

TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)

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

(OMB Control Number: 0970-0145)

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

This State plan was developed in accordance with Section 402 of the Social Security Act, as amended by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-193). This State plan is submitted as a new plan for the purposes of the state's eligibility for federal funding under part A, Title IV, of the Social Security Act. The information submitted below restates the pertinent requirements of Section 402 and then provides the information that outlines the provisions of Indiana's program.

Indiana Family and Social Services Administration

Indiana's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Plan is administered by Indiana Family and Social Service Administration (FSSA). FSSA provides a broad array of services to the State including institutional and community-based programs for the elderly and disabled; mental health and addiction services, Medicaid and other health care services and programs, and direct services such as childcare assistance, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and cash assistance. FSSA administers the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant, which includes TANF cash assistance and other programs funded in whole or in part with TANF or maintenance of effort funds.

Within FSSA, the Division of Family Resources (DFR) has the responsibility for determining TANF eligibility, delivering benefits and employment services. DFR is also responsible for SNAP and enrollment in the Medicaid program. Traditionally, DFR provides TANF cash assistance and employment services at one of its ninety-two county offices or the office of a contracted employment service provider.

Under IC 12-14-1, Indiana defines a 'qualifying family' as means a family meeting the following conditions:

1. The family consists of:
 - a. A pregnant woman,
 - b. Child under age 18 or
 - c. A child between ages 18 and 24 attending secondary or post-secondary school at least half-time

2. The children listed above must reside with a custodial parent or other adult caretaker relative
3. The gross family income must be less than 250% FPL

Each TANF or MOE program must meet these minimum requirements but who is included in the household and how household income is calculated for eligibility purposes varies by each program's policies, laws, and regulations. This is relevant to all programs defined in this plan.

STATE PLAN REQUIREMENTS

The following is a description of Indiana's plan for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program under Section 402 (a) of the Social Security Act, as amended by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-193).

Section 402 (a) (1) OUTLINE OF FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (A) General Provisions

(i) Indiana will transfer a portion of the federal TANF Block Grant to supplement the Child Care Development Fund in addition to funding the following programs:

- TANF Child Care Assistance
- Early Intervention-First Steps
- Healthy Families (A child abuse prevention strategy)
- Father Engagement Programs
- Parent Education Program
- Parenting/Family Functioning Assessment
- Visitation Facilitation
- Tutoring / Literacy Classes
- Community Based Family Preservation Services
- Community Partners for Child Safety
- Teen Pregnancy Prevention
- Pregnancy Support Program
- **Nurse Family Partnership Program**
- **NEST Project/New Parents Non-Recurrent Short-Term TANF-Funded Benefits**
- **Perinatal Home Visiting Support Program**
- **Diaper Distribution to Needy Indiana Families**
- **Pathways from Poverty to Prosperity Project**
- TANF and IMPACT

Child Care Assistance

The childcare needs for TANF recipients will be funded through use of both the Child Care Development and the TANF block grant. Assistance will be available to support the approved employment and training activities of the parent/caretaker who receives TANF assistance or who would receive TANF except for the imposition of a program sanction.

TANF funds also will be utilized for childcare services for parents and relatives who are working and meet the income eligibility criteria of the Child Care Development Funds Program. Childcare eligibility is capped at 127% of the federal poverty level.

TANF funds for childcare will be blended with those of CCDF and accessed through the CCDF Voucher system. The funding source of childcare services will be transparent to the families receiving childcare subsidies.

Early Intervention/First Steps

First Steps is Indiana's Part C Early Intervention Program for infants, toddlers, and their families. It is a family centered, locally based, coordinated system that provides services to children (0-3rd birthday) who are developmentally vulnerable. Services are intended to prevent or minimize disabilities with the goal of maximizing the potential of these children so that they can function as contributing members of society. Families with incomes under 250% FPL are eligible for the program. This initiative is expected to achieve outcomes under TANF Purpose #1: Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives.

Healthy Families Indiana

The Healthy Families Program is a voluntary, multifaceted home visitation program designed to promote healthy families and healthy children administered by the Indiana Department of Child Services. Healthy Families Indiana (HFI) provides screening and assessment of families throughout the state identified as at-risk of child abuse or neglect. If the screening and assessment finds physical or mental health issues, HFI provides a referral to WIC Programs, health clinics and local hospitals for services. Home visits, assessments and services provided may result in clients being recommended and referred to for health care or behavioral healthcare, but that care is not provided under the HFI program. The program model includes screening, assessment, and home visiting. Services can begin for eligible families either prior to or at the time of birth and can continue until the child is five years of age. This program is open to all Hoosier families regardless of income, but TANF state and federal funds will only be used for families with incomes below 250% of the federal poverty level. This initiative is expected to achieve outcomes under TANF Purpose #1: Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives.

Father Engagement Programs

Father Engagement Programs aid and support to fathers whose minor children are involved with the Department of Child Services (DCS). Providers work actively with DCS employees to engage fathers successfully in services that will improve safety, stability, well-being, and permanency for their children. Providers will assist fathers in strengthening the relationship with their children and

promoting positive relationships between the families and the local DCS family case managers and others involved in their children's case.

The Father Engagement Programs support the purposes of TANF because the services aim to strengthen the relationship between fathers and their children and promote positive relationships. Job Placement and training services for non-custodial parent(s) initiative is reasonably expected to achieve outcomes under TANF Purpose #2: To provide services that promote job preparation, work, and marriage. The remainder of services provided under this initiative are expected to achieve outcomes under TANF Purpose #4: Encouraging the formation and maintenance of two-parent families. Unless stated otherwise, Indiana defines for TANF that a 'qualified family' must have a gross family income below 400% FPL. Indiana Code (IC) 12-14-1(3)

Parent Education Program

Parent Education is the provision of structured, parenting skill development experiences. Education regarding parenting, discipline and child development is a means to provide parents whose children are "at risk" or have been abused or neglected with tools to assist them in the lifelong task of disciplining, understanding and loving their children. Family-centered parent training programs include family skills training and family activities to help children and parents take advantage of concrete social support. A *combination* of individual and group parent training is the most effective approach when building skills that emphasize social connections and parents' ability to access social support. However, the *individual* approach is most effective when serving families in need of specific or tailored services.

The following evidence-based programs are approved for use in these Parent Education efforts: Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT), STAR Parenting Program, Systematic Training for Effective Parenting (STEP), Strengthening Families Program (SFP), Incredible Years, Parent Management Training-Oregon Model (PMTO), Positive Parenting Practices (Triple P), Parents as Teachers-Born to Learn, Safe-Care, Nurturing Program, Active Parenting, Effective Black Parenting by the Center for the Improvement of Child Caring, 1-2-3 Magic and Parenting with Love and Limits.

This initiative is reasonably expected to achieve outcomes under TANF Purpose #4: Encouraging the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

Parenting/Family Functioning Assessment

Parenting/Family Functioning Assessment consists of an in-home evaluation that includes standardized test instrument(s) to identify the strengths and needs of the family. The service is most appropriately used when the needs of the family are so complex that a traditional assessment completed by an IN DCS Family Case Manager cannot determine the services necessary to improve the family's functioning. These families tend to have multiple caregiver ratings on the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) of 2 or higher which indicates complex needs.

The interviews/assessments required include: Parenting/family functioning assessment to include an interview with the adults and children being assessed in their current home environment and completion by adults of standardized test(s) to include a parenting inventory (such as Parent-Child Relationship Inventory; Adult Adolescent Parenting Inventory-2; Family Assessment Device,

Version 3; Family Assessment Measure Version III (FAM-III); and/or the Child Abuse Potential Inventory and /or another Standard Risk Assessment Instrument.

This initiative is reasonably expected to achieve outcomes under TANF Purpose #3: Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies. This program meets Purpose #3 because it provides assessment services to minor children (under age 18) which can lead to counseling and other interventions to support family stability. The grant agreement between FSSA/Division of Family Resources and Department of Child Services contains a detailed statement of work including several pages describing the Parent/Family Functioning initiative and how it serves the TANF purposes. Parenting/Family Functioning Assessment supports the purposes of TANF because the services aim to assess the functioning of the family and provide recommendations and services that will improve the relationships of the family members. TANF Purpose #4: Encouraging the formation and maintenance of two-parent families. Additionally, ACF has stated such crisis or intervention services that support mediation and parenting skills are allowable and meet the requirements of TANF Purpose 4: A significant share of TANF families consists of unmarried mothers with low skills who live with their children apart from low-skilled, under-employed fathers. Many of these fathers are involved in the lives of their children and provide some financial support but would like to do much more. Historically, however, the fathers have found limited employment opportunities, and welfare rules have worked to discourage family formation and fuller involvement of these fathers in the lives of their children.

This fourth TANF purpose offers the opportunity to address these issues. Some activities that are reasonably calculated to accomplish this purpose might include parenting skills training, premarital and marriage counseling, and mediation services; activities to promote parental access and visitation; job placement and training services for noncustodial parents; initiatives to promote responsible fatherhood and increase the capacity of fathers to provide emotional and financial support for their children; and crisis or intervention services.

Visitation Facilitation

This service provides visitation between parents/children/siblings/and or others who have been separated. It allows the child to reconnect with their family in a safe environment. Supervised visitation allows DCS Case Workers to assess the relationship with the parent in strengthening their parenting skills and developing new skills.

Youth must be available and participate in the visitation. The parent(s) as well as other family members in the home must participate in the visitation as scheduled session along with the youth. The full participation of the parent is very important to the success of the service. Provider will document and report to the DCS Case Worker the date, times of the visitation, who attended, positive interactions between parent and child, any interventions used and parent's response to that direction, any tasks given to the parent prior to next visit, any other pertinent information or concerns.

For two parent families, this initiative is reasonably expected to achieve outcomes under TANF Purpose #4: Encouraging the formation and maintenance of two-parent families. For single parent families, this initiative is expected to achieve outcomes under TANF Purpose #1: Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives.

Unless stated otherwise, Indiana defines for TANF that a 'qualified family' must have a gross family income below 400% FPL. Indiana Code (IC) 12-14-1(3)

Tutoring / Literacy Classes

Tutoring/Literacy Classes are provided to children involved with the Department of Child Services (DCS) system, to raise the academic performance of these school aged youth to a level consistent with state education standards. This program is carried out using qualified vendors under carefully drafted agreements. Services are provided in a manner that is age and developmentally appropriate and consistent with the child's academic ability and learning style, interpersonal characteristics, and special needs. Children are connected as appropriate with both formal and informal community support, services and activities that promote their literacy skills. The child's characteristics such as race, culture, ethnicity, language, and personal history including child abuse and neglect are considered when choosing or designing program interventions, materials, and curriculum. The provider will develop an education plan to address the child's literacy and math needs.

This initiative is reasonably expected to achieve outcomes under TANF Purpose #3: Prevent and reduce the incidence of adolescent and out-of-wedlock pregnancies.

Community-Based Family Preservation Services

Family Preservation Services are services designed to work with families who have had a substantiated incident of abuse and/or neglect, but, where DCS believes the child(ren) can remain in the home with their caregiver(s) with the introduction of appropriate services to the family. "Caregiver" is broadly defined to include: Birth parent(s), Adoptive parent(s), Relative caregiver(s), Fictive kinship caregiver(s), Other caregiver(s) who has been providing care and housing to the child(ren) and who has been deemed to be appropriate by the Department of Child Services (DCS). These services are for the entire family.

Family Preservation Services include the assessment of child/parent/family resulting in an appropriate service/treatment plan that is based on the assessed need. Family Preservation Services are home-based and monitor and address any safety concerns for the child(ren). Any interventions are strength-based and family-driven with the family actively participating in identifying the focus of services.

This program is available for all children and their families in an Informal Adjustment (IA) or In Home Child in Need of Services (CHINS) case with DCS, however, TANF state and federal funds will only be used for two-parent families or families below 250% of the federal poverty level. For two parent families, this initiative is expected to achieve outcomes under TANF Purpose #4: Encouraging the formation and maintenance of two-parent families. For single-parent families with incomes below 250% of the federal poverty level, this initiative is reasonably expected to achieve outcomes under TANF Purpose #1: Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives. (June 2020 start)

Community Partners for Child Safety

The Community Partners for Child Safety Program (CPCS) program provides primary and secondary child abuse and neglect prevention services in every region in the state. CPCS collaborates with other community resources within each region to create a coordinated prevention

network. Families can access prevention services through self-referral, referral from another community agency, or the DCS Helpline implemented in May of 2021. Participation in services is voluntary. CPCS also provides Community Liaisons for direct services to connect families to resources to strengthen the family unit and prevent child abuse and neglect. Contracted CPCS agencies work with the DCS Regional Services Council to identify needs within the region and the community resources available. These resources could include, but are not limited to local DCS offices, hospitals, faith-based organizations, schools, First Steps, Head Start, and Healthy Families Indiana. In general, each region and community defines its own needs and resources as updated through the DCS Biennial Regional Services Strategic Plans or other needs assessment strategies. Providers in this program will also assist fathers in strengthening their relationship with their children and promoting positive relationships between the families and others involved in their children's life.

CPCS providers will utilize DCS approved assessment tools including the North Carolina Family Assessment (NCFAS) and Protective Factors Survey-2 (PFS-2), provide direct home-based services, connect families to community resources, provide on-call crisis intervention, and provide supportive services to families on a voluntary basis. Because CPCS is a short-term program (serves families for an average of three months) CPCS will work with the family to develop no more than three (3) goals (e.g., parenting skills, life skills development, and self-improvement) to strengthen the family and prevent child abuse and neglect. When providing direct service CPCS liaisons use evidence-based practices, such as, Motivational Interviewing, 1-2-3 Magic, Nurturing Parenting, and Parents as Teachers curricula. DCS staff may conduct site visits and case file reviews as a means of ensuring quality service provision.

This program meets the requirement for:

TANF Purpose #1: Assist needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives: CPCS is a free and voluntary home-based case-management services program that connects families to resources to strengthen the family and prevent child abuse and neglect so the children may be safely maintained in their home. Community resources include youth services, schools, social services, health care, public health, hospitals, childcare, community mental health agencies, local DCS offices, child abuse prevention agencies like Healthy Families and Prevent Child Abuse Councils, youth services bureaus, child advocacy centers, faith-based programs, twelve-step programs, youth and more. When providing direct service CPCS liaisons use evidence-based practices, such as, Motivational Interviewing, Parents as Teachers, Strengthening Families, 1-2-3 Magic, Nurturing Parent, Period of Purple Crying, S_T_E_P Program, Common Sense Parenting, and Active Parenting.

TANF Purpose #2: End the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage: The CPCS program strengthens families by connecting them resources in their own community that help meet the needs of their family and allow them to parent successfully. Community Partners for Child Safety is a voluntary short-term Home Visiting and family goal focused prevention program. The intention is to give families the assistance, tools and resources needed to make it through life's challenging times without having substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect.

The Community Partners program is critical to ensure that no family falls through the cracks and can find the resources that can help the family have the tools to successfully handle life's crisis

situations. Community Partners also work on building a prevention network within the communities, partnering with other agencies including, but not limited to schools, social services agencies, health care providers, public health, hospitals, childcare providers, community mental health agencies, local DCS offices, child abuse prevention agencies, Healthy Families, local Prevent Child Abuse Councils, Youth Services Bureaus, Child Advocacy Centers, and faith-based organizations.

CMCS Providers utilize Home Based Case Management referrals to access community resource that targets obtaining employment by utilizing resources available in the community to build job skills and identify goals such as educational obtainment to work towards future career goals.

TANF Purpose #4: Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families:

CPCS is a voluntary program for parents who are interested in strengthening and maintaining their family and in especially focused on crisis intervention to provide families with resources and support that will help the family stay together in times of stress. This is done by providing family support and advocacy, goal planning, referral services for family counseling and parenting education as well as financial assistance for family counseling as well as short-term emergency problems. The State of Indiana under this TANF program, may indeed provide financial support for non-medical counseling or emergencies for clients of the Community Partners for Child Safety program, however, support is structured and limited so as not to fulfill the stipulative definition of "assistance," under the TANF statute and regulations. As such, funds are not paid directly to the families/clients, but to Community Partners. Families may also be referred to other organizations in their communities to see if they qualify for other services not paid for by the CPCS initiative.

Eligibility criteria for CPCS program services are applied based on services being offered. Services under TANF Purposes 1 and/or 2 require clients to be at or below the income limit cited (250% of federal poverty guidelines) and to have one or more dependent children under 18 in the home (under 19 if still in school). For services under TANF Purposes 3 and/or 4, the income limit is not applied.

By short-term, the CPCS program means no more than six months of services under that program. However, there is an emergency that must be addressed immediately to reduce pressures that can lead to child abuse or neglect, and to prepare the family to participate in CPCS, that might include a need for food or rent support. First, such a family must meet the means test described in the Statement of Work for services under TANF Purposes 1 and/or 2, and second, emergency support cannot exceed four months in any 12-month period. Should a family require more support to meet ongoing needs, the period of emergency support should allow time for application to and evaluation for other programs. Such expenses require approval, are paid directly to providers or sellers, and documented to allow for review.

Teen Pregnancy Prevention

FSSA has partnered with the Indiana State Department of Health to provide family planning services to those in need of services. This program is designed to reduce pregnancies among adolescent females through a comprehensive program which offers confidential birth control services, involves parents, and equips young people to prevent sexual coercion. This program encourages participation of families, parents and/or legal guardians in decisions of minors to seek family planning services and pregnancy prevention through collaboration with multiple agencies

including the Indiana Family Health Council, health care agencies and schools. This initiative is reasonably expected to achieve outcomes under TANF Purpose #3: Prevent and reduce the incidence of adolescent and out-of-wedlock pregnancies.

Pregnancy Support Program

FSSA has entered an additional partnership with the State Department of Health and Real Alternatives, Inc. The comprehensive services offered include, but are not limited to, the following specific services: Information and counseling regarding pregnancy, fetal development, childbirth, child care, parenting, and adoption; Mentoring services related to parenting and life skills; Referral to other services available to support pregnant females and childbirth, including neonatal health care services; Promotion of public awareness of other resources that support childbirth; Programs to provide or assist expectant parents and their unborn children to obtain certain goods and services including, cribs and car seats, maternity and baby clothes, and temporary child care. Supports women in Indiana who thought they were experiencing an unplanned/crisis pregnancy, but who are found to be not pregnant by: Providing information on the risks of sexually transmitted diseases, relationship counseling, decision-making counseling, chastity information, teen pregnancy prevention programs, and other counseling to modify risk-taking behavior; This program is intended to serve TANF purposes 3 and 4 through encouraging the formation and maintenance of two-parent families while providing pregnancy support services to expectant parents as well as preventing and reducing the incidence of adolescent and out of wedlock pregnancies

Nurse Family Partnership Program

The Nurse-Family Partnership® (NFP) program is a voluntary, evidence-based, home visitation program designed to support long-term family improvements in health, education, and economic self-sufficiency. Through ongoing home visits from registered nurses, low-income, first-time moms receive the care and support they need to have a healthy pregnancy, provide responsible and competent care for their children, and become more economically self-sufficient. Services are provided at no cost and include child development, access to health care, parent education, staff training and community coordination/education. The program model includes screening, assessment and home visiting. To be eligible for services, a woman must enroll prenatally prior to 28 weeks gestation, have no previous live births, be low-income and can continue until the child is two years of age. The overall goal of Indiana's Home Visiting Programs is to improve health and development outcomes for children and families who are at risk. NFP accomplishes this goal through the following objectives: GOAL 1: Provide appropriate home visiting services to women, their infants and families who are low-income and high-risk; GOAL 2: Develop a system of coordinated home visiting services that provide appropriate, targeted, and unduplicated services as well as locally coordinated referrals; and GOAL 3: Coordinate necessary services outside of home visiting programs to address needs of participants, which may include mental health, primary care, dental health, children with special needs, substance use, childhood injury prevention, child abuse / neglect / maltreatment, school readiness, employment training and adult education programs. This program is intended to serve TANF purposes 3 and 4 through encouraging the formation and maintenance of two-parent families while providing pregnancy support services to expectant parents as well as preventing and reducing the incidence of adolescent and out of wedlock pregnancies .

NEST Project/New Parents Non-Recurrent Short-Term TANF-Funded Benefits

The Indiana Department of Health is contracting with the Indiana Community Action Association (IN-CAA) to administer a pilot project called Nurturing Economic Stability for Thriving Families Project (NEST Families Project) that will support low-income families with the payment of a non-recurrent, short-term TANF-funded benefit (NRSTB) and connection to supportive services. Their project partner, the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV), will use in-kind funds to assist with project promotion, development, and evaluation. These efforts are now part of the constellation of projects under this MOU grant agreement between the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, Division of Family Resources and the Indiana Department of Health, Maternal and Child Health Division for subgrant of federal TANF Block Grant funds. Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) guidelines include a provision for NRSTB payments to increase financial stability for individuals facing a short-term crisis or need. The birth of a child, particularly for parents who do not have access to a paid family leave benefit from their employer, is an excellent fit for this benefit and for the purposes of TANF. These types of benefits are in keeping with the Indiana State TANF Plan approach to avoid TANF funded service programs that are likely to curtail a person's possible lifetime TANF assistance benefits limits. This program is intended to serve TANF Purpose #1) Provide assistance to needy families so that children can be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives: Cash support to new parents facilitates the ability to take time to care for a child following his or her birth, establishing a foundation for long-term support and engagement. 2. Secondary purposes: TANF Purpose #2) End the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage. TANF Purpose #4) Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families: Evidence suggests that cash support during early parenthood may provide the stability needed to make re-entry into the workforce faster and easier. Also, when fathers take time off following the birth of a child, marital satisfaction and stability increases.

Perinatal Home Visiting Support Program

This project will work with five perinatal home visiting support programs as subrecipients: Beacon Community Impact, Parkview Community Health Worker Program, Pre to 3, Union All Babies, and WeCare. These five programs were developed in a local context to meet a local need, so the details of how they operate vary; but they also share key characteristics. All the programs:

- Serve a target population of pregnant women and parents of infants.
- Serve families until at least the baby's first birthday (some serve until the child is three)
- Use in-person home visits as their primary service modality, with additional supportive work completed through virtual meetings, phone calls and texts. These voluntary services are offered to families at no cost. The overall goal of the perinatal home visiting support programs is to improve health and development outcomes for children and families who are at risk. The programs accomplish this goal through the following objectives:

OBJECTIVE 1: Provide appropriate home visiting services to women, their infants and families who are low-income and high risk. OBJECTIVE 2: Assess families' needs and connect families with local resources to help meet those needs. OBJECTIVE 3: Provide support and guidance during pregnancy and after the baby is born, including developmental milestones and parenting skills. OBJECTIVE 4: Coordinate necessary services outside of home visiting programs to address needs of participants, which may include food, baby supplies and other necessities, mental health, primary care, dental health, children with special needs, substance use, childhood injury prevention, child abuse / neglect / maltreatment, school readiness, employment training and adult education programs.

Diaper Distribution to Needy Indiana Families

The Indiana Diaper Bank, based in Indianapolis, formed in 2017, is a tax -exempt non-profit and a member of the National Diaper Bank Network. Their mission is to raise awareness of and work to eliminate diaper need in our communities; they aim to provide a reliable and adequate supply of diapering essentials – a necessity every child deserves in order to be healthy and happy. Programs to help meet diaper need can strengthen health equity across diverse communities, improve access to opportunities that tend to increase caregiver economic independence, promote healthy child development and caregiver socio-emotional well-being. -This Indiana Diaper Bank TANF Service Program specifically serves TANF Purpose 1 - To provide assistance to needy Hoosier families so children can be cared for in their own homes or the homes of relatives. Reaching needy Indiana families with help to meet their diaper needs with approximately a month supply of diapers up to every other month for two years means this initiative specifically supports TANF Purpose 1 in these ways:

- Improve physical health and well-being of children. Having clean diapers makes kids less susceptible to diaper rash, urinary tract infections and other health issues, which in turn can mean fewer sick baby visits to the doctor or ER.
- Reduce strain, anxiety, frustration and unhappiness that parents and caregivers can experience from economic challenges regarding items of basic need for the child and family. Helping a family obtain a sufficient supply of clean diapers for their baby can foster positive changes such as improved parental mood and lower anxiety levels. It can improve family life and remove a possible barrier to creating loving, even fun, parent-child interactions.
- Diaper distribution programs that help meet diaper need are correlated with positive outcomes like improving relationships between families and community organizations, increasing caregiver ability to participate in the workforce and spending more of their resources on food or other bills.
- Caregivers/parents of needy families who benefit from diaper distribution efforts have reported increased feelings of connection with families facing similar struggles, increased connection with social support services, decreased sense of stigma related to need, and increased feelings of social inclusion and dignity. Literature review has found that diaper distribution program could reduce the number of days that babies experience diaper rash by as much as three-quarters.
- An adequate supply of diapers can improve a family’s economic outlook and let them take advantage of childcare programs for which they may qualify.
- This intervention can support a family’s ability to take their baby or toddler with them when they leave their home or shelter for a walk, visit a park, visit friends or relatives, go shopping, go to church, etc., knowing they can change the child if needed.

Pathways from Poverty to Prosperity Project

The Dream Center Indianapolis Pathways from Poverty to Prosperity program addresses the purposes of TANF funding, helping to meet those objectives: 1. Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives The Dream Center Indianapolis program will provide housing assistance to eligible clients in the form of vouchers when needed in order to accomplish TANF purpose #1. Vouchers will be dollar and time limited and thus will not rise to the level of “assistance,” as defined for TANF programs, but rather will be a Non-recurring Short-term Benefit. Additionally, all participants will be required to engage in work activities, according to Section 407 of the Social Security Act and will create a plan for financial security that can improve credit scores, encourage budgeting and save for emergent and unplanned expenses, enabling the family unit to be cared for in their own home. 2. End the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work and marriage. The Dream Center Indianapolis program will prepare clients for a high-demand career in health

sciences, manufacturing or IT. A key element of the program will be on-the-job training in the form of part-time internships which offer clients the opportunity to earn income while advancing their technical skills. This workforce development strategy is designed to accomplish TANF purpose #2, for the long-term. 3. Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and establish annual numerical goals for preventing and reducing the incidence of these pregnancies Through required reflection, life coach sessions, and contact with mentors, participants will be tasked to reflect and determine the best path forward for their future. In doing so, The Dream Center will address TANF purpose #3: prevent pregnancies among unmarried people. The Dream Center, though starting from the point of view of a faith-based organization, acknowledges participants are free to choose to pursue this “spirituality” segment of the Pathways program in a religious light, or in a secular approach, and begin living in an intentional, self-directed manner. 4. Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families: An important mission of The Dream Center is to support and encourage creation of two parent families with stable housing, preferably owned by them, for the family to thrive into the future. The Dream Center will call on volunteer couples who remain together despite difficult circumstances to share their experiences and approach. Whether a participant is married or not, we will assess and navigate their current support system and encourage healthy situations to achieve TANF purpose #4.

TANF and IMPACT

Indiana uses the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant to provide cash assistance and Indiana Manpower Placement and Comprehensive Training (IMPACT) Employment, Training, and Support Services to eligible TANF families. As a way for Indiana to maximize its resources in the talent development space and reduce duplicated efforts, IMPACT will coordinate more closely with WorkOnes regarding funding training and education. Since November 1, 2007, cash assistance applicants deemed mandatory for IMPACT have been referred to IMPACT for employment and training services. ~~Due to COVID-19 public health emergency originally declared by Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb (Executive Order 20-02) on March 6, 2020, and extended through subsequent Executive Orders, Indiana had waived the mandatory work requirements for all TANF applicants/recipients from the date of this original order through July 31st, 2021. As of August 1, 2021, all mandatory work requirements were re-instated.~~

TANF Cash Assistance: Financial eligibility for cash assistance includes both an income and resource test. The family must qualify using applicable income and resource standards. The income ~~limit standard~~ for initial eligibility ~~effective 7/1/2025~~ is listed below:

~~Assistance Groups which Include Adults and Children~~

# of Members	Gross Income Limit Monthly Amount
1	\$457,139.50
2	618,229.50
3	778,288.00
4	938,346.00
5	1,099,405.50

6	<u>1259</u> 463.00
7	<u>1420</u> 522.50
8	<u>1580</u> 580.00

Assistance Groups which Include only Children

# of Members	Monthly Amount
1	\$139.50
2	198.00
3	256.50
4	315.00
5	373.50
6	432.00
7	490.50
8	549.00

The family remains eligible until its countable income exceeds 100% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. This extension of income eligibility allows for continued access to employment services. In determining eligibility, the following disregards are applied to gross earned income:

- \$90 – Work Expense disregard
- \$30 and 1/3 Disregard – In addition to the work expense disregard, a work incentive disregard of \$30 and 1/3 is applied to the remaining earned income for four consecutive months.
- \$30 Disregard – Upon expiration of the \$30 and 1/3 disregard, an applicant/recipient is entitled to a deduction of \$30 from the earned income remaining after the standard work expense disregard is subtracted their eight (8) month period) and begins the month following the month the \$30 and 1/3 disregard expired.

In determining the benefit amount, 25% of gross earnings and 100% of non-exempt unearned income is used in the benefit calculation, thus 75% of earned income is disregarded in the benefit calculation. **The maximum benefit amount by household size is as follows:**

# of Members	Monthly Amount
1	\$248

2	409
3	513
4	617
5	721
6	825
7	929
8	1033

The resource standard for initial eligibility is \$1,000. Once determined eligible, the case is subject to a resource standard of \$10,000.

Indiana Manpower Placement and Comprehensive Training (IMPACT) Employment, Training and Support Services: IMPACT's combined approach of employment with education and training programs will best prepare an individual for career advancement and wage increases. Indiana will support and expand the development of training programs integrated into or delivered in tandem with a Hoosier's employment experience. Individuals eligible for cash assistance will be given comprehensive personal and family strength and needs assessments, individualized service coordinated plans based upon the assessments, and referrals to appropriate service providers to overcome initial and on-going employment barriers. A key element of the education and training programs for low-income individuals will be work-based learning opportunities (e.g., on-the-job training, paid internships, pre-apprenticeships, and State Earn and Learns), allowing these individuals to both earn an income and advance their technical knowledge. Career pathways for low-income individuals must include short-term credentials of value that will stack towards postsecondary credentials and degrees along a career pathway, options for on-the-job training, and flexible participation options (part-time, extended hours, and online modules).

~~Due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, the following policy changes were made and in effect through July 2021:~~

- ~~• For applicants, removing the upfront applicant job search requirements~~
- ~~• For those receiving TANF, removing the work requirement and full family sanction. Please note that our employment and training staff with the IMPACT program will be reaching out to clients via phone to offer services. Participation in the call and offer of services is strictly voluntary with no risk to TANF benefits.~~

~~As of August 1, 2021, all mandatory work requirements were re-instated.~~

For descriptions of the work activities that IMPACT will use, please refer to Indiana's Work Verification Plan. Under the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, States are required to submit a Work Verification Plan explaining how it will verify the participation hours for the various work activities TANF recipients have been assigned to.

Case management and service coordination will focus on job placement, complemented by supplemental education, training, and skills development. Referrals to the Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services and the Department of Workforce Development will be emphasized for those seeking talent development programming. Case management, education and training, and supportive services are provided to the client at no cost. The following is a list of the supportive services available to an IMPACT participant under the TANF Program:

Type of service	Payment Limits	Time limits
Clothing	\$300	Per 12-month period
Transportation Expense	\$200/month	TANF-Personal vehicle at \$.15 per mile, other at actual cost; FS - \$.10 per mile or \$2.00 per day whichever is higher.
Vehicle Repair and Maintenance	\$750	Per 12-month period.
High School Equivalency Test fee	\$90 maximum	One-time only

Transportation expenses and vehicle maintenance may continue during IMPACT participant's employment for 90 days following the loss of TANF benefits. Through co-enrollment in WIOA Core Programs, however, an individual may continue to receive follow-up services for up to 12 months.

Domestic violence and substance abuse are factors that can impede any family's ability to become self-sufficient. The prevalence of these factors may be prevalent among low-income families. These issues can be extremely difficult to identify and, although current policies permit exceptions and extensions to the state TANF time limit, when a domestic violence situation prevents an individual from participating in employment or training, very few individuals seek these opportunities. Due to the complexity of these issues, Indiana's Family and Social Services Agency has worked to raise both staff's and individuals' awareness of the exemption and extension options.

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

A parent or caretaker receiving assistance under TANF will be required to engage in work once the state determines whether the parent or caretaker is ready to engage in work, or once the parent or caretaker has received assistance under the program for 24 months (whether or not consecutive). Whichever timeline an individual meets is the one that applies to his/her work requirements.

This first one is determined early during the thorough assessment process using the assessment, which asks, what family/parent/relative supports are in place to assist with childcare.

If childcare assistance is needed, available and used, it is appropriate childcare since it utilizes State approved/licensed childcare providers based on State rates and based on proximity to a client's home since clients select their provider. This covers "appropriate childcare", "affordable childcare arrangements" and where informal care has proven to be unsuitable to client's needs. Since clients select where their children go, it would be a reasonable distance in most cases.

Policy:

2525.10.00 ASSESSING STRENGTHS AND BARRIERS TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY (S, C, I)

A comprehensive evaluation of an individual's needs and barriers is completed prior to beginning IMPACT activities. The participant must be actively involved in the completion of the assessment and in creating the self-sufficiency plan, including assisting in identifying strengths, interests, and goals.

Details about IMPACT rights, responsibilities, activities, and supportive services are also included as part of the assessment process.

The following areas should be addressed, as appropriate:

Transportation Resources: What type of transportation is accessible and used, and if transportation assistance is needed.

Child Care Needs: Determine the need for reliable childcare and the presence of any special needs that must be addressed in the development of the childcare plan.

Support Network: Identify those people who provide emotional, social, or other support to the individual and family.

Work instructions Section 6.6.1 Supportive Services Determination

TANF and AJS clients:

When a participant has childcare in place, and a newborn needs to be added to the voucher, DO NOT have the participant give up the CCDF voucher that is currently in place, participant will not be eligible for childcare for 90 days. The brand-new baby will be placed on a waiting list, and the participant will need to discuss their situation with the CCDF vendor to see if there is a scholarship program or sliding fee scale or any other arrangement that can be worked out.

~~Due to COVID-19 public health emergency originally declared by Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb (Executive Order 20-02) on March 6, 2020, and extended through subsequent Executive Orders, Indiana had waived the mandatory work requirements for all TANF applicants/recipients from the date of this original order through July 31st, 2021. As of August 1, 2021, all mandatory work requirements were re-instated.~~

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

Indiana will ensure that parents and caretakers receiving assistance under the program will engage in work activities in accordance with Section 407 of the Social Security Act, which establishes allowable work activities and participation rates. TANF staff will refer the individual to a local WorkOne for employment and career services. Please refer to Indiana's TANF Work Verification Plan for the details on how Indiana monitors work participation hours. The plan is available at <https://www.in.gov/fssa/dfr/tanf-cash-assistance/about-tanf/>

~~As noted in previous sections, due to COVID-19 public health emergency originally declared by Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb (Executive Order 20-02) on March 6, 2020, and extended through subsequent Executive Orders, Indiana had waived the mandatory work requirements for all TANF applicants/recipients from the date of this original order through July 31st, 2021. As of August 1, 2021, all mandatory work requirements were re-instated.~~

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

The State will continue to restrict the use and disclosure of information about individuals and families receiving TANF assistance in accordance with state laws, I.C.5-14-3-4 and I.C. 12-14-1-7 and the Internal Revenue Code, Sections 7213 A and 7431. For TANF processing, FSSA DFR has a dedicated eligibility system solution that fully complies with IRS Publication 1075, which cites and supports compliance with all aspects of 7213A and 7431. Additionally, FSSA DFR has dedicated State employed staff for processing federal tax information (FTI) in support of TANF. This staff is fully made aware of the implications of the cited State laws and IRS code, along with all applicable aspects of IRS Publication 1075. Data on recipients is classified as private and may not be disclosed pursuant to Indiana Code Section 12-14-1-7 (included in this response below). Access to Indiana's eligibility computer system (IEDSS) is defined by a security role that is attached to a worker's ID, and access to information is defined and limited by worker job responsibilities. On-going training is required for all eligibility staff which includes a review of data privacy and ethics as they pertain to client information. All state and contracted agency staff working in the IEDSS eligibility system must complete annually data privacy courses designed to increase compliance with data practices and security and meet federal requirements for all those with access to eligibility information and networks. FSSA has dedicated security staff who work with the internal business, policy, operations, and system teams to realize security and policy requirements set forth in these laws and IRS code. This security team in turn works with the IRS for ongoing IRS Publication 1075 Safeguard Security Report (SSR) submissions and audits to demonstrate Sections 7213A and 7431 compliance, along with IRS Publication 1075 in general. This SSR process happens annually, and FSSA DFR continues to retain its compliance with IRS Publication 1075, as validated again in the most recent SSR acceptance from the IRS on June 26, 2020, based on the State's submission on April 30, 2020. In terms of I.C. 5-14-3-4 and I.C. 12-14-1-7, all vendor contracts and MOUs associated with data sharing TANF data include this expectation in the boilerplate sections of their agreements with FSSA DFR. This compliance is subject to FSSA Audit as well as State Board of Accounts audits as applicable.

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

Indiana continues to establish goals and take action to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies, with special emphasis on teenage pregnancies. The Indiana Department of Health is the lead agency in monitoring health outcomes and coordinating strategies to encourage abstinence and reduce teen pregnancy. The current rate for births to children age 15-19 is 28.0 births per 1,000 and can be found in the Indiana Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program Needs Assessment.

Indiana also includes pregnant youth as part of its 'At-Risk Youth' target population emphasized within WIOA Title I – In- and Out-of-School Youth programming.

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

Indiana currently conducts programs to provide education and training on teenage pregnancy prevention and statutory rape through prosecutor's offices, faith communities, schools, hospitals, and health departments to provide education and training regarding the problem of teenage pregnancy and statutory rape.

We confirm that these entities would be included in the category of relevant counseling services.

The Indiana State Sexual Violence Primary Prevention plan, which includes services offered to men, is currently available through this link: <https://www.in.gov/health/mch/owh/sexual-violence-primary-prevention-program/>
<http://indianaindicators.org/docs/Indiana%20Sexual%20Violence%20Primary%20Prevention%20Plan%202016-2021.pdf>

This plan was developed by the Indiana State Department of Health and its community partners programs. We hope to augment these efforts through increased co-location of our Division of Family Resources (DFR) offices, which administers TANF, and other community hubs of activity, such as schools, libraries, and community centers. Co-location to help provides these services to both staff and individuals may take varied forms depending on the local need:

- Formal co-location,
- Using itinerant staff,
- Mobile locations, and
- Referral relationships.

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

Indiana Code Section 12-13-14-4.5 outlines the distribution of cash benefits through automated teller machines or point of sale terminals, as well as retailers eligible for participation in EBT, and the penalties for not following the prescribed requirements. In addition, Indiana Administrative Code 470 IAC 10.3-5-8 requires owners or operators of restricted establishments to be responsible for posting signs containing notice that ATM or POS terminals may not be used for distribution of TANF assistance or refugee assistance.

During the 2013 session, the Indiana State Legislature passed Senate Bill 559, now known as Public Law 197, which requires ATM and points of sale owners, vendors, or third-party processors to disable access to TANF cash assistance at prohibited locations.

Federal Restrictions: On February 22, 2012, President Obama signed into law the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (P.L. 112-96), which among its provisions, requires states receiving TANF grants to implement policies and procedures restricting access to TANF benefits via EBT at liquor stores, gaming establishments, and adult entertainment establishments. On September 10, 2012, DFR mailed a one-time notice to all current TANF payees and authorized representatives informing them of the access restrictions. Also in September 2012, DFR modified the TANF approval notices to include language about these restrictions. In October 2012, the mailer attached to all EBT cards included language regarding the restrictions.

In January 2013, Indiana implemented an EBT restricted site database matching system. This system contains information via a match with the State Alcohol/Tobacco Commission. This tool provides DFR with a list of possible violations. A DFR staff member reviews each reported match and determines whether the site is a restricted location. Except for packaged liquor, small brewers, and Type II gaming permits, this system requires the staff member to Google the address to become informed of the type of business at this location. If the business is not restricted (e.g., Applebee's or T.G.I. Friday's), the DFR staff will mark the transaction as permissible in the reporting tool. If the business is in a restricted location (e.g., Vickie's Lounge or Old Point Tavern, etc.), DFR will send a letter to the TANF recipient informing him/her of the infraction with the date and location provided. In this letter, the TANF recipient is notified that any further infractions will be sent to the county prosecutor for enforcement. If the individual makes an inappropriate transaction in a subsequent month, a second letter will be sent to the individual informing him/her that DFR has referred the case to the prosecutor for appropriate action. Copies of the notices will be attached to the client's eligibility case.

- Initial Letter: A client will initially receive a letter informing him/her that it is a crime to access their TANF benefits at 'restricted' locations. The EBT Brochure and website will be referred to for reference and further information.
- Subsequent Letters: After the initial warning, if the individual continues to use his or her benefits in a 'restricted' location, s/he will receive a second letter informing him or her that

the EBT card has been used again to access benefits in a restricted location and that DFR has notified local law enforcement of the crime. DFR will refer these cases to the FSSA Office of Investigations and Compliance. From the second letter forward, the FSSA Office of Investigations and Compliance will investigate clients who have made transactions in restricted areas and will send its findings to local law enforcement and/or Prosecutor.

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

Cash benefits may be redeemed at any commercial POS machine and financial institution's automated teller machine (ATM) that displays the QUEST logo. Merchants that accept the Hoosier Works EBT card display the QUEST logo to inform cardholders that their cards may be used at that location. Hoosier Works cardholders can use their EBT card in all fifty states plus Washington, D.C. as well as the U.S. territories of Guam and the Virgin Islands. Hoosier Work cardholders all have access to the Conduent EBT Website at www.connectebt.com, which provides information on where a cardholder can access their cash benefits. If a Hoosier Works EBT cardholder contacted the state with concerns of no ATM/POS available in their area to access cash benefits, the state would work with our EBT vendor, Conduent, to set up a POS device in the cardholder's area or work with local banks in the area to determine a solution for increased accessibility.

The first TANF cash withdrawal is free, after that the 2nd – 12th withdrawal is \$1.25 (this is charged by Indiana's EBT contractor, Conduent). After 12 withdrawals, all withdrawals are again free. Therefore, Conduent receives a maximum of \$13.75 per month in ATM fees per client.

There are about 1,600 POS participating merchants offering surcharge-free cash EBT only merchants. There are locations such as Kroger, Wal-Mart, etc. which offer cash back. Information about surcharges is current in our EBT brochure. TANF withdrawal and surcharge information is listed in the "Avoid Fees & Additional Charges" section of the brochure.

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

Indiana does not intend to treat families moving into Indiana from another state differently than other families under the program.

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

Indiana intends to provide assistance under the program to the individuals who are not citizens of the United States to the degree permitted under federal law. Persons who are either United States citizens or qualified non-citizens are eligible for TANF benefits per the provisions of section 431 of the PRWORA, as amended (8 U.S.C. 1641) if they meet all other program eligibility criteria. Qualified non-citizens who entered the United States before Aug. 22, 1996, are eligible for federally funded cash assistance if they are Lawful Permanent Residents (LPRs); paroled for one year or more; victims of battery and/or cruelty; or conditional entrants prior to April 1, 1980. Qualified non-citizens who entered on or after Aug. 22, 1996, are ineligible for federally funded cash assistance for five years. The following non-citizens may be eligible for federal funding without considering the date of admission to the U.S. if they meet all other program requirements: refugees, asylees, veterans and persons on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, their spouses or unmarried dependent children, non-citizens whose deportation/removal is being withheld, Cuban or Haitian entrants and certain Amerasians.

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

Indiana will continue to use objective criteria for the delivery of benefits and the determination of eligibility, as well as for fair and equitable treatment during an administrative appeal process. The Hearings and Appeals Section of Family and Social Services Administration will serve to address the unresolved issues between the applicants and recipients of TANF and the entities that administer the assistance programs. This appeals process continues to serve the fair hearing requirements of the SNAP and Medicaid Programs, as well. Applicants and recipients of TANF cash assistance are notified in writing of their rights and the process to follow to secure a fair hearing. When an applicant is denied services, or a participant disagrees with an agency decision, the applicant or participant may submit a request for a hearing to the Division of Family Resources (DFR) office or mail or fax to the FSSA document center. State Administrative Law judges (ALJ) will conduct a hearing in person at the local DFR office or by telephone. Decisions are made by the ALJ within 90 days of the request for a hearing. Under certain conditions, a participant may continue to receive benefits pending an appeal decision. The appeals process is specifically defined in our Indiana online policy manual, Section 4200. We have included the website link to the applicable policy section which includes details on the appeals process: <https://www.in.gov/fssa/dfr/files/4200.pdf>

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

1. PROVIDING DIRECT CARE IN A LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY (AS SUCH TERMS ARE DEFINED UNDER SECTION 1397J OF THIS TITLE); OR

2. IN OTHER OCCUPATIONS RELATED TO ELDER CARE, HIGH-DEMAND OCCUPATIONS, OR OCCUPATIONS EXPECTED TO EXPERIENCE LABOR SHORTAGES AS, DETERMINED APPROPRIATE BY THE STATE FOR WHICH THE STATE IDENTIFIES AN UNMET NEED FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL, AND, IF SO, SHALL INCLUDE AN OVERVIEW OF SUCH ASSISTANCE.

Indiana will develop career pathways under WIOA (programs of study under Perkins) that are built around careers and competencies in healthcare (which includes both child and elder care) and other high-wage, high-demand occupations. Our Workforce Ready Grants, a state program, will pay the tuition and mandatory fees for eligible high-value certificate programs at Ivy Tech Community College, Vincennes University, or other approved providers. The qualifying high-value certificate programs were selected based on employer demand, wages, job placements and program completion rate. These programs are aligned with Indiana's highest demand sectors:

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Building & Construction
- Healthcare
- IT & Business Services
- Transportation & Logistics

Depending on an individual's career aspirations, this is a state-funded resource WorkOnes can direct low-income individuals towards to help mitigate the costs of training. This state program will cover the costs of training and education, while the WorkOne can provide ongoing counseling, coaching, and other career services, and job training for someone receiving TANF through WIOA Titles I, II, or III (as applicable). TANF E&T could assist with wraparound services, such as transportation, childcare, equipment, and supplies, and other supports an individual needs to access the labor market. This may not be the best fit for every individual, since it is restricted to certain sectors and may not provide immediate income relief, but it could be a future opportunity within an individual's career pathway. TANF E&T programs will coordinate with other Core and Partner Programs. The TANF block grant will be used to help cover costs of any certification, credentialing, or examination costs, easing one barrier to Hoosiers earning postsecondary credentials.

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

In addition to the federal funded TANF programs, Indiana will utilize TANF Maintenance of Effort (MOE) funds to support the following separate state programs for families who meet the definition of TANF eligible detailed below:

- ~~Textbook Reimbursement Program~~
- Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
- Individual Development Accounts (IDA)
- Early Intervention/First Steps Medical Services
- Community Health Centers
- Community Based Services
- Solely-State Funded Cash Assistance Minimum Grants
- ~~21st Century Scholars Program~~
- ~~**Textbook Reimbursement Program:** Indiana provides payment for the elementary and secondary school textbook rental fee of families whose income is less than 185% of the federal poverty level. Benefits for this program are accessed through an application form processed by the school system. The application is a form, which facilitates access to the free or reduced-price school meals programs administered through the United States Department of Agriculture.~~
- **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC):** This tax credit is available to an individual who, in a year, has at least one qualified child. As of the ~~2025~~ ~~2021~~ tax year, the following thresholds apply. ~~\$61,555~~ ~~47,900~~ if you have ~~3~~ or more ~~than one~~ qualifying children.
 - o ~~\$50,434~~ ~~42,100~~ if you have one qualifying child.
 - o ~~\$19,104~~ ~~15,900~~ if you have no qualifying child.
 - o

The EITC cannot exceed ~~10 %~~ ~~9%~~ of the federal credit. It is only the refundable portion of the tax ~~credit reported~~ ~~credit reported~~ as MOE.
- **Individual Development Accounts (IDA):** The IDA Program is designed to offer Hoosier households the opportunity to build assets, accumulate savings, and learn personal finance skills so that they may pay for education, start, or buy a business, or buy a home. The funds

are administered by a Community Development Corporation (CDC). Qualified individuals receive state funds to match their contributions to the IDA. The state match is three times the amount deposited by the individual up to \$800 per year. The state contribution for families with dependent children who receive public assistance or have incomes less than 200% of the federal poverty level will be counted towards MOE.

- **Early Intervention/First Steps Medical Services:** First Steps provides medical services to all Hoosiers regardless of eligibility. First Steps does not provide comprehensive medical care, but provides services determined necessary by the child's early intervention team to meet his or her developmental needs. Services are authorized through the development of an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) with the support of the child's primary care physician. Funding will be used to pay for the costs of services that are not otherwise paid by Medicaid. Funding is blended with existing sources and will be transparent to the family, although the funding will be separately identifiable for the purposes of accountability. Unless stated otherwise, Indiana defines for TANF that a 'qualified family' must have a gross family income below 400% FPL. Indiana Code (IC) 12-14-1(3)
- **Community Health Centers:** The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) and Office of Primary Care (OPC) administers the Community Health Center (CHC) Operating Grant. Funds are received from part of the Master Tobacco Settlement as authorized by the Indiana Senate Enrolled Act 108 – 111th General Assembly, March 2000. The ISDH-OPC promotes the development and operation of community-based primary healthcare services, including family planning, in areas of need that improve the health status of medically underserved populations of Indiana.

A community health center provides primary health care services by state licensed professionals, which are also comprehensive in scope, coordinated within the community, acceptable, accessible, affordable, appropriate, and available. Payment for services is based upon a sliding fee scale. Unless stated otherwise, Indiana defines for TANF that a 'qualified family' must have a gross family income below 400% FPL. Indiana Code (IC) 12-14-1(3)

- **Community Based Services:** Through a variety of local agencies, townships, and third-party foundations, and community-based organizations and service providers, Indiana offers an extensive array of MOE help and services to children and families whose income is less than 250% of the federal poverty level. These include, but are not limited to, the following examples:
 - Township emergency financial and material assistance and services programs;
 - Food assistance programs, including pantries, soup kitchens, and summer feeding programs;
 - Youth development and mentoring programs;
 - Pre-school and child development programs;
 - After-school programs of education, homework guidance, recreation, and enrichment;

- Programs of United Way agencies that meet a TANF purpose;
 - Individual, marital, and family counseling services;
 - Community centers that provide a variety of family supports and services;
 - Comprehensive domestic violence services and shelters that provide families counseling, a safe haven, and the provision of basic needs;
 - Homelessness shelters, housing, employment, and stabilization services;
 - Income tax clinics;
 - Employment, housing, and community re-engagement for ex-offenders;
 - Residential shelter and outreach to independent teens;
 - Classes in parenting, child development, and financial management;
 - Programs that provide public awareness, education, and advocacy to prevent child abuse and neglect in families, to prevent out-of-wedlock pregnancies, and to promote marriage and fatherhood; and
 - Postsecondary career, vocational, and technical education programs for youth or parents.
- **Solely-State Funded Cash Assistance Minimum Grants:** Since October 1, 2011, TANF Cash Assistance recipient families determined eligible for a \$0 TANF grant due to employment income are eligible for a minimum. The minimum grant paid will be solely state funded. To qualify for a minimum grant, the family must meet the following criteria:
 - The household's income is below the TANF cash assistance income eligibility limit (100% FPL).
 - The household's countable income is above the maximum benefit amount.
 - A parent or caretaker has income from employment.
 - Parent or caretaker is not serving a sanction or voluntary quit penalty.
 - The family must be receiving TANF cash assistance in the month prior to becoming a \$0 grant case.

The family must continue to meet all financial and non-financial requirements of the TANF Cash Assistance program to receive the minimum payment. If the family meets all other eligibility requirements, the minimum grant remains in place until:

- The household's circumstances change (income decreases, change in household composition, etc.) and it is once again eligible for a TANF grant;
 - The employed parent/caretaker loses employment; or
- The household's countable income exceeds 100% FPL.

- **21st Century Scholars Program:** The 21st Century Scholarship is an opportunity for students to afford college in Indiana. The 21st Century Scholarship pays up to 100% of tuition at public colleges in Indiana and part of the tuition at private or independent colleges. The scholarship does not cover the cost of books, room and board, parking fees, lab fees or any other fees that are not assessed to all students. After the passage of House Enrolled Act (HEA) 1449-2023, current 7th and 8th grade Hoosier students who are financially eligible for Free and Reduced Price Lunch will be automatically enrolled in the 21st Century Scholars Program.

TANF Certifications

As Governor of Indiana, I certify that Indiana will continue to administer the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant in accordance with the provisions established by federal law. I further certify that:

The State Plan must include:	Include
1. Operate a child support enforcement program under the State Plan approved under part D. (section 402(a)(2) of the Social Security Act);	Yes
2. Operate a foster care and adoption assistance program under the State Plan approved under part E, and that the State will take such actions as are necessary to ensure that children receiving assistance under such part are eligible for medical assistance under the State Plan under title XIX. (section 402(a)(3) of the Social Security Act);	Yes
3. Specify which State agency or agencies will administer and supervise the program referred to in paragraph (1) for the fiscal year, which shall include assurances that local governments and private sector organizations (section 402(a)(4) of the Social Security Act)—	
3. (A) have been consulted regarding the plan and design of welfare services in the State so that services are provided in a manner appropriate to local populations; and	Yes
3. (B) have had at least 45 days to submit comments on the plan and the design of such services;	Yes
4. Provide each member of an Indian tribe, who is domiciled in the State and is not eligible for assistance under a tribal family assistance plan approved under section 412, with equitable access to assistance under the State program funded under this part attributable to funds provided by the Federal Government. (section 402(a)(5) of the Social Security Act);	Yes
5. Establish and enforce standards and procedures to ensure against program fraud and abuse, including standards and procedures concerning nepotism, conflicts of interest among individuals responsible for the administration and supervision of the State program, kickbacks, and the use of political patronage. (section 402(a)(6) of the Social Security Act);	Yes
6. Provide information to victims of sexual harassment or survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking (section 402(a)(8) of the Social Security Act).—	
6.i. ensure the applicants and potential applicants for assistance under the State program funded under this part are notified of assistance made available by the State to victims of sexual harassment and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault , or stalking;	Yes

<p>6.ii. (ii) ensure that case workers and other agency personnel responsible for administering the State program funded under this part are trained in:</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>The State Plan must include:</p>	<p>Include</p>
<p>(I) the nature and dynamics of sexual harassment and domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking;</p> <p>(II) State standards and procedures relating to the prevention of, and assistance for, individuals who are victims of sexual harassment or survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking; and</p> <p>(III) methods of ascertaining and ensuring the confidentiality of personal information and documentation related to applicants for assistance and their children who have provided notice about their experiences of sexual harassment, domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking; and</p>	
<p>6.iii. ensure that, if a State has elected to establish and enforce standards and procedures regarding the screening for, and identification of, domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking pursuant to paragraph (7):</p> <p>(I) the State program funded under this part provides information about the options under this part to current and potential beneficiaries; and</p> <p>(II) case workers and other agency personnel responsible for administering the State program funded under this part are provided with training regarding State standards and procedures pursuant to paragraph (7).</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Mike Braun, Governor
State of Indiana

Date