IDAHO STATE PLAN RENEWAL

for

TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES

(TANF)

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WORK OPPORTUNITY RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1996 (P. L. 104-193)

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INTRODUCTION

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is the federal program that replaced the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program under federal welfare reform legislation, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA), P. L. 104-193. The program is supervised by the State of Idaho, through the Department of Health and Welfare (Department).

The TANF block grant is used to provide cash assistance, services and work programs for needy families, utilizing federal TANF funds along with state funds to develop and deliver services to needy families. Idaho operates its TANF program in accordance with this plan; Idaho Statute Title 56, Public Assistance and Welfare, Chapter 2, Public Assistance; and Idaho Administrative Rules. In addition, certain child welfare services cited in this plan are based on the Idaho State Plan Transmittal Number 94-AFDC-1 for Emergency Assistance under Title IV-A, with an effective date of October 1, 1993. This plan was approved and in effect as of September 30, 1995. The State of Idaho (the State) will amend its TANF State Plan whenever the Department determines there is a significant change in program policy or rule. In the event of changes to Idaho's TANF program, the rules are published in the Administrative Rules Bulletin with legal notices regarding the changes published in Idaho's major daily newspapers. The public has 12 days to comment on rule changes. This document, Idaho's TANF State Plan, was posted on the Department's web site November 1, 2016 at **http://www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov**. Notice of this posting and the opportunity to comment (November 3 – December 18, 2016) were published in Idaho's major daily newspapers November 3-November 8, 2016. This provided the mandatory 45-day period for public review and comment.

1. Administration

Idaho employs a service area structure working in concert with a centralized business office to ensure effective delivery of the program. Appendix A is a chart of the Department's structure. Service delivery is provided at the local level by Department employees and contracted staff.

2. Department Mission and Program Goals

The Department's mission is to create and support an environment that encourages family responsibility and self-reliance while promoting and protecting the health and safety of Idahoans. The overriding goal of Idaho's TANF program is to help Idaho's needy families achieve self-sufficiency by providing them access to job preparation, work and support services.

3. Program Purposes and Use of Funds

Idaho uses TANF funds to accomplish the following purposes established by P.L. 104-193 (42 U.S.C. 601(a)(1)):

- Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives;
- End the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage;
- 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.

In such cases where the State provides TANF assistance for previously authorized Emergency Assistance programs and purposes, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 604(a)(2), the state of Idaho elects September 30, 1995 as the date for use of Federal TANF funds. Previously authorized purposes included Shelter care, foster care, residential care, supervision, information and referral, case management, in-home services, day treatment, community-based assessment, other community-based services provided to avoid out-of-home placement, receiving reports and referrals, completing risk assessments, developing family plans, eligibility processes, staff and provider training and other administrative activities. A more complete explanation of these assistance and services is described in Idaho's 1993 AFDC plan (Attachment C).

The State will adhere to the 15% administrative cost limitation as specified in 45 CFR 263.13. The State will account for TANF administrative costs using the final rule for TANF (45 CFR Part 263).

4. TANF Eligibility Requirements

Financial Eligibility

Unless otherwise noted, the income limit for TANF eligibility is 200% of the federal poverty guideline and the resource limit is $5,000.

Citizenship

The electronic interface, Vital Statistics under eVerif-I, will be used to verify citizenship of applicants. If a discrepancy exists between the eVerif-I interface and the applicant's statement, then the applicant must provide documentation that they are citizens or lawful permanent residents of the United States. Acceptable documentation includes birth certificate, passport, or documentation from the US Department of Homeland Security. Exceptions are explained below.

Non-Citizens

All qualified aliens who reside in the United States have access to cash assistance if they are eligible, unless otherwise limited by Federal law. TANF assistance is provided to all excepted categories as required by Title IV of PRWORA and to all non-excepted categories after the expiration of the 5-year bar. Idaho does not provide a State-funded assistance program for individuals who are barred for their first five years. The 5-year bar does not apply to aliens who entered the United States before August 22, 1996.

Trafficking Victims

Pursuant to Public Law 106-386 and the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, victims of a severe form of trafficking shall be eligible for benefits. This eligibility is without regard to actual immigration status of such victims. Victims of trafficking, like refugees, are not barred from receiving TANF during their first five years.

Idaho State Residence

The electronic interface, heat payments under eVerif-I, will be used to verify residency of applicants. If a discrepancy exists between the eVerif-I interface and the applicant's statement, then the applicant must present documentation to prove they are residents of the State of Idaho.

A. TANF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Idaho's TANF funds provide cash assistance to needy families through Temporary Assistance for Families in Idaho (TAFI). TANF funds also support an array of other programs and services to eligible families and individuals who meet the eligibility criteria established by the four TANF purposes and rules of the Department of Health and Welfare in accordance with this State plan.

1. Temporary Cash Assistance for Families in Idaho (TAFI)

Idaho provides TAFI cash payments to needy families with children, including two-parent households. Idaho families with a dependent child, or pregnant women in the third trimester of pregnancy, meet the definition of "needy" if their countable household earned income (60% of earned income) is below 32% of the 200% federal poverty level for the budget unit size. A family is considered "needy" when their countable monthly income (earned and unearned) is less than $309, the maximum grant amount. The family resource limit for TAFI is $5,000. TAFI applicants must comply with all program requirements in order to receive benefits.

Each individual applying for cash assistance under TAFI must state in writing whether the individual or any member of their household has been convicted of a felony involving a controlled substance. However, Idaho has exercised the opt-out provision in section 115 of PRWORA, P.L. 104-193. Accordingly, the Department may provide Food Stamps and services funded under Title IV-A (including cash assistance, TANF supportive services and at-risk services) to a person who has been convicted of a felony involving a controlled substance, if they comply with the terms of a withheld judgment, probation or parole.

Benefit Delivery

Delivery of cash benefits is made through electronic benefit transfers (EBT), either directly to a recipient's bank account or to an account maintained by the State on behalf of the recipient through an electronic benefits transfer (EBT) vendor. The EBT system is an online system accessed with plastic magnetic strip cards and personal identification numbers (PINs). Benefits are accessible through point of sale (POS) devices at participating retailers or at automated teller machines (ATMs). The EBT system is operable anywhere in the United States where the retailer or ATM displays the Quest logo. The Quest logo signifies that the retailer or ATM owner follows the national operating rules for EBT adopted by the National Automated Clearing House Association (NACHA).

During the 2012 Legislative Session, the Idaho State Legislature passed a law addressing the Prohibited Uses of Public Assistance Benefit Cards; more specifically, this law addressed the use of TAFI benefits provided to a recipient on an Idaho Quest EBT card account (Section 56-227F, Idaho Code, Effective 07/01/2012). The enacted Statute outlines that:

- TAFI recipients cannot use their EBT card for restricted activities such as gambling; purchase of cigarettes, tobacco, or alcohol; adult entertainment; tattoos; or activities in any restricted location as outlined in the legislation; and

- Certain types of businesses are restricted from accepting TAFI EBT benefits, specifically: businesses that sell alcoholic beverages by the drink; state liquor stores; gambling establishments; businesses offering tattoo or body modification services; adult entertainment venues; and any establishment where persons under age 18 are not permitted.

In order for a machine to process an Idaho Quest EBT card transaction, the machine must belong to a vendor approved by the State and have a specified BIN number. The Department of Health and Welfare maintains a list of approved EBT vendors and BIN numbers throughout the state. No casinos, gaming establishments, liquor stores, or adult entertainment venues are approved vendors for Idaho Quest EBT card transactions.

TAFI recipients are informed of the EBT card prohibited vendor types and prohibited items both at the time of application and when then recipient requests to receive their cash benefit on an EBT card. This information is also posted in our offices and is available on the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare website. TAFI recipients are also given an informational brochure entitled "A Guide for Using your Idaho Quest Card." This brochure informs recipients:

- Which types of transactions involve no fees or charges;
- Which types of transactions involve fees and/or surcharges; and
- Where they can access or withdraw their cash benefits (POS terminals at retail locations statewide, ATM machines, online bill pay).

This informational brochure is made publicly available on the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare website, and is given to individuals who receive a Quest card in the local offices.

Child-only TAFI Grants

TAFI is available to eligible children who reside with a caretaker relative. A caretaker relative is an adult specified relative other than a parent who has an eligible related child residing with them and who is responsible for the child's care. Caretaker relatives may choose whether to be included in the grant.

For child-only cases:

- Only the child's income is counted;
- TAFI time limits do not apply to relative caretakers;
- A non-parent caretaker relative not included in the grant does not have TAFI work activity requirements, since he is not a family member. However, all caretaker relatives included in the TAFI grant must meet participation requirements for work activities.
- Caretaker relatives not included in the grant are encouraged to complete all the Child Support Services (CSS) referral forms, but are not required to cooperate with CSS. However, a caretaker relative who is included in the grant must cooperate with Child Support Services to identify and locate the non-custodial parent, establish paternity, and establish, modify and enforce the child support order, unless good cause exists.

Participation in Work Activities

Idaho uses a statewide contractor for the development and management of work opportunity sites and the provision of Enhanced Work Services. Services essential to a participant's entry into employment are provided on an individualized basis. The contractor collaborates with other community resources to avoid duplication of services and to maximize resources.

All TAFI applicants are referred to Idaho's Enhanced Work Services contractor for participation in mandatory work activities. Activities depend upon the applicant/participant's circumstances, and require up to 40 hours per week in work-related activities, as described in the Work Related Activities section on page 9.

One-Time TAFI Cash Payment

Idaho offers one-time cash payments as an alternative TAFI payment method. A one-time TAFI cash payment can be received only once in a lifetime. To be eligible for a one-time cash payment, families must meet all general eligibility requirements. The family must have a need that cannot be met with existing resources. The one-time cash payment may be up to three times the maximum TAFI grant the family would have been eligible to receive. Each month used by the one-time payment counts as two months against the 24-month lifetime TAFI limit. Eligibility for one-time cash payments is based on needs such as car repair, moving expenses, employment agency fee, tools, uniforms, and housing expenses. A family already receiving TAFI can apply for a one-time cash payment to use for employment related expenses such as relocation and moving expenses, work uniforms, and tools necessary to accept or retain employment.

Time Limit

TAFI is designed to provide temporary cash assistance while fostering personal and family responsibility, work, and self-reliance. Monthly cash benefits are provided to eligible families up to a lifetime limit of 24 months. Eligible families moving to Idaho from another state are entitled to TAFI cash benefits up to the 24-month time limit. Cash assistance benefits received from another state after July 1, 1997, count against Idaho's 24-month lifetime limit.

Cash assistance provided for relative caretaker child-only cases, with no adult included in the grant, is not time-limited.

Cash assistance provided for child-only cases with adult Ineligible Aliens on the case are subject to the 24 month time limit.

Extended Cash Assistance

Extended Cash Assistance (ECA) may be provided to families who have received 24 months of assistance. All TAFI eligibility criteria apply to ECA. In addition to all the eligibility requirements for TAFI, all adults in the family must meet one (1) of the following conditions:

- A mental or physical condition expected to last at least three months. The condition must prevent any employment that would generate earnings of at least one hundred sixty-seven percent (167%) of the maximum grant per month.

- Providing care for an ill or incapacitated child or spouse in the home. The in-home care must be provided for a minimum of one month. The care must prevent any employment that would generate earnings of at least one hundred sixty-seven percent (167%) of the maximum grant per month.

Time Limit: ECA may be paid for an additional 36 months after the 24-month temporary cash assistance time limit, but all adults in the family must continue to meet both ECA and temporary cash assistance eligibility criteria.

Personal Responsibility Contract

Families who apply for and receive TAFI work with the Department to develop a Personal Responsibility Contract (PRC). This negotiated contract clearly outlines the steps the family intends to take to achieve self-reliance, identifies the expectations a family must meet to continue receiving TAFI, and identifies the resources available through the Department to support the participant's self-reliance plan. Idaho's program requires all mandatory adult members of the family to participate in work activities up to 40 hours per week. As part of the PRC, both initial and continued cooperation with Child Support Services is mandated. The PRC also identifies the steps the Department must take. The Department will ensure that basic services are adequate to help the family fulfill the terms of the PRC. Food Stamps, Medicaid, child care, and other resources available in the community are discussed with the family. Families have the opportunity to apply for these services during this initial contact or whenever needed. During initial contact with the Department, families are encouraged to identify and use their own personal resources or resources within the community. Department personnel assist families as needed, emphasizing steps the family can use to access alternative resources.

Drug and Alcohol Screening

Adult TAFI applicants are screened (not tested) for alcohol and substance abuse in compliance with Idaho law using the Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory (SASSI). The screening occurs as part of TAFI eligibility determination. Substance abuse directly impairs an individual's ability to secure and retain a job. Identifying this particular barrier early assists families with treatment and reduces long-term welfare dependency. Individuals who score high on the SASSI are referred for further assessment by a trained drug and alcohol professional who then suggests treatment recommendations. These recommendations are then incorporated into the PRC as a required work activity.

Unmarried Minor Parents

Unmarried minor parents must reside with the parents of either of the minor parties included in the TAFI grant in order to receive TAFI, unless they have good cause to live separately.

Privacy Protection

In compliance with the Health Information Privacy and Portability Act, the Department has taken necessary steps to restrict the use and disclosure of information about individuals and families receiving assistance under programs funded by the federal government. The Department may share information about participants with county welfare programs to avoid inaccurate or duplicated benefits.

Fair Hearings

A family may request a fair hearing to contest a Department decision up to thirty (30) days after the date a notice was mailed to them. The family may continue to receive assistance during the hearing process if the Department receives the request for continued benefits within ten (10) days from the date the notice was mailed. Assistance will continue at the current month's level while the hearing decision is pending, unless the 24-month limit is reached or another change affecting the family's eligibility occurs.

TAFI Cash Assistance for Victims of Catastrophe

In the event of an officially declared catastrophe, the State employs the "prudent person" concept to assist victims of the catastrophe.

Services and Activities Available to Participants Receiving TAFI

The Department uses the full range of activities allowed in the federal law (Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996) to reinforce personal and family responsibility and further the family's self-reliance goals. Each family's PRC identifies and requires participation in activities that meet the standards of participation defined in the law. Additional activities not defined in federal law, such as classes and programs in parenting, budgeting, decision-making, problem solving, conflict resolution, health, and hygiene, are identified and added to the family's PRC.

Examples of additional services and resources are listed below:

Community Service: Community service activities may be included in the PRC. Community service is not mandated in deference to other activities that may better prepare a family to become stable.

Employment Services: The Department works with communities to identify employment opportunities for TAFI participants. Unpaid opportunities are developed for work experience sites whereever necessary. These sites teach basic job skills to provide participants with current employment references and the basic skills needed to obtain employment. Participants are encouraged to be involved in other community activities to expand employment options.

Transportation Services: Transportation and other supportive services are available to those who could not otherwise participate in the activities identified on the PRC.

Child Care Services: TAFI families are eligible for the Idaho Child Care Program (ICCP) if child care is needed for a parent or caretaker relative to participate in Personal Responsibility Contract activities. When a parent becomes employed and terminates TAFI, the family may continue to receive child care as a Work-Related Service if they continue to meet ICCP eligibility requirements.

Child Support Services

Cooperation with Child Support Services is a requirement of TAFI eligibility unless good cause exists. Cooperation with Child Support is critical because it supports and encourages parental responsibility through the activities of child support collection. The process of cooperation is discussed with each TAFI applicant. A TAFI applicant must cooperate in identifying the non-custodial parent, locating that parent, and establishing a support order as a condition of receiving TAFI. If paternity has not been established, the applicant must cooperate with identifying and locating the father. Once TAFI eligibility is established, the participant must continue to cooperate with child support requirements.

Idaho's TAFI and Child Support services are linked into the Department's overall Self-Reliance program. An applicant is screened to assess whether child support is being paid and, if not, the reasons for non-payment. Child support screening is necessary for the Department to ascertain which services are most appropriate to meet the family's needs. Child Support services are key to participants achieving self-reliance. The processes to gather information, identify, locate, and enforce support orders begin at the time of application for assistance. Upon completion of the assessment, enforcement action takes place. This is accomplished through an interface between the eligibility system and the child support enforcement system.

2. Head Start

The Head Start Program provides child development services to children. The target population is families who are TAFI eligible or at risk of becoming eligible, and whose income does not exceed 200% of the Federal Poverty Guideline. The program includes a developmentally appropriate individualized curriculum, socialization and health screening, as well as immunizations and medical, dental, nutrition, and mental health services. While TANF funds are not used to provide medical, dental, and immunization services, the Head Start programs do provide these services for TAFI eligible children with Head Start funds or other non-TANF sources.

3. Work-Related Activities

The definition of "needy" is applicable to TANF-eligible families with a dependent child residing in their home. The State delivers consistent work-related activities statewide. Participants in work-related activities must complete and fulfill a PRC. Adults are expected to participate immediately in work-related activities, including job search. A single custodial parent caring for a child twelve (12) weeks of age or less during a month will not be required to engage in work activities as defined in PRWORA 407(d). While this parent may be disregarded in determining participation rates for only 12 weeks, a single custodial parent is expected to complete a PRC and participate in activities that will help them become self-sufficient. Families are expected to accept employment as soon as it is available to them. Families who gain employment will be given needed assistance to learn how to use community resources and support in maintaining that employment after they leave the program. A working family that continues to be eligible for TAFI will receive continued support from the Department to improve their self-reliance capabilities. See the following pages for a chart of work-related activities.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK-RELATED ACTIVITIES	
Unsubsidized Employment	Individual receiving wages from public, private, or self-employment.
Subsidized Private Sector Employment	Individual in private sector employment for which the employer receives a subsidy from TANF or other public funds to offset some or all of the wages and costs of employing a recipient.
Subsidized Public Sector Employment	Individual in public sector employment receiving subsidized wages from another program for training provided to offset some or all of the wages and costs of employing a recipient.
On the Job Training	On the Job Training (OJT) means training in the public or private sector given to a paid employee while he is engaged in productive work and provides knowledge and skills essential to the full and adequate performance on the job. Theoretically, Work Force Investment Act funding supports OJT activities in Idaho.
Work Opportunities	Individual in unpaid short-term pre-employment work experience (workfare) based on a signed Memorandum of Agreement between the Department and the work site. Also includes an individual placed in work experience (not community service) by another agency's program, such as Vocational Rehabilitation or Probation and Parole. The purpose of the work experience is to improve the employability of those who cannot find unsubsidized employment.
Community Service	Individual who performs volunteer work for the direct benefit of community organizations (public or nonprofit) or has been assigned Community Service by a court.
Work Finding Activities	Individual who is involved in active job search or participating in work preparation activities (job readiness). These activities may include job readiness assessment, classes, workshops, or one-on-one training on resume writing, how to interview, how to keep a job, budgeting, setting up a business, etc.
Education	Education directly related to employment in the case of a recipient who has not received a high school diploma or a certificate of high school equivalency, would be education related to a specific job, occupation or job offer.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK-RELATED ACTIVITIES	
Employment Preparation Education (Job Skills Training)	Job skills training directly related to employment is training or education for job skills required by an employer to provide an individual with the ability to obtain employment or to advance or adapt to the changing demands of the workplace.
Vocational Training	Training (not to exceed 12 months with respect to any individual) is organized educational programs that are directly related to the preparation of individuals for employment in current or emerging occupations requiring training other than a baccalaureate or advanced degree.
Other Activities	Individual involved in activities designed to improve the ability to obtain and maintain employment, which may include life skills training, non-work related assessment, following doctors instructions, using community resources such as diabetes centers, alcohol and drug rehabilitation, physical therapy, etc.

4. Child Care Services for Non-TAFI Families

Working Idaho families with a dependent child are eligible for Child Care Services when they meet current ICCP eligibility guidelines. Child Care Services expenses for Non-TAFI families may be paid by direct TANF funds for working families who qualify for ICCP. Payment for Child Care Services is made directly to the providers.

5. Contracts for Enhanced Work Services and Case Management

Enhanced Work Services (EWS) serves individuals who are unable to meet the basic needs of their family or the children they support. For the purposes of EWS, the term "needy" includes families whose income is no greater than 200% of FPG, non-custodial parents whose income is no greater than 400% of FPG, and families who are eligible for Food Stamps, Medicaid, and ICCP. The services are funded by TANF and State MOE funds. EWS is a comprehensive set of services that assist participants in finding employment, maintaining employment or improving their employment situation. The EWS contractor provides individualized services essential to a participant's entry into employment. Activities depend upon the applicant's circumstances, and require up to 40 hours per week in work-related activities, described under Work Related Activities on pages 9-10. Additionally, some adults may be served who are at risk of losing their ability to support their family or children they support. EWS helps end dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation and work.

Case management of child only cases Ineligible Alien (IA) cases is carried out by a contractor. Once the family is determined eligible by state staff their case is referred to the contractor for ongoing case management. PRC development and management, timesheets, and activity hour tracking and keying will be conducted by the contractor for IA cases.

6. Career Enhancement Services

Career Enhancement Services (CE) are voucher payments funded by federal and state TANF funds, and are designed for eligible individuals who have a work-related need that if unmet would prevent them from maintaining or obtaining employment. **They are paid directly to vendors and include work-related expenses such as transportation costs, clothing, necessary tools and equipment, housing, utilities, licensure and certification fees.** By meeting these needs, CE help to ensure that children continue to be cared for in their own or relatives' homes and help to end dependence of needy parents on the government by promoting job preparation and work. These payments are limited to a period of time not to exceed four (4) months and can **only occur once every twelve (12) months if the participant is not employed and has not received CE within the past twelve (12) months.**

These payments are not intended to meet recurrent, ongoing needs, but are designed to deal with a specific crisis situation or episode of need. The expectation at the time these services are granted is that the situation will not occur again and such benefits are not to be provided on a regular basis. In order to be eligible for Career Enhancement Services, an individual:

- Must not have failed, without good cause, to comply with a previous Career Enhancement Service Plan.
- Must be a parent or caretaker relative with a dependent child in the home, a pregnant woman, or a non-custodial parent legally responsible to provide support for a dependent child who does not reside in the same home.
- Must be receiving Food Stamps and working with the Enhanced Work Services Contractor or working with a Department Navigator

7. Transitional Services

Transitional Services may be provided to an individual whose family is no longer eligible for TAFI cash assistance due to employment or who requested TAFI closure because of employment. At the time of closure the family's income must be below 200% of FPG. The family must have received TAFI for at least one partial month or one full month within the past 12 months, and have a need for work-related services in order to maintain employment. Transitional Services may be provided for up to 12 months after TAFI ends due to employment and do not count toward the TAFI 24-month time limit. Services are supported by federal TANF funds.

8. Supportive Services

Supportive Services are for participants who are receiving TAFI or are on Food Stamps and have completed a CE plan. Supportive Services are paid directly to vendors, and include work-related expenses such as transportation costs, clothing, necessary tools and equipment, licensure and certification fees. Expenditures for Supportive Services may not be paid for child care, medical services, purchase of vehicles, housing and utility costs, services for children, credit card accounts, household items, fines, professional union or trade dues, or any services available through another resource, as these expenses do not fall under the Supportive Services category. Child Care Services are available through the Idaho Child Care Program, and are funded either through CCDF or direct TANF funds. Supportive Services are supported by TANF and State MOE funds, and may be provided to adult participants who receive:

- TAFI Cash Assistance – supportive services must be needed to support an element of the Personal Responsibility Contract (PRC).

- Extended Cash Assistance.

- Transitional Services – supportive services must be directly related to maintaining employment and may include mentoring, counseling, and training for up to 12 months.

- Career Enhancement Services – supportive services help individuals maintain or obtain employment. Career Enhancement supportive services must not extend beyond four (4) months per episode of need, and the individual may only receive one (1) Career Enhancement payment in a twelve (12) month period.

9. Supportive Services for Refugees

Supportive Services payments are payments made to help families obtain, maintain, or enhance employment. Refugee families with children who are receiving services under the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) funding may receive Supportive Services payments. In addition, refugee families who are no longer receiving ORR funded services may also receive Supportive Services payments if they are at or below 200% of Federal Poverty Guidelines or are receiving Food Stamps, Medicaid or ICCP benefits. Supportive Services payments are made directly to vendors and may include work-related expenses such as transportation costs, clothing, necessary tools and equipment, licensure and certification fees. Expenditures for Supportive Services may not be paid for child care, medical services, purchase of vehicles, housing and utility costs, services for children, credit card accounts, household items, fines, professional union or trade dues, or any services available through another resource, as these expenses do not fall under the Supportive Services category.

10. Receipting Services Only

TANF funds are used for child support receipting only services not allowed through the IV-D Program to accomplish TANF Purpose 4. Cases where the support order is on or after January 1, 1994, and the payment is made by wage withholding are eligible for funding by the Child Support Enforcement program. Older cases or cases where payment is not made by wage withholding an allocable portion may be charged to TANF.

11. Subsidized Employment Services

The Division of Welfare began a subsidized employment program on February 1, 2010. This program creates employment for unemployed or under employed (i.e., under 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines) TANF-eligible Idahoans while supporting the current Welfare workforce and the unprecedented caseload increase in the Food Stamp program. Subsidized employment is a countable work activity in which a recipient's cash assistance is diverted to an employer as an incentive for the employer to hire and train a TANF recipient for a position that can lead to full-time unsubsidized employment.

A subsidized employment placement is intended to:

- Provide a meaningful, paid work experience that will improve the participant's long-term employability.

- Encourage an employer to provide a job opportunity to an individual whose work history may be deficient but who appears to be job-ready.

- Provide monetary compensation to an employer for providing the recipient with an opportunity to work.

Placement is defined as the date on which the client enters subsidized employment.

12. Family and Community Services (FACS) Programs

These FACS programs, depending on their funding, meet an appropriate TANF purpose or satisfy the specifications of Federal Code 45 CFR 263.11, which provides a grandfather clause to allow the State to expend TANF funds in accordance with the State plan that was authorized prior to 1995.

Community Resources for Families Program

The Community Resources for Families Program (CRFF) is a collaborative, school-based child welfare program between the Department and some school districts throughout Idaho. As an early intervention program, CRFF addresses emergency conditions that threaten to disrupt families and negatively impact children; CRFF serves families with children in primary or secondary school. By concentrating on increasing school readiness, strengthening families to prevent child abuse and neglect, and increasing family self-reliance through optimal use of community resources, CRFF provides assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives. *All CRFF services may be authorized under the "prior" 1993 State Plan or authorized by TANF per the guidelines outlined in this state plan.*

CRFF services may be authorized under either the "prior" 1993 State Plan or the current State Plan according to the best interests of the client(s) to be served. A case may only be served under one plan and must adhere to the requirements of the plan used.

Emergency Assistance Authorized by Prior Law

Assistance and services pursuant to Emergency Assistance applications are based on the Idaho State Plan for Emergency Assistance approved on January 4, 1994, with an effective date of October 1, 1993. A more complete explanation of the assistance and services is described in Idaho's 1993 AFDC plan (Attachment C).

Emergency Assistance Authorized by TANF

Emergency Assistance is designed to assist families with an eligible child or youth who are experiencing specific emergency conditions. A family may be eligible for Emergency Assistance if their income is at or below 200% of the current federal poverty guideline or they are unable to meet the emergency condition because of circumstances beyond their control. Funded through federal TANF funds, Emergency Assistance benefits are non-recurrent, short-term payments for goods and services relating to specific emergency conditions.

A family has an emergency condition when:

- A child (less than 18 years) is in immediate danger of a life-threatening or emergency situation;

- A child is suspected of being physically or sexually abused or when a serious physical or medical neglect has been reported; or

- A child or youth (age 18 - 20, inclusive) is in a vulnerable situation because of lack of paternal care or insufficient resources immediately available to meet his basic needs, and the unmet needs may be a threat to the child's health, safety, stability, or well-being.

Payment is limited to the least amount necessary to get the family through the emergency and is always paid directly to a third party, such as the utility company. The family may receive emergency assistance for up to 120 consecutive days in a twelve-month period from the date of application.

Payments are linked to service plans developed by the family to ensure the safety and well-being of children and youth and the stability of the family. Emergency assistance payments, partnered with the family's service plan, help participating needy families maintain stability so that their children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives. An individual who is required to participate in a work program must not have refused, without good cause, to accept employment or training for employment in order to be eligible for Emergency assistance funding. It will be the responsibility of the Emergency assistance case worker and the family to collaborate with other programs in an attempt to cure any TAFI sanction prior to a potential distribution of Emergency assistance funds being considered.

13. Out-of-Wedlock Pregnancy Prevention

Marketing

The APP Program will run public service announcements (PSAs) on teen pregnancy prevention and positive parent-child communication to increase participation in Bridging the Gap Community Dinners and Cuídate programming. These PSAs typically run statewide on English and Spanish-language radio stations, and occasionally on television (cable and local networks). Additionally, the APP Program will support the Idaho Immunization Program's efforts to increase awareness of HPV vaccination by contributing time and funds towards promotion of a statewide HPV vaccination day, as well as a radio campaign in English and Spanish. This activity reinforces the information about HPV prevention presented in the three APP curricula.

The APP Program will design and purchase incentives to provide to subrecipients who work with adolescents. The incentives change from year to year, but popular items include water bottles, pens, flash drives, t-shirts, and sunglasses. The incentives are used by subrecipients to recruit and retain adolescents in pregnancy prevention programming, by YAP groups during service activities to promote APP messaging in their schools and communities, and at Bridging the Gap community dinners to direct parents to APP resources. The incentives will have the APP Program's logo and website. The website has information on birth control methods, abstinence, and healthy relationships, and serves as a resource for adolescents and parents.

Programming

The Division of Public Health is issuing a request for funding proposal to implement the Wise Guys: Male Responsibility Curriculum©, an evidence-informed curriculum designed to engage males in the prevention of adolescent pregnancies. The 10 lesson curriculum was created by the Family Life Council of Greater Greensboro and was developed as a male involvement tool to engage young males (ages 10 – 24 year old males) in pregnancy prevention efforts. Additionally, the Wise Guys

Curriculum has been adapted to include the topic of statutory rape, punishable by law. Contractors will be asked to implement the curriculum as an after-school program, as part of a community-based program, in juvenile detention centers, vocational job trainings, and therapeutic programs for youth in crisis. Furthermore, the contractors implementing the Wise Guys: Male Responsibility Curriculum© will conduct presentations to state and local law enforcement officials, the individuals in the education system, and relevant counseling services to provide education and training on statutory rape laws and to address the problem of statutory rape. The Division of Public Health will develop educational packets about Idaho statutory rape laws that will be distributed to attendees during the presentation.

The Division of Public Health is contracting with all seven Idaho local public health districts to implement Reducing the Risk (RTR): Building Skills to Prevent Pregnancy, HIV, and STD in Idaho schools. RTR, an evidence-based curriculum, includes 16 lessons that emphasize refusal skills to increase student's ability to choose abstinence or to encourage protection from pregnancy or a sexually transmitted infection. The Idaho public health districts will implement Youth-Adult Partnership (YAP) groups as a youth development strategy to complement RTR implementation. YAP groups will plan and implement activities that promote healthy choices in their schools and communities. Research has shown the benefits of effectively incorporating youth voices into program activities include: increased self-esteem; sense of personal control and enhanced identity development; enhanced development of life skills including leadership, public speaking, and job responsibility; strengthened communication skills with adults, peers and family; and decreased involvement in risky behaviors (Scales & Leffert, 1997). The Division of Public Health will develop educational packets about Idaho statutory rape laws and will provide them to all of their Contractors implementing RTR. The Contractors will be required to distribute the educational packets to educational staff including, but not limited to, school administrators, counselors, nurses, and teachers. The Contractor will include the names and positions of the recipients on their quarterly report. When staff turnover at a site occurs, a packet will be given to the new employee if appropriate.

The Division of Public Health has expanded its reach by working with Idaho State University (ISU) to identify effective local strategies to reduce unwed pregnancies among 17-19 year olds, which account for Idaho's highest number of unplanned pregnancies. ISU is utilizing multiple strategies such as: individual level education, educating faculty and staff, conducting awareness raising campaigns at a school wide-level, and conducting presentations to students attending trade or vocational schools. The Division of Public Health will develop educational packets about Idaho statutory rape laws and will provide them to ISU for distribution to University staff including but not limited to: school administrators, counselors, nurses, and instructors. ISU will include the names and positions of the recipients on their quarterly report.

The Division of Public Health will continue to work with American Falls Academy to host bilingual Tell It to Me Straight Dinners in areas of the state with high teen pregnancy rates. Tell It to Me Straight Dinners is an initiative that brings parents and local youth together to discuss the pressures that young people are facing. Educational packets about Idaho statutory rape laws and communication tools on how to begin the "sex" talks will be made available to parents who attend the Tell it to Me Straight Dinners.

14. Domestic Violence Screening and Identification

For purposes of this paragraph the term "domestic violence" has the same meaning as the term "battered or subjected to extreme cruelty", as defined in section 408(a)(7)(c)(iii) of the Act. The Department has established and is enforcing standards and procedures to screen and identify TANF participants with a history of domestic violence while protecting their privacy. Services include referral of such individuals to counseling and supportive services. The Department disregards, pursuant to good cause, certain program requirements, such as:

- Time limits (for so long as necessary) for individuals receiving assistance.
- Residency requirements.
- Family cap provisions.
- Where compliance with such requirements would make it more difficult for individuals receiving assistance to escape domestic violence or would unfairly penalize such individuals who are or have been victimized by such violence, or are at risk of further domestic violence.

The Department will identify and provide additional, targeted support to victims of domestic violence who may have particular difficulty successfully making the transition from welfare to work. Training is provided to Department staff to help them understand the issues surrounding domestic violence. Community resources, including agencies whose mission is working with domestic violence victims, have been identified. Activities required on the PRC are structured to accommodate the specific situation of a participant. Although the Department expects that participants immediately focus on employment, the PRC will be appropriate to the participant's situation. Assessment of each situation is based on the participant's capabilities and strengths. Department staff employs a "reasonable person" standard when evaluating appropriateness of activities.

15. Training Related to Occupations in Elder Care

The State does not intend to provide targeted assistance to individuals to train for, seek, and maintain employment providing direct care in a long-term care facility or other occupations related to elder care at this time. Training in this field will be made available on an individual basis.

B. Maintenance of Effort (MOE) funded Services

The Department funds Family Preservation Services, Enhanced Work Services, Cash Assistance, Eligibility and Administrative Support, and Tribal TANF services with State General funds in order to meet the Maintenance of Effort requirement.

Family Preservation Services

Family Preservation Services are provided to or on behalf of eligible individuals or families (at or below 200% of poverty) whose children have been found to be in need of services to prevent out-of-home care. They include the following activities:

- The development of goals, service plans, written service agreements, routine reviewing and monitoring of progress and needs or services.
- Arranging the provision of preventative services.
- Activities to promote responsible parenting through activities such as counseling, mentoring, and mediation.
- Disseminating information about good parenting practices, and skills-based parenting education.

These activities are housed in the Family and Community Services Programs and are used to assist in prevention of children's placement in foster care.

Enhanced Work Services

State General funds are used in conjunction with TANF funds to pay for job readiness, job placement, subsidized employment, and case management conducted on behalf of families (at or below 200% of poverty) who are receiving TAFI or Food Stamps. These activities support purpose 1 and 2:

- assisting needy families so that children can be cared for in their own homes;
- reducing the dependency of needy parents by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage.

Cash Assistance

State General funds are used in conjunction with TANF funds to pay cash assistance to needy families participating in the Temporary Assistance for Families in Idaho (TAFI). Refer to page 3 for eligibility criteria. These activities support purpose 1 and 2:

- assisting needy families so that children can be cared for in their own homes;
- reducing the dependency of needy parents by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage.

Eligibility and Administrative Support

State General funds are used in conjunction with TANF funds to administer all TANF services. This includes determining initial and ongoing eligibility for families served with these funds.

Tribal TANF Programs

Each of the Coeur d'Alene, Nez Perce, and Shoshone-Bannock Tribes receive State General MOE funds based on their share of the annual family assistance program established on December 22, 1999. These funds are used to provide basic cash assistance to Tribal members (at or below 200% of poverty) participating in their Tribal TANF programs.

C. TRIBAL TANF

The Coeur d'Alene, Nez Perce, and Shoshone-Bannock Tribes are currently operating their own programs. Idaho provides equitable access to assistance through the state program for each member of an Indian tribe living in the state and not eligible for assistance through a tribal family assistance plan. Department staff attends quarterly meetings with the tribes to discuss TANF issues. A federal liaison also attends these meetings. In accordance with 42 U.S.C. 608 (a)(7)(d)(i) and (ii), the State will disregard any month during which an adult TANF participant lived in Indian country if the most reliable data available with respect to the month or period including the month indicate that at least 50 percent of the adults living in Indian country were not employed.

D. COORDINATION OF SERVICES

Across the state, many public and private programs work for the well-being of children and families. These community programs offer a wide range of services that focus on parenting skills and responsibilities. The Department provides services to many of the same families served by these community programs. The Department collaborates with community services programs to promote parental responsibility, bringing all the programs to the same table to share critical information, focus on common needs, and reduce repetitive actions.

E. FRAUD AND ABUSE

The Department has established and enforces 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. TAFI incorporates family penalties into the program rules. Work program penalties, including job quit, are progressive in nature. Penalties increasing for each noncompliance effectively stress the importance of work and the utilization of the 24-month lifetime limit. The penalty for the first non-compliance is one month or until compliance. The second non-compliance results in a penalty of three months or until compliance. A third non-compliance results in a lifetime penalty. When a participant does not report a change in income, resources or household composition, without good cause, the family is ineligible for a time period of one month for the first occurrence and three months for any additional occurrences. Deliberate failure to report a change may be pursued as an Intentional Program Violation (IPV), which is a full family sanction. First violation results in a 12-month ineligibility period, second violation results in a 24-month ineligibility period and the third violation results in permanent disqualification from the TAFI program. Existing Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) IPV counters and disqualification periods are counted toward the Idaho TAFI program. The disqualified individual's needs are not included in the grant calculation, and the individual's income and resources do count towards the family's eligibility calculation. Other TAFI program sanctions include:

- Non-cooperation with child support results in program ineligibility.
- Immunizations not being current for children results in program ineligibility.

- Non-establishment of paternity (after cooperation) within 12 months results in the TAFI benefit being reduced by one half.

- Applicants with a job quit within the last 60 days are ineligible for TAFI benefits for 90 days from the date of the job quit.

- Children not attending school results in a grant reduction of $50.00 per month per child non-attending.

When the Department determines good cause for the participant's actions, the penalty will not be imposed. Good cause is determined by whether the conduct would be that of a reasonably prudent person in the same or similar circumstances. If an adult household member is disqualified for failure to cooperate with the required substance abuse screening, assessment, and treatment, penalty periods do not count toward the 24-month limit. Effective July 1, 2012, Idaho began collecting on all TAFI overpayments, not just those that were accrued due to fraudulent activity (i.e.: overpayments resulting from inadvertent household or administrative errors will be pursued).

F. PLAN AMENDMENTS

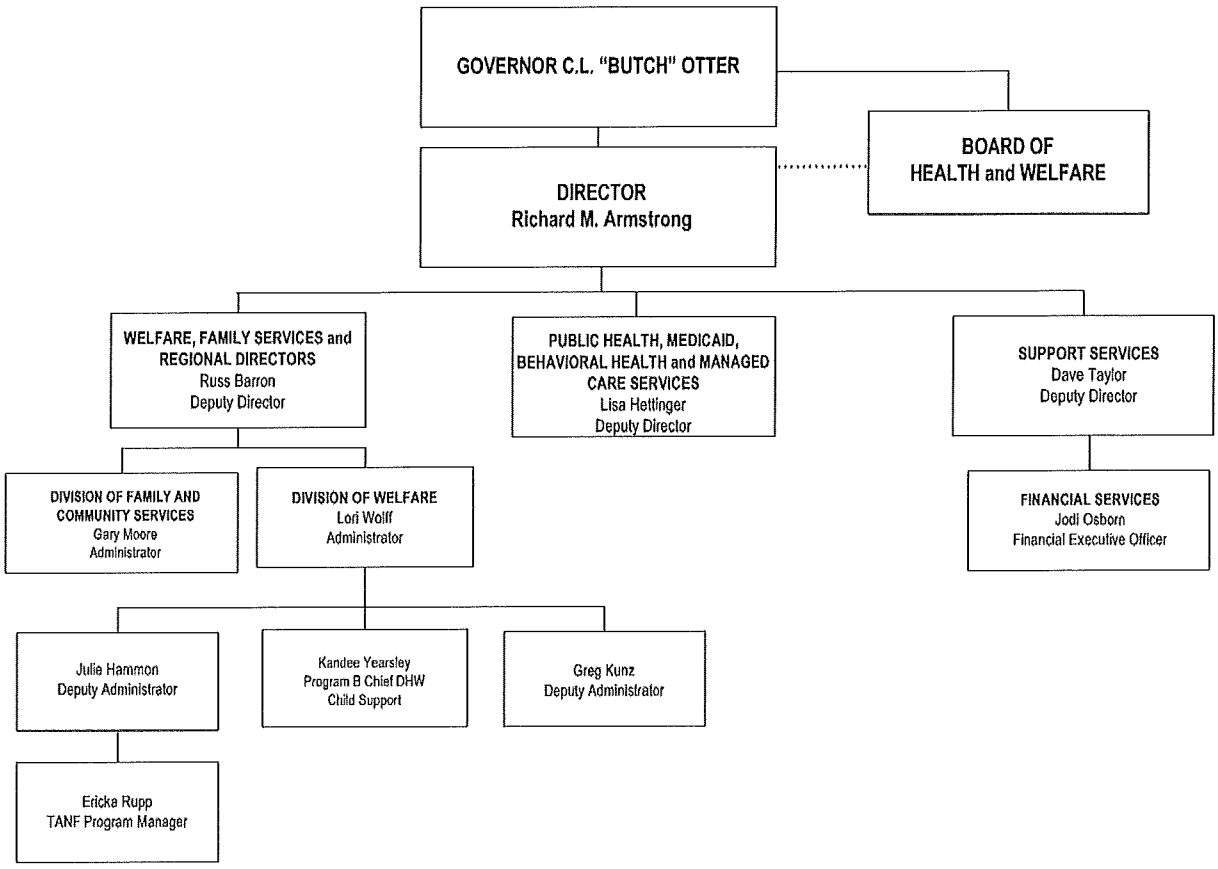
Within 30 days after adopting new procedures, the state will submit a plan amendment and notify the secretary of the amendment.

G. PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF STATE PLAN SUMMARY

The State of Idaho shall make available to the public a summary of any plan or plan amendment section.

APPENDIX A: ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES
ORGANIZATION CHART



ATTACHMENT A: STATE PLAN CERTIFICATIONS

The State of Idaho operates the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program so that 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 to encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

This program is known as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

The Executive Officer of the State is C. L. "Butch" Otter, Governor.

In administering and operating a program that provides Temporary Assistance for Needy Families with minor children under title IV-A of the Social Security Act,

1a. I certify that the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare is the agency responsible for administering the program, and the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare is the agency responsible for supervising the program;

1b. I assure that local governments and private sector organizations:

(I) 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

(II) have had at least 45 days to submit comments on the plan and the design of such services.

2. During the fiscal year, the State will operate a Child Support Enforcement program under the State plan approved under part D.

3. During the fiscal year, the Department of Health and Welfare operates a Foster Care and Adoption Assistance program in accordance with part E, and takes all necessary actions to ensure that children receiving assistance are eligible for medical assistance under the State plan under title XIX.

4. The State 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 Section 412, with equitable access to assistance under the State program funded under this part attributable to funds provided by the Federal Government.

5. The State has established and is enforcing 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.

OPTIONAL CERTIFICATION

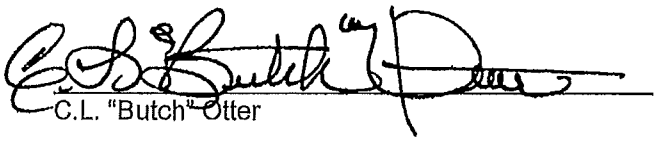
[x] I also certify the State has established and is enforcing standards and procedures to:

(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 would unfairly penalize such individuals who are or have been victimized by such violence, or individuals who are at risk of further domestic violence.

CERTIFIED BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE STATE:



C.L. "Butch" Otter

12-23-16
Date

Governor

ATTACHMENT B: FUNDING

Section 403(a)(1)(A) provides that each eligible State shall be entitled to receive for each fiscal year, 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 organization managing the AFDC/JOBS programs as of August 22, 1996, unless the State indicates that the TANF administering agency is changed. If a change is made, describe the name, address and EIN number of the new organization.

II. State Payments for TANF Program

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

For FY 2006 and Future Years			
1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
25% or $10,102,650	25% or $10,102,650	25% or $10,102,650	25% or $10,102,650

For FY 2006, States should indicate below the percentage of TANF funds requested for only those quarters in which they plan to operate the program.

For FY 2006			
1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
25% or $10,102,650	25% or $10,102,650	25% or $10,102,650	25% or $10,102,650

III. Changes and Inquiries

If a State determines that these estimates require changes, a letter indicating the change in percentages should be sent to your ACF Regional Office and to ACF's Central Office. The Central Office address is:

The Administration for Children and Families
The Office of Program Support
The Division of Grants Management

6th Floor, Aerospace Building
370 L'Enfant Promenade
Washington, D.C. 20447

ATTACHMENT C: 1993-1994 AFDC STATE PLAN

Idaho's 1993 AFDC plan can be found at:

http://www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Portals/0/FoodCashAssistance/CashAssistance/TAFI/AFDCUnderPriorLaw.pdf