

# STATE OF ARIZONA

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## **STATE PLAN FOR TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)**

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*Effective: October 1, 2005*

**TANF STATE PLAN  
STATE OF ARIZONA**

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## **I. OVERVIEW AND SCOPE OF ARIZONA'S TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES PROGRAM**

The Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES) is responsible for the administration of Arizona's State-operated Arizona Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program in accordance with Title IV-A of the Social Security Act as amended by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996. The ADES is the designated State IV-A agency and agrees to administer the program in accordance with Title IV-A of the Act and all other applicable Federal laws, regulations, and provisions of this State Plan. Arizona's TANF program is State-administered and provides services in all political subdivisions (counties) within the State.

The ADES organizational structure houses the divisions primarily involved in Arizona's TANF program, thus enhancing the close collaboration needed to most effectively administer the program. The Division of Benefits and Medical Eligibility (DBME) is responsible for the administration of the Cash Assistance program. The Division of Employment and Rehabilitation Services (DERS) is responsible for the administration of the work program under TANF, and for Child Care. The Division of Child Support Enforcement (DCSE) is responsible for the administration of child support enforcement activities. The Division of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF), which is responsible for child protective services, foster care and adoption services, kinship care, and family preservation and family support programs, also administers TANF-funded services. In addition, the Division of Aging and Community Services (DACS), which is responsible for community services, and aging and adult services, provides services that meet the goals of TANF. The ADES also includes the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD).

The ADES organizational structure also includes divisions that provide a variety of services such as labor market research, internal security, budget, evaluation, legislative services, automation and other support services.

The Family Assistance Administration (FAA) within DBME determines the family's eligibility for Cash Assistance based on TANF, State laws and rules, Federal regulations, and ADES policies. The FAA considers the family's income, resources, and other factors to determine eligibility for Cash Assistance. FAA refers parents and caretakers to the Jobs Program within DERS for participation in work activities; the Child Care Administration (CCA) to obtain associated Child Care services; and the DCSE for child support enforcement services. FAA may also refer families with children to the DACS for Short Term Crisis Services.

These divisions coordinate other supportive services that promote the safety, well-being, and self-sufficiency of children, and families. The high level of collaboration and integration present within the administrations promotes a team effort in the delivery of services under Arizona's TANF Program. A key strategy involves Family Connections Teams that focus on families at risk of entering the child welfare system and who might benefit from intensive services. A team of staff representing family assistance, employment, child care, developmental disabilities, and

child protective services works with the family at risk to identify strengths and goals to connect families to the resources they need.

A new TANF service delivery model is under development, combining the benefit eligibility determination service with the employment assessment activities that will streamline and improve coordination of these services.

ADES provided the public with an opportunity to comment on the TANF State Plan. ADES posted the TANF State Plan on the ADES web site with a 45-day public comment period and conducted public hearings throughout the state to receive comments on the State Plan. Therefore, Arizona has fulfilled the 45-day requirement for public comments. ADES will make a summary of the State Plan available to the public.

## **II. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR CASH ASSISTANCE**

### ***Application***

Any person may apply for Cash Assistance by filing, in person, by mail, or fax, an ADES-approved application form at any Family Assistance Administration local office. ADES will assist the applicant in completing the application form and in obtaining required verification. A face-to-face interview is not required for a relative caregiver applying for a child-only case.

ADES will complete the eligibility determination within 45 days of the application file date unless the application is withdrawn, the applicant dies, or there is a delay resulting from a written request for additional verification information. Applications for the Kinship Foster Care or Kinship Care (relative caregiver applying for a child-only case) components in the Cash Assistance program have a 20-day eligibility determination deadline. ADES will inform the applicant in writing if the application is denied.

### ***Eligible Persons/Needy Families***

The following persons may qualify for Cash Assistance:

- Dependent children under 18 years of age, or if 18, are full-time students as defined by the school which the child is attending and are expected to graduate before age 19;
- Parents or specified relatives of an eligible dependent child, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipient child, or child receiving Federal, State or local foster care maintenance payments (Title IV-E of the Social Security Act);
- Parents or specified relatives of children who are excluded from Cash Assistance due to the Family Benefit Cap; and
- Women in the last trimester of pregnancy.

### ***Relationship***

To receive Cash Assistance, a dependent child must live with a parent, a stepparent, stepbrother or stepsister, or a person who is related within the 5<sup>th</sup> degree of kinship to the dependent child, or with a legal permanent guardian.

### ***Temporary Absence From the Home***

Eligibility can exist when the child is temporarily not living with the specified relative at the initial application, for a period not to exceed 30 days from the date when the first cash payment is issued to the assistance unit. For active cases, eligibility can exist even though the relative or child is temporarily absent from the home for 30 days or longer, but not to exceed 180 days.

### ***Deprivation***

Eligible children must be deprived of the support or care of a parent because of the:

- Death of a parent;
- Continued absence of a parent;
- Disability of a parent; or
- Unemployment or underemployment of the primary wage earning parent in two-parent families. In two-parent families, when eligibility is determined based on the unemployment of the primary wage earning parent, the assistance unit is eligible for cash payments for only six months out of a twelve-month period and receives benefits only after the parents comply with assigned work requirements.

### ***Resources***

The assistance unit may have resources and other property up to an equity value of \$2,000. Homestead real property occupied by the family is exempt. All vehicles are exempt from the resource determination.

### ***Income***

Gross monthly income of the assistance unit cannot exceed 185 percent of the 1992 Federal Poverty Level. Net (countable) monthly income after earned income disregards allowed by State law cannot exceed 36 percent of the 1992 Federal Poverty Level.

The gross income of individuals whose needs are included in the grant is considered available to the assistance unit. Countable income includes all gross earnings before the application of earned income disregards, net self-employment income (gross income less documented costs of doing business), and all unearned income that is included in the grant computation.

### ***Earned Income Disregards***

The following earned income is disregarded:

- Income of dependent children;
- First \$90 of gross monthly income for each employed person plus 30 percent of the remaining gross earned income;
- Dependent care costs. If a wage earner is employed full-time, the actual monthly cost for care of each dependent child or incapacitated adult, up to \$175 is disregarded, or if a child is under age two, \$200. If a wage earner is employed less than 86 hours in the month, the actual monthly cost for care of each dependent child or incapacitated adult, up to \$88 is disregarded, or if a child is under age two, \$100;
- For assistance units that include a child who is ineligible for Cash Assistance due to the Family Benefit Cap, an amount equal to the amount of cash benefits the ineligible child would have received if included in the cash assistance grant. This amount is deducted after all other earned income disregards have been computed.

### ***Income Budgeting***

Income is budgeted prospectively based on the best estimate of the amount of available countable income to be received in the benefit month. Income is available when it is received or when it is reasonably anticipated. Income received more often than monthly is converted into a monthly amount.

### ***Residence***

All members of the assistance unit must reside in Arizona.

### ***Identity***

The applicant must show proof of identity.

### ***Social Security Number***

All persons requesting assistance must provide or apply for a Social Security Number.

### ***Assistance Unit Composition***

The assistance unit consists of all persons whose needs, income, resources, and other circumstances are considered for the purpose of determining eligibility and benefit amount. The following individuals who live together must be included in the assistance unit: a dependent child for whom assistance is requested, the parents of the dependent child, and any siblings of the dependent child. A non-parent caretaker relative may choose to be included in the assistance

unit with the dependent child. If the non-parent caretaker requests to be included in the assistance unit, the caretaker's spouse and dependent children in the home must also be included in the unit.

### ***Citizenship and Alien Status***

Arizona provides Cash Assistance consistent with this State Plan to a person who is a U.S. citizen or a qualified alien in accordance with the Title IV of PL 104-193, as amended, including battered aliens who are treated as qualified aliens under section 431(c) of PRWORA. Arizona provides assistance to eligible qualified aliens who obtained qualified alien status prior to August 22, 1996. Qualified aliens who obtained qualified alien status on or after August 22, 1996, are not eligible for a period beginning five years from the date of entry into the U.S. unless they are: veterans of, or persons on active duty in, the U.S. armed forces (or the spouse or unmarried child of such an individual), Cuban-Haitian entrants (as defined in Section 501(e) of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980), individuals admitted to the United States as Amerasian immigrants as described in Section 584 of the Foreign Operations Export Financing and related Appropriations Act, as amended, refugees admitted under Section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), asylees admitted under Section 208 of the INA, Victims of Severe Forms of Trafficking In Persons Under Section 107(b)(1)(A) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, and persons who have been granted withholding of deportation or withholding of removal under Section 241(b)(3), or 243(h) of the INA may be eligible. However, eligible qualified aliens who obtained qualified alien status on or after August 22, 1996 and who have been continuously present in the U.S. from the latest date of entry prior to August 22, 1996 may be eligible for Cash Assistance.

### ***Stepparents***

A portion of the income of a stepparent who lives with the parent of a dependent child and who does not receive Cash Assistance or SSI is deemed available to the assistance unit.

### ***Minor Parents***

Unwed minor parents (under age 18) and unwed pregnant minors are eligible for Cash Assistance only if they reside in the home of a parent, legal guardian, or other adult relative. The unwed minor parent is not eligible to receive Cash Assistance unless the adult non-parent relative or legal guardian is determined needy. There are exceptions for unwed minor parents who:

- Have no living or locatable parent, other legally responsible adult, or legal guardian;
- Are legally emancipated; or
- Would be at risk of physical or emotional harm by returning to the home of the parent or legal guardian.

If the household to which a minor parent returns has eligible children, all children must be combined into one assistance unit. The adult will serve as the payee for the unit. If the

household to which the minor parent returns is determined needy, the unwed minor parent and child may receive benefits.

### ***School Attendance***

A dependent child between the age of 6 and 16 must attend school unless there is good cause for not complying with this requirement.

### ***Immunizations***

A parent or caretaker relative must ensure that dependent children are immunized as required by State law unless there is good cause for not complying with this requirement.

### ***Personal Responsibility Agreement***

Applicants and recipients of Cash Assistance must complete and sign a Personal Responsibility Agreement. This agreement states anyone applying for or receiving Cash Assistance must, unless they have good cause, cooperate with work and child support enforcement requirements, agree to have their school age children attend school, and have their children immunized. Non-parent caretakers who choose to not be included in the Cash Assistance grant and SSI parents are not required to complete and sign a Personal Responsibility Agreement.

### ***Sanctions***

Arizona sanctions individuals who refuse to comply with certain program requirements without good cause. Parents or caretakers who do not comply with program requirements without good cause will encounter a reduction or termination of their family's Cash Assistance. These program requirements include: the work program requirements, keeping dependent children in school; and maintaining dependent children immunizations. Sanctions also apply to recipients in active Cash Assistance cases who fail to comply without good cause with requirements for establishing paternity, or modifying or enforcing a support order with respect to a child of the individual.

Sanctions will not be imposed for any single custodial parent who refuses to comply with the work program requirements if the person has verified an inability to obtain needed child care for a child under 13 years of age due to the unavailability or unaffordability of suitable Child Care as defined by the Jobs Program in DERS.

For all families, except two-parent families for whom deprivation is based on the unemployment of the primary wage-earning parent, Cash Assistance will be decreased as follows:

- For the first month of non-compliance, the Cash Assistance grant will be reduced by 25 percent;
- For the second month of non-compliance, the Cash Assistance grant will be reduced by 50 percent; and



- For the third and subsequent months of non-compliance, the Cash Assistance grant will be terminated.

For two-parent families for whom deprivation is based on the unemployment of the primary wage-earning parent, Cash Assistance is paid only after assigned work requirements are completed. The family does not receive the corresponding Cash Assistance payment if assigned work activities are not completed, or the family subsequently fails to comply with another sanctionable program requirement.

### ***Child Support***

Arizona does not approve an application for Cash Assistance if the applicant fails without good cause to comply with child support enforcement requirements. Applicants and recipients assign their rights to receive spousal maintenance, child support, and medical support from absent parents to the State of Arizona. Applicants and recipients, except non-parent relatives applying for or receiving Cash Assistance in a child-only case, are required to cooperate with the ADES Division of Child Support Enforcement (DCSE) in all its activities, with certain good cause exceptions if the recipient believes cooperation is likely to result in physical or emotional harm to the dependent child, parent in the home, or the non-parent caretaker. Failure to cooperate without good cause will result in denial of an application or a sanction for active cases.

Applicants and recipients are provided with child support services through the DCSE. These services include locating absent parents, establishing paternity, determining and enforcing support obligations, appropriately modifying obligations, and collecting support from absent parents.

### ***Pursuit of Other Benefits***

An individual must apply for all other cash benefits in addition to Cash Assistance for which the individual or any member of the assistance unit may qualify, except for needs based benefits or SSI.

### ***Strikers***

Voluntary strikers and their dependent children may receive Cash Assistance unless they are local, State, or federal government employees. Benefits are based on pre-strike gross income.

### ***Criminal Justice System Disqualifications***

Arizona follows the provisions of Federal law, denying Cash Assistance to persons who have been convicted of possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance after August 22, 1996, or who are fugitive felons or probation or parole violators.

## Verification

Arizona verifies established eligibility criteria through an income eligibility verification system (IEVS), review of documentation, and other methods.

## ***Interstate Immigrants***

Arizona applies the same eligibility and payment standards for families who have moved into Arizona from another State as for those who continuously reside in the State.

## ***Preventing Fraud and Abuse***

Arizona's Fingerprint Imaging Program contributes to the prevention of fraud and abuse by confirming through fingerprint matching that individuals are not receiving duplicate benefits. Arizona conducts quality assurance reviews of Cash Assistance cases to assure effective services and accurate benefits.

## ***Eligibility Determination***

The Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES) determines eligibility for a specific benefit month based on its best estimate of all non-financial, resource, and financial criteria that exist and are expected to exist for that month.

## ***Benefit Amounts and Delivery***

Payment standards for Cash Assistance are based on 36 percent of the 1992 Federal Poverty Level adjusted for family size and a shelter cost factor. Cash Assistance benefits for assistance units with no shelter cost obligation are reduced by 37 percent. Arizona provides Cash Assistance benefits monthly in electronic benefit accounts or in the form of warrants issued to the specified relative. ADES will pay benefits to an eligible assistance unit only during a month for which the unit is eligible for a payment. The benefit amount for the month of application is prorated based upon the number of days remaining in the month after the application file date.

## ***Benefit Time Limits***

Arizona families with an adult household member receiving assistance are limited to no more than 60 months of federal assistance during their lifetime, except in case of hardship.

In accordance with H.R. 2015, Section 5505 (d)(2) (D) (1), in determining the number of months for which an adult has received assistance, ADES disregards any month during which the adult lived in Indian Country when the most reliable economic data available with respect to the month indicated that at least 50 percent of the adults living in Indian Country were not employed. In Arizona, this currently includes Indian Country for the following tribes:

- ❖ Navajo
- ❖ Hopi
- ❖ San Carlos Apache
- ❖ San Juan Paiute
- ❖ Havasupai

- ❖ White Mountain Apache
- ❖ Fort Mohave
- ❖ Hualapai
- ❖ Colorado River
- ❖ Fort Apache
- ❖ Fort McDowell
- ❖ Fort Yuma
- ❖ Salt River
- ❖ Tohono O’Odham
- ❖ Papago
- ❖ Tonto Apache

***Family Benefit Cap***

There is no increase in Cash Assistance for the birth of additional children after the family begins to receive Cash Assistance. There are exceptions for:

- Births resulting from cases of sexual assault or incest;
- Firstborn child of minors who are included in an assistance unit;
- Children born within 10 months of the date of the first application submitted on or after November 1, 1995; and
- Children born at least 10 months after a family has not received Cash Assistance for one full year due to voluntary withdrawal or ineligibility, and 10 months or less after the month the parent resumes receiving Cash Assistance.

An assistance unit which includes a child who is ineligible for Cash Assistance due to the Family Benefit Cap may earn income up to the incremental benefit increase the assistance unit would otherwise receive for the ineligible child without any adverse affect on eligibility or benefit level. The support rights of a benefit cap child are not assigned to the state. All child support collected for the benefit cap child is distributed to the assistance unit.

***Individual Development Accounts***

Cash Assistance units may set aside up to \$9,000 in individual development accounts for education or training expenses, to purchase a first home, or to start a business.

***Reporting Changes***

A Cash Assistance unit that also receives Food Stamps must report within 10 days when their income exceeds 36 percent of the 1992 Federal Poverty Level, and must report all other changes affecting eligibility at the next eligibility review. A Cash Assistance unit that does not also receive Food Stamps must report all changes in income, resources, or other circumstances that

may affect eligibility or the Cash Assistance benefit amount within 10 days from the date a change becomes known.

### ***Eligibility Reviews***

ADES completes a review of all eligibility factors for each assistance unit at least once every six months except for child-only cases which are assigned a 12-month approval period.

### ***Overpayments***

ADES will seek recovery from an overpaid assistance unit using one of the following repayment methods:

- Reduction in current benefits in an amount not to exceed 10 percent of the assistance unit's monthly payment, unless the assistance unit desires a larger reduction;
- Cash payments; or
- A combination of the above methods.

### ***Opportunity for Review and Appeal***

A hearing process is utilized that meets all of the requirements set forth by the U. S. Supreme Court in *Goldberg v Kelly*, 397 US 254 (1970). The hearing authority is the ADES Office of Appeals, as provided for in A.R.S. §§ 46-205 and 41-1991 *et seq.* Recipients who have been adversely affected are given the opportunity to be heard in the State appeal process. When ADES plans to take adverse action against an assistance unit, ADES provides the assistance unit with written notice about appeal rights.

Recipients must provide a written or oral request for a hearing within 30 days of the adverse action notice date. If a recipient requests a hearing within 10 days of the adverse action notice date, benefits may be continued at the current level pending the hearing decision. Within 90 days of filing of the hearing request, ADES conducts a hearing, renders a decision, and notifies the assistance unit of the decision. An appeal from this decision may be filed within 15 days of the mailing date of the hearing officer's decision to the ADES Appeals Board. A further appeal may be made to the State Court of Appeals.

The ADES has established a grievance procedure for resolving complaints of displacement of regular employees (as defined in 42 USC §607(f)) due to recipients participating in work activities.

### ***Confidentiality/Non-Disclosure of Information***

ADES restricts the use and disclosure of all personally identifiable information regarding individuals and families receiving assistance under Arizona's program. Such information is considered confidential and can only be used and/or released as requested by the individual, as

ordered by a superior court judge, as provided for by rule of court, and/or as further authorized under A.R.S. §41-1959, and ADES data security policies in order to facilitate services and comply with State law and Federal regulations. (A.R.S. §41-1959 is included as Attachment #3.)

### ***Nondiscrimination***

ADES does not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, sex, national origin, color, religion, age, or disability.

### **III. WORK REQUIREMENTS**

Laws 1997, Chapter 300, gave ADES the authority to establish work activities consistent with TANF work requirements. The Jobs Program in DERS administers the work program requirements of TANF and is the administrative entity responsible for reporting the work participation rates.

Recipients of Cash Assistance are required, as a condition of eligibility for Cash Assistance, to participate in work activities unless the recipient is already meeting the work requirement, the recipient is a dependent child under age 16, or is age 16 through 18 and attending school, or the recipient is temporarily deferred from the work requirement.

### ***Participation in Work Activities Ensured***

The ADES ensures that parents and caretakers receiving assistance under Arizona's Cash Assistance Program engage in work activities, utilizing all possible options under 42 USC §607. Parents and caretakers receiving Cash Assistance are assigned to work activities as soon as possible after approval for benefits. Parents and caretakers are assigned to work activities taking into account their ability to work, availability of child care and other supportive service needs of the family, local employment opportunities, and resources for occupational training and education in the community.

### ***Jobs Rights and Responsibility Agreement***

The ADES completes a Jobs Rights and Responsibility agreement for each family receiving Cash Assistance that sets forth the obligations of the family, and the services the ADES provides in assisting the family to obtain and maintain employment.

### ***Preliminary Assessment for Grant Diversion***

Applicants who are potentially eligible for Cash Assistance, except for non-parent relatives applying for assistance in a child-only case, are referred to the Jobs Program for a preliminary assessment and screening for grant diversion before approval of the Cash Assistance case. The Cash Assistance application is denied if the applicant fails to participate in the assessment within 10 days after the date of the referral.

During the preliminary assessment, the Jobs case manager:

- Reviews the employability skills and needs of the applicant;
- Explains to the applicant the rights and responsibilities of the applicant, the program, and the Child Care Program; and
- Explains the grant diversion option with the applicant.

### ***Assessment and Employment Plan***

Cash Assistance recipients that do not receive a grant diversion payment are selected for participation in the work program. Upon selection for the work program, the ADES Jobs Program conducts an assessment of the participant's skills, work experience, education level, and employability. ADES and the participant enter into an employment plan. This mutual agreement between the work program participant and ADES includes:

- Employment goals and specific steps delineating how the recipient will attain them;
- Required work activities;
- Availability of supportive services; and
- Responsibilities of ADES in assisting the recipient to obtain employment.

ADES expects and encourages recipients to independently perform as many activities as they are capable, such as researching available employment and work experience opportunities, exploring resources for occupational training, and pursuing other community resources which will facilitate implementation of the employment plan.

Recipients already engaged in activities that meet the work requirements as defined in 42 USC §607 are eligible for and provided supportive services needed to keep them employed and engaged in work activities.

### ***Work Program Participation***

The ADES ensures that recipients engage in those work activities defined in 42 USC §607 that meet participation rates. Recipients engaged in unpaid work experience activities receive a supplementary payment at the federal minimum wage rate for each hour spent in this work activity that is not covered by the Cash Assistance and Food Stamp benefits.

The ADES requires a parent or caretaker receiving Cash Assistance to engage in work as soon as the parent or caretaker is ready to engage in work, and ensures that a parent or caretaker engages in work after receiving Cash Assistance for 24 months, whether or not consecutively.

## Definition of Work Activities

Participants may be required to engage in one or more of the following work activities:

- Unsubsidized employment;
- Subsidized private sector employment;
- Subsidized public sector employment;
- Paid or unpaid work experience;
- On-the-job training;
- Job search and job readiness assistance;
- Community service programs;
- Vocational educational training;
- Job skills training directly related to employment;
- Education directly related to employment; and
- Satisfactory attendance at secondary school or in a course of study leading to a certificate of general equivalence.

### ***JOBStart***

The JOBStart subsidized employment program is available to selected Jobs participants. Jobs participants gain work experience while employed with a public or private sector employer. The participant's Cash Assistance and Food Stamp benefits are replaced with employer paid wages while participating in JOBStart. Subsidy payments are made to employers of JOBStart participants to offset the cost of wages and other employer-paid benefits including training.

### ***Temporary Deferrals***

Although continuous participation in the Jobs Program is required, an unavoidable circumstance may temporarily prohibit participation. Temporary deferrals are based on the following:

- The individual is mentally or physically incapable of engaging in work activities and/or employment.
- The individual is a victim of domestic violence whose participation in work activities may cause an immediate threat to his/her own safety or the safety of his/her child(ren). Domestic violence has occurred when an individual has been subjected to physical and/or sexual abuse, sexual activity involving a child, nonconsensual sexual acts or activities, threats or attempts

to commit physical or sexual abuse, mental abuse, neglect or deprivation of medical care or daily living necessities, or stalking.

ADES worked with domestic violence shelters to develop a screening tool to identify victims of domestic violence.

- The individual is personally caring for and residing with a member of the family who has a physical or mental disability as verified by a licensed physician.
- The parent or relative/caretaker personally provides care for a child under the age of one year.
- The unmarried teen custodial parent, under the age of 18, is without a high school diploma or GED, and is caring for a child under 12 weeks of age.

### ***Good Cause Exemptions from Work Requirements***

When a participant fails to participate, the ADES will contact the participant and determine if good cause exists. Good cause reasons may include but are not limited to:

- Participant illness;
- Participant or dependent child had an appointment, which could not be rescheduled, such as a court-ordered appearance, medical appointment, or other similar appointment;
- Participant emergency family crisis such as loss of residence or the death of a participant's family member;
- Participant had a temporary verified lack of transportation with no reasonable alternate means of transportation;
- Participant was prevented from participating due to inclement weather;
- Child care for a child who is under the age of 13 is not available, affordable, or suitable. ADES will assist the participant in arranging formal child care services; when arrangements cannot be made, ADES will assist the participant in exploring informal child care options;
  - ◆ Unavailable child care arrangement means:
    - No vacancies or slots are available;
    - Formal child care arrangements (licensed centers, Arizona Department of Health Services certified group homes and ADES certified homes and in-home providers) are available, but the provider states that a child's special needs would be an undue burden;



- No relative is available to provide care; and
- Child care is not available within a reasonable amount of time (more than 1-1/2 hours travel time one way) to get children to child care and get to work or, more than 30 minutes each way if the only available mode of transportation is walking.
- ◆ Unaffordable child care arrangement means that it is determined by the ADES Child Care Administration Central Office that a Jobs referred client cannot find care in their general geographic area within the ADES reimbursement rate, and there is an additional cost of care above what ADES pays (which the participant reports as unaffordable). When it is determined by ADES that care is considered unaffordable, the client may be temporarily deferred from participating in the Jobs program until affordable care can be found.
- ◆ Unsuitable child care arrangement means informal child care arrangements which are considered unsuitable when a relative is available to provide care but is unsuitable (i.e., has a history of child neglect or abuse, domestic violence, serious criminal history, drug abuse, an emotional, mental or physical condition that prevents a person from providing safe care to children, or provides unsafe housing conditions). The determination of unsuitability is based on the client's statement. The designation does not apply to formal care arrangements, but does apply to informal care only.
- The participant is not capable of performing the work activity due to unsafe worksite conditions, the physical demands of the job, the participant's lack of skills or knowledge for the position, and other similar circumstances;
- The job offered is vacant due to a strike, lockout, or other bona fide labor dispute or the job offered is contrary to the condition of the participant's membership in a union governing the occupation; or
- The participant is a victim of domestic violence which threatens the safety of the participant or the participant's child(ren).

#### **IV. TANF-FUNDED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

Arizona has many TANF-funded supportive programs and services that meet the purpose or intent of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996. Some of these programs and services assist families or individuals who may need temporary help to overcome an emergency. Other programs and services assist families to transition from TANF Cash Assistance to employment and self-sufficiency. These programs and services recognize that some individuals currently receiving TANF Cash Assistance may need assistance in finding and retaining employment. Other individuals receiving TANF Cash Assistance may have barriers that make the transition from welfare to work difficult. These barriers may include domestic violence, limited education or work experience, and substance abuse. Arizona offers a variety of programs and services to address these needs:

- ❖ Short Term Crisis Services (STCS) – This program provides help to households experiencing an emergent need that cannot be met with their own income and resources. Households must have income less than 125 percent of poverty or 150 percent of poverty if there is an elderly or disabled member in the household. Help provided can include emergency shelter, case management, eviction prevention or move-in assistance; utility deposits or payments; and other special services as appropriate to secure and maintain employment.
- ❖ Emergency Assistance - ADES has an Emergency Assistance program that allows TANF funding to be used for services for children who are in out-of-home placement due to abuse or neglect. This program is consistent with the provisions contained in the State's former Title IV-A Emergency Assistance (EA) Program that was effective August 21, 1996. To date, these services have consisted of providing for the basic needs of these children. This is referred to as foster care maintenance costs. In order for a child to be eligible for Emergency Assistance, all of the following eligibility criteria must be met:
  - an emergency exists which requires child welfare intervention due to an allegation of abuse, neglect, exploitation or abandonment, or due to a judicial determination of dependency;
  - the child is under age 18;
  - the child is a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen (an alien lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence);
  - the child is placed in out-of-home care; and
  - the child is not Title IV-E eligible.

The Department's Division of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) Eligibility Unit is responsible for determining a child's eligibility for Emergency Assistance, using information recorded in the Division's Administration for Children, Youth and Families (ACYF) automated record system. This automated system is known as Children's Information Library and Data Source (CHILDS). For this purpose, a child placed in out-of-home care is considered to be a family of one, sometimes referred to as a "child-only" case.

If eligible, the program will pay for foster care maintenance costs for the child for up to 365 days from the date the child was placed in out-of-home care. Payment may be made for a variety of placement settings which would meet the child's basic needs of care, including family foster placement, shelter care, and group home placement. The need for placement outside of the family home is considered to be an emergency situation of a temporary nature. Efforts are made to enable the child to return to the family or to enable the child to be placed in another permanent placement situation if return to the home would endanger the child.

- ❖ Jobs Program - The purpose of the Jobs Program is to transition individuals to employment that will lead to economic independence. The Jobs Program serves TANF Cash Assistance recipients. The Jobs Program may provide services such as case management, job placement, referral to specialized training or supportive services to assist individuals as they move off TANF Cash Assistance. In addition, the Jobs Program offers some supportive services for up to six months from the date the TANF Cash Assistance case closes due to employment, and may be eligible for some transitional services for up to 24 months.

The following programs are administered by the Jobs Program:

- Job Readiness - Job Readiness activities are workshops delivered in a classroom setting. These workshops incorporate a standardized curriculum and are designed to teach job search, employment retention, and life skills to assist participants in obtaining and retaining employment. Job readiness activities include employment preparation workshops and additional supplemental life skills workshops of various lengths covering training or specific life skills. The Job Readiness standardized curriculum is used statewide.
- Post-Employment Education (PEP) – This program pays for education or training for current or former Jobs Program participants who are employed in unsubsidized employment. This training provides these individuals with the opportunity to acquire more valuable work skills, enabling them to retain their current jobs and to obtain a better position. Participants may receive training for jobs that are in demand in the local labor market. Training expenses are limited to \$2,500 per recipient, and have an eligibility period of two years from the month after the Cash Assistance case closed due to employment.
- Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) Supplemental Payment – The FLSA supplemental payment is paid to TANF Cash Assistance recipients based on the total hours of unpaid work experience per month compared to the sum total of Cash Assistance and Food Stamp benefits. This supplemental payment ensures compliance with the minimum wage requirements under the FLSA.
- Transportation Initiatives – Arizona recognizes that transportation is a significant barrier that may prevent current and former TANF Cash Assistance recipients from seeking, obtaining and retaining employment. Arizona provides funding to local communities to expand the availability of transportation services. Transportation assistance also includes a variety of strategies to assist TANF Cash Assistance recipients and recently employed former TANF Cash Assistance recipients resolve the transportation barrier. These include bus tickets, van routes, car repairs, recycled or new bicycles and taxi rides. Transitional transportation services may be provided for up to two years after the TANF recipient becomes employed.
- Training for Domestic Violence Victims – Victims of domestic violence may have a particularly difficult time transitioning to self-sufficiency and may face numerous barriers. Jobs Program participants may be referred for training that includes life skills, parenting skills, or vocational education. Domestic violence shelter staff will identify participants who are eligible for Training for Domestic Violence Victims.
- Grant Diversion - The Family Assistance Administration provides a one-time payment, in a 12-month period, to certain TANF Cash Assistance applicants who have been given a preliminary assessment by the Jobs Program. The intent of grant diversion is to cover an urgent need that presents a barrier to employment. These cases have a three-month review period. The money is paid in the first month. A grant diversion payment is equal to the total amount of cash benefits the assistance unit is eligible to receive for the first three full benefit months. Grant diversion is not considered "assistance" because it is not recurring. These

individuals are eligible to receive some additional supportive services from the Jobs Program.

### *At Risk Individuals*

Arizona has identified a population of individuals at risk of becoming TANF Cash Assistance dependent who would benefit from preventive specialized services. For the purpose of providing these services, an “at risk” individual is defined as an individual who has income at or below 185 percent of the 1992 Federal Poverty Level. “At risk” individuals include custodial and noncustodial teen parents. Supportive services are available for this population.

### **Other Programs and Services**

Arizona funds a variety of programs and services that meet the goals of TANF.

❖ Homeless Youth Intervention Program - This pilot program will operate in two locations and will provide services to homeless youth who are not currently served by the State’s Child Protective Services Program or the juvenile justice system. The program will focus on providing 24-hour crisis services, family reunification, job training and employment assistance, assistance in obtaining shelter, a transitional and independent living program and any additional services that the Department determines are appropriate to meet the needs for the homeless youth to achieve self-sufficiency. Youth who are determined to be homeless are categorically eligible for the program.

#### ❖ Children Services

- In-Home Services – Arizona uses TANF funds to provide in-home services to children involved in open Child Protective Services’ cases. Service elements include family preservation services, parent aide services, parenting skills training, counseling, and peer self-help.

These services are available to families with incomes below 250 percent of the federal poverty level. There is no financial eligibility requirement for children from two-parent families.

- Out-of-Home Services – Arizona uses TANF funds to provide out-of-home services to children involved in open Child Protective Services cases. The services include case management, counseling, transportation and other services that are provided to children in foster care. These services are available to families with incomes below 250 percent of the federal poverty level. There is no financial eligibility requirement for children from two-parent families.

- ❖ Coordinated Hunger Program - TANF funds are used for food storage and distribution costs to support the statewide food bank network. Families and two-parent households whose income is less than 185 percent of the federal poverty level are eligible.
- ❖ Healthy Families Arizona Program – This community-based, multi-disciplinary program serves families of newborns and is designed to reduce stress, enhance parent-child interaction, promote child health and development, and minimize the incidence of abuse and neglect. This voluntary home-visitation program assists the family in obtaining services and provides emotional support, informal counseling, role modeling, effective life coping skills, bonding and education on developmental assessments so that learning disabilities, physical disabilities or behavioral health needs are identified early. The home visitation service provides education on the importance of preventive health care, assistance and encouragement to assess comprehensive private and public preschool and other school readiness programs, assistance in applying for private and public financial assistance, including employment services, and parent-child interaction. These services are available to families with incomes below 250 percent of the federal poverty level. There is no financial eligibility requirement for children from two-parent families.
- ❖ Family Builders - This program provides services to families with children at low, moderate, or moderate high risk of future maltreatment whose needs cannot be sufficiently met through referral to community resources and do not require more intensive in-home services. The services are provided after an investigation is conducted by Child Protective Services staff. Families must have both parents in the home, and the services are to maintain the two-parent household.
- ❖ Adoption Services – TANF funds support services that provide for the selection of a family, placement, and supervision of a child. These include maintenance services, special services, and one-time nonrecurring expenses. Adoption services are available to families with two parents in the home.
- ❖ Emergency Shelter Services - Arizona uses TANF funds for emergency shelter and transitional housing for domestic violence victims and their children, and homeless families, who have income of less than 250 percent of the federal poverty level. Services include emergency shelter for up to 120 days, counseling, and supports such as case management, transportation, child care, and life skills training. The minor children may be temporarily absent from the parent or relative for no more than 180 days from the time of access to the services.
- ❖ Lay and Legal Advocacy for Domestic Violence Victims - Arizona uses TANF funds to provide legal and lay-legal advocacy services for domestic violence victims and their children who have income of less than 250 percent of the federal poverty level. The legal and lay-legal advocacy services include a range of legal assistance covering all civil matters that will assist the victims and their children to become safe and self-sufficient. Attorneys and lay-legal advocates provide the services. The outreach for the services includes domestic violence programs, and extends beyond shelters since not all victims in

need of legal assistance contact the domestic violence programs. The services are also targeted to under-served populations including rural, Native American, immigrant, and non-English speaking populations.

- ❖ Substance Abuse Treatment - Non-medical substance abuse treatment services are provided to recipients of TANF Cash Assistance whose substance abuse is a significant barrier to maintaining or obtaining employment, and parents, guardians or custodians whose substance abuse is a significant barrier to maintaining, preserving or reunifying the family. This program is available to single parent families with incomes below 250 percent of the federal poverty level. There is no financial eligibility requirement for two-parent families.
- ❖ Permanent Guardianship Subsidy - This program provides assistance payments to permanent guardians who are non-parent relatives as defined in state statute.
- ❖ Marriage and Communication Skills - A Marriage and Communication Skills Commission recommends, and ADES funds, requests from community-based organizations for participation in the marriage and communication skills program. The community-based organizations use the funding to provide marriage and communication skills training that emphasizes relationship skills, including communication and negotiation skills that are necessary to resolve common relationship problems.
- ❖ Vouchers for Marriage Skills Training - ADES provides vouchers to married or cohabitating parents whose income is less than 150 percent of the federal poverty level to attend marriage skills training classes.
- ❖ Marriage Handbook - ADES develops, produces, and prints a marriage handbook that is distributed free of charge to marriage license applicants. The handbook includes information about the importance of communication, shared parental responsibility for children, child support responsibilities, alimony, domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, court process for divorce, community resources for parents who are divorced or separated, community resources for children of parents who are divorced or separated, and marriage education classes that are available in each county.
- ❖ Information and Referral – TANF funds cover a portion of the cost for contracted agencies to provide information and referral services about an array of human services. These include programs and services for low-income families, homeless families, and victims of domestic violence. The contracted agencies also provide information and referral about programs and services that help prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies, and that strengthen two-parent families.
- ❖ TANF Funds Transferred to Title XX Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) - Arizona has elected to transfer TANF funds to Title XX Social Services Block Grant (SSBG). These funds are used for programs or services for children or their families whose income is less than 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level.

- ❖ Native American Tribal TANF/Cash Assistance Initiatives - Arizona elects not to include individuals receiving TANF Cash Assistance under a tribal family assistance plan, or who are included in a tribal Native Employment Works (NEW), in the computation of the State's work participation rate.
  - Tribal TANF Programs - A number of Native American Tribes have exercised the option to develop a TANF Program and to submit their proposal to the Federal government for approval. Arizona adopts the financial eligibility criteria the Native American Tribes have set to receive Tribal benefits or services as the state's standard of need for Tribal benefits from state maintenance of effort funds. Currently, the following Native American Tribes have federally-approved TANF Programs:
    - Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community TANF Program - In July 1999, the State turned over the administration of TANF benefits in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community to the Salt River TANF program. The State administers the Food Stamps and Medical Assistance programs, and ADES staff are co-located with tribal staff in a single office on the reservation.
    - Pascua Yaqui Tribe - The Pascua Yaqui Tribe has had an approved Tribal TANF program since November 1997. However, the Tribe opted to contract back with ADES to provide services. ADES employees administer TANF benefits according to Tribal TANF policy.
    - White Mountain Apache Tribe - White Mountain Apache Tribe has had an approved Tribal TANF program since April 1998. However, the Tribe opted to contract back with ADES to provide services. ADES employees administer TANF benefits according to Tribal TANF policy.
    - Navajo Nation – The Navajo Nation has had an approved Tribal TANF program since October 2000, and began operating their tribal TANF program on March 1, 2002.
    - Hopi Tribe – The Hopi Tribe has had an approved Tribal TANF program since May 2001 and began operating their Tribal TANF program in December 2004. ADES provides technical support and assistance.

## V. CHILD CARE

### *Administration*

Child care services for Cash Assistance recipients are administered by the ADES. These services are administered in coordination with other child care services that are funded by other sources, i.e., Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), Title XX Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), and State general funds. ADES is the Designated Lead Agency for the CCDF. The administration of these services is coordinated in order to provide for a seamless child care delivery system.

The ADES, Child Care Administration (CCA) within DERS, is responsible for the planning, policy, and the day-to-day operation of child care programs which provide services to Cash Assistance recipients and other families eligible for services.

Generally, these child care programs are designed to help eligible families with the cost of child care to enable parents to participate in employment and specific education and training activities related to employment. Child care is provided for a portion of a 24-hour day when neither parent is available to provide care due to these activities.

### ***Processes with Parents and General Eligibility***

Child care services may be provided for Cash Assistance recipients and for non-Cash Assistance recipients with family income at or below 165 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. Non-Cash Assistance recipients may be eligible for child care services without respect to resource limits. If the family is eligible, ADES determines any required co-payment amounts and the amount of child care to be authorized (i.e., number of full and/or part days). A sliding fee scale is used to determine income eligibility and each family's contributions to the cost of child care. In addition to family size and income, the number of children in care is used as a factor in determining a family's contribution (co-payment).

The family's rights and responsibilities are reviewed and the family is informed of available child care options and their right to choose the category and type of care that best meets their needs. Eligibility is determined within 30 days from the receipt of an application. Child care cases are reviewed at least once per year to evaluate ongoing eligibility for services.

If the number of families applying and eligible for services exceeds available funding, a statewide waiting list for services will be imposed. Families receive priority for services in the following order: (1) TANF and TCC eligible families; and (2) Other eligible families. Within these two priority levels, the date of application/referral will be used as the criterion to establish the family's place on the waiting list. When openings occur, families are notified and offered services based on this procedure.

### ***Authorization for Services***

When a family is determined eligible to receive services, the family is authorized for a specific amount of care and level of reimbursement for such care. When a family has selected a provider who is registered with ADES, a Certificate of Authorization is issued. The Certificate of Authorization form is a voucher-like instrument that is issued to an eligible family and the provider they have selected. Eligible families are informed that they may choose, and use their Certificate of Authorization with, any type of category of eligible providers.

## **VI. TEEN PREGNANCY/OUT-OF-WEDLOCK BIRTHS**

### ***Out-of-Wedlock Births***



The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) has established goals for reducing out-of-wedlock births and teen pregnancies. Arizona's goals for out-of-wedlock births are:

- No more than 41.6 percent for 2006
- No more than 41.5 percent for 2007
- No more than 41 percent for 2008.

Arizona's goals for teen pregnancies for 2006 -2015 are to:

- Annually reduce the number of pregnancies by 1.5 per 1,000 teenage girls age 15-19 (an overall reduction of 20.5 percent).
- Annually reduce the number of repeat pregnancies by 0.5 per 1,000 teenage girls age 15-19 (an overall reduction of 30 percent).

Using a variety of federal and state funds, ADHS has contracts with various community-based organizations for programs to reduce out-of-wedlock births and prevent teen pregnancies. These programs promote sexual abstinence until marriage. Organizations that were funded include health centers, educational institutions, faith-based, and community based organizations, and community partnerships.

### ***Statutory Rape Prevention Initiative***

Arizona conducts a program that provides education and training on the problem of statutory rape so that teenage pregnancy prevention programs may be expanded in scope to include men. Arizona's program provides information related to statutory rape and male responsibility. The state developed a brochure that outlined an Arizona law called "Sexual Conduct with a Minor." The brochure also provides information on sexual conduct with a minor and the responsibility to report the crime. The brochure is distributed to schools, the law enforcement community, local counseling and educational associations.

## **VII. STATE-FUNDED PROGRAMS**

### ***Cash Assistance Payments of Less Than \$100***

Arizona uses state maintenance of effort funds for Cash Assistance payments of less than \$100 a month. The eligibility requirements for the state-funded program are the same as for the TANF Cash Assistance Program.

## **VIII. TRANSITIONAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE (TMA)**

Once a Cash Assistance and Medical Assistance recipient transitions from welfare to work, one of the significant barriers to maintaining self-sufficiency is the potential loss of health care coverage. Arizona provides up to twelve months of TMA to eligible participants.

## **ATTACHMENT 1**

### **ARIZONA STATE PLAN CERTIFICATIONS**

Arizona will operate a program to provide Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) so that the children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives; to end dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage; to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and establish annual numerical goals for preventing and reducing the incidence of these pregnancies; and encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

I, Janet Napolitano, as Chief Executive Officer of the State, certify that:

1. The Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES) is the agency responsible for administering and supervising the program under part A in all political subdivisions of the State.
2. The ADES assures that local governments and private sector organizations:
  - (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
  - (b) Have had at least 45 days to submit comments on the plan and the design of such services.
3. The ADES will operate a Child Support Enforcement program under the State plan approved under part D of the Social Security Act.
4. The ADES will operate a Foster Care and Adoption Assistance program in accordance with part E, and certify that the State will take all necessary actions to ensure that children receiving assistance are eligible for medical assistance.
5. The ADES will 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 42 USC §612, with equitable access to assistance under the State program funded under this part attributable to funds provided by the Federal Government.
6. The ADES will 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.
7. The ADES will make available to the public a summary of the State plan.

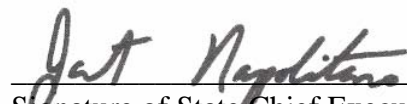
ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

[X] The State has established and is enforcing standards and procedures to:

1. Screen and identify individuals receiving assistance under this part with a history of domestic violence while maintaining the confidentiality of such individuals;
2. Refer such individuals to counseling and supportive services; and
3. Waive, pursuant to a determination of good cause, other program requirements such as time limits (for as 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.

[X] The State will not require a parent or caretaker who is not exempt from work requirements and is not engaged in work as defined in 42 USC §607(c) to participate in community service employment after receiving assistance for two months.

CERTIFIED BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE STATE:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of State Chief Executive Officer  
Janet Napolitano, Governor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## ATTACHMENT 2

### ARIZONA STATE PLAN

#### TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)

##### FUNDING

Section 403(a)(1)(A) provides that each eligible State shall be entitled to receive for each of the fiscal years 1996 through 2002, a grant in an amount equal to the State family assistance grant as defined in section 403(a)(1)(B).

##### I. Payments to Agency Administering the TANF Program

Payments for the TANF program will be made to the Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES), designated in this State Plan as the State IV-A agency for administering the TANF program in the State of Arizona. The ADES managed the Arizona AFDC/JOBS program as of August 22, 1996.

##### II. State Payments for TANF Program

Section 405 requires that grants be paid to States in quarterly installments, based on State estimates. The State of Arizona's estimate for each quarter of the fiscal year by percentage is:

##### III. For FY 2006 and Future Years:

<b>1st Quarter</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter</b>	<b>3rd Quarter</b>	<b>4th Quarter</b>
25%	25%	25%	25%

For FY 2006, the State of Arizona indicates below the percentage of TANF funds requested for those quarters in which Arizona plans to operate the TANF program.

##### For FY 2006 and Future Years:

<b>1st Quarter</b>	<b>2nd Quarter</b>	<b>3rd Quarter</b>	<b>4th Quarter</b>
25%	25%	25%	25%

## ATTACHMENT 3

### A.R.S. §41-1959

#### 41-1959. Confidential information; permissible disclosure; rules; violation; classification

- A. Unless otherwise provided by law, all personally identifiable information concerning any applicant, claimant, recipient, employer or client or concerning any person involved in an adult protective services action is confidential and shall not be released unless ordered by a superior court judge or provided for by rule of court except as provided in subsections B, C and D of this section. Records and files that relate to investigations conducted by child protective services in the department are confidential. The department shall release this information only as prescribed by section 8-807.
- B. Employees of the department of economic security, the department of law and the court may obtain the information described in subsection A of this section in the performance of their duties as authorized by rules adopted by the director.
- C. Employees of the department of economic security, the department of law and the court may release any information which is otherwise held confidential under this section under any of the following circumstances:
1. To the applicant, claimant, recipient, employer or client if a request is made in writing by any of such persons specifically requesting information which directly relates to the person requesting such information.
  2. To the extent necessary to make claims on behalf of a client for public or private assistance, insurance or health or medical assistance pursuant to title 11, chapter 2, article 7 or title 36, chapter 29 to which the client may be entitled.
  3. In oral and written communications involving the provision of services or the referral to services between employees of, persons under contract with, or persons holding a general employment relationship with the department of economic security, the department of law or the juvenile court.
  4. If the disclosure of otherwise confidential information is necessary to protect against a clear and substantial risk of imminent serious injury to a client.
  5. To agencies of the federal government, this state or any political subdivision of this state for official purposes. All information received by a governmental agency pursuant to this paragraph shall be maintained as confidential, except where pertinent to a criminal prosecution.
  6. To foster parents and persons certified to adopt if necessary to assist in the placement with or care of a child by such persons.
  7. To an officer of the superior court, the department or any agency required to perform an investigation pursuant to section 8-105 if the information is pertinent to the investigation. All information received by the officer, department or agency pursuant to this paragraph may be disclosed to the court but shall otherwise be maintained as confidential.
  8. In any judicial or administrative proceeding involving an adult protective services client if the director of the department considers the information pertinent to the proceeding.

D. Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 8-519, 8-541, 8-542 and 46-135, a standing committee of the legislature or a committee appointed by the president of the senate or the speaker of the house of representatives may obtain the information described in subsection A of this section on written notification to the director. Information obtained pursuant to this subsection may be used only for purposes of conducting investigations related to legislative oversight of the department. Information which is personally identifiable shall not be further disclosed.

E. Any violation of this section is a class 2 misdemeanor.

The department shall establish safeguards against the unauthorized use or disclosure of confidential information in title IV-D cases.



PPP-1048ASRLPD (4-07)

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program ♦ Under Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI & VII), and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Department prohibits discrimination in admissions, programs, services, activities, or employment based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, and disability. The Department must make a reasonable accommodation to allow a person with a disability to take part in a program, service or activity. For example, this means if necessary, the Department must provide sign language interpreters for people who are deaf, a wheelchair accessible location, or enlarged print materials. It also means that the Department will take any other reasonable action that allows you to take part in and understand a program or activity, including making reasonable changes to an activity. If you believe that you will not be able to understand or take part in a program or activity because of your disability, please let us know of your disability needs in advance if at all possible. To request this document in alternative format or for further information about this policy, contact 602-542-3882; TTY/TDD Services: 7-1-1.