parent not otherwise available. By participating in this program, parents are able to provide a safe, secure, structured home environment that promotes the family and responsible parenting. This program meets TANF purpose 1.
- Services for Children and Youth: The portion of funding claimed for purposes of TANF MOE support children and youth in programs such as after-school, mentoring, and/or tutoring that offer development and improvement for life-skills and educational attainment. This program meets TANF purpose 2 and 3.

Program Management: of the Temporary Assistance program that includes:

- Data Processing: Data processing costs to support the Temporary Assistance program.
- Program Administration: Program administration costs are used to support basic assistance program, which is the same as Temporary Assistance.

TANF CERTIFICATIONS

States that include TANF in the Combined State Plan must provide a certification by the chief executive officer of that State, that during the fiscal year, the State will:

The State Plan must include	Include
1. Operate a child support enforcement program under the State Plan approved under part D. (section 402(a)(2) of the Social Security Act);	Yes
2. Operate a foster care and adoption assistance program under the State Plan approved under part E, and that the State will take such actions as are necessary to ensure that children receiving assistance under such part are eligible for medical assistance under the State Plan under title XIX. (section 402(a)(3) of the Social Security Act);	Yes
3. Specify which State agency or agencies will administer and supervise the program referred to in paragraph (1) for the fiscal year, which shall include assurances that local governments and private sector organizations (section 402(a)(4) of the Social Security Act)—	
3. (A) 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	Yes

The State Plan must include	Include
3. (B) have had at least 45 days to submit comments on the plan and the design of such services;	Yes

4. 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. (section 402(a)(5) of the Social Security Act);	Yes
5. 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. (section 402(a)(6) of the Social Security Act);	Yes
6. (optional) Establish and Enforcing standards and procedures to (section 402(a)(7) of the Social Security Act).—	Yes
6.i. screen and identify individuals receiving assistance under this part with a history of domestic violence while maintaining the confidentiality of such individuals;	Yes
6.ii. refer such individuals to counseling and supportive services; and	Yes
6.iii. waive, pursuant to a determination of good cause, other program requirements such as time limits (for so 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.	Yes