

STATE PLAN

**TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE
FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)
BLOCK GRANT**



STATE OF INDIANA
Family and Social Services Administration
Division of Family Resources

TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF) PLAN CONTENTS

❖ TANF STATE PLAN

- Agency Summary**
- Requirements**
- General Provisions**
- TANF and IMPACT Overview**
- Separate State Programs**
- Special Provisions**

❖ GLOSSARY OF TERMS

❖ CERTIFICATION OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

INDIANA'S STATE PLAN
FOR THE
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)
BLOCK GRANT

(FOR THE PERIOD EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016)

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 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. The particular changes brought about by this amendment are highlighted in the plan.

Indiana Family and Social Services Administration

Indiana's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Plan is administered by the 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 child care 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.

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
- ❖ Emergency Assistance
- ❖ Early Intervention-First Steps
- ❖ Healthy Families (A child abuse prevention strategy)
- ❖ Indiana Kids
- ❖ Teen Pregnancy Prevention
- ❖ Pregnancy Support Program
- ❖ Veterans Initiative
- ❖ Community Corrections Programs
- ❖ Workforce Development Program Partnerships
- ❖ Fathers and Families Program
- ❖ Family Support
- ❖ Family Housing Intervention
- ❖ Breaking the Cycle of Poverty Project
- ❖ TANF and IMPACT

Child Care Assistance

The child care 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 child care services for parents and relatives who are working and meet the income eligibility criteria of the Child Care Development Funds Program. Child care eligibility is capped at 127% of the federal poverty level.

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

Emergency Assistance

Emergency Assistance is provided to families with income up to 250% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines through the Indiana Department of Child Services. Eligibility for this program is based upon the existence of a substantiated complaint of child abuse or neglect or a court adjudication of Child in Need of Services. The goal of services is to maintain children in the home of a relative or to provide safe, temporary alternative living arrangements while the family is working toward re-unification.

The benefits provided under the program include shelter (including out-of-home placement), non-medical counseling, clothing, and homemaker services. Services are authorized within 30 days of the identification of eligibility and need and can be authorized for a period not to exceed 120 days. 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.

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 income under 250% FPL are eligible for the program. 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.

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. Services are provided at no cost and include child development, access to health care, parent education, family incentives, staff training and community coordination/education. 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 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.

Indiana Kids

TANF funds will be used to fund the Indiana Kids program. Indiana Kids provides education and youth development services to TANF eligible children ages five through thirteen through the Indiana Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs. The program is designed to help children better their academic achievement and to provide an adult supervised structured environment thereby decreasing the opportunity for youth to engage in at-risk behavior, including pre-marital sex. This program also provides career guidance through field trips and/or career-related speakers or presentations. This initiative is reasonably expected to achieve outcomes under TANF Purpose #3: Prevent and reduce the incidence of adolescent and out of wedlock pregnancies.

Teen Pregnancy Prevention

FSSA has partnered with the Indiana State Department of Health in order 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 into 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.

Veterans Initiative

TANF funds are being used in a partnership with the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs. The focus of the programs being offered are specifically on TANF purposes #2 and #4 – to provide services that promote job preparation, work and marriage in addition to services that encourage the formation and maintenance of two parent families. Families will be provided marriage counseling services, non-medical counseling and employment and training services that includes partnerships with several Indiana universities and community colleges.

Community Corrections Programs

Partnership with Department of Corrections – DOC - services geared at family reunification, job preparation for parents on governmental assistance and participants who have children who they care for in their own home or the home of a relative. The program created by local community correction can also focus on counseling in regards to prevention and reduction out-of-wedlock pregnancies and the encouragement of two-parent families. Counseling for at risk children of inmates or participants in community corrections would also be considered a viable component within local community corrections grant request. This initiative is reasonably expected to achieve outcomes under TANF Purposes #1, #2, #3 and #4: Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives; services that promote job preparation, work and marriage; prevent and reduce the incidence of adolescent and out of wedlock pregnancies; encouraging the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

Programs under Parole would focus on marriage enrichment counseling, parenting education, at risk youth counseling as well as career resource center instruction for the parolee geared at job preparation and retention. This initiative is reasonably expected to achieve outcomes under TANF Purposes #2, #3 and #4: To provide services that promote job preparation, work and marriage; prevent and reduce the incidence of adolescent and out of wedlock pregnancies; encouraging the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

DOC- Religious Services division offers faith based/secular programming which focuses on Marriage Enrichment, Parenting Education and the responsibility of fatherhood. Religious Services would verify family members, identify inmates with children and spouses, children who reside with the non-incarcerated spouse where the inmate plans to return, assist in tangible skills which will assist in gaining and maintaining employment for program participant. This initiative is reasonably expected to achieve outcomes under TANF Purposes #2 and #4: To provide services that promote job preparation, work and marriage as well as encouraging the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

Workforce Development Program Partnerships

Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG)-Indiana is a multi-year program that targets high school juniors and seniors who are at risk of dropping out of high school due to significant barriers. JAG Indiana students have an average of 7.3 barriers that include single parent homes, unemployed parents, disabilities, homelessness and parenting teens. The program's overarching goals are as follows:

1. Provide a basic skills assessment and remediation to ensure program participants receive a high school diploma or its equivalent;
2. Assist in the attainment of employability skills needed to find a job and persist in the job and/or pursue postsecondary education. Students are taught 37 core competencies with the possibility of 85 total competencies to assure a strong attachment to the labor market; and
3. Help to ensure graduates remain employed full-time after graduation or transition to post-secondary education or training.

Indiana's JAG model provides tutoring assistance and adult mentoring. Participants receive individualized attention and identification of specific barriers to success, which may include low academic achievement, life skills, personal skills, and social or economic barriers. Students receive one full year of follow-up services after graduation as they transition into the workforce or post-secondary education. The follow-up services are designed to ensure success in their post-secondary endeavors. This initiative is reasonably expected to achieve outcomes under TANF Purposes #2 and #3: To provide services that promote job preparation, work and marriage and to prevent and reduce the incidence of adolescent and out of wedlock pregnancies.

The Hoosier Initiative for Re-Entry (HIRE) program is a joint effort between the Department of Workforce Development (DWD), the Department of Correction (DOC) and the Local Business Community to assist in the employment efforts for individuals who have a felony conviction. The HIRE clients have significant barriers as they seek to re-enter society.

The HIRE program provides customers both incarcerated and paroled to become job ready and enter into the workforce. This initiative is reasonably expected to achieve outcomes under TANF Purposes #2 and #4: To provide services that promote job preparation, work and marriage as well as encouraging the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

The following services will be offered to participants:

- Orientation
- HIRE Academy and Job Seeking Skills Training- To provide customers with the knowledge and tools to conduct a successful job search. The components of this activity would include the following workshops:
 1. *Job Search*
 2. *Interviewing*
 3. *Résumé Development*
 4. *Work Readiness*
 5. *Community Re-integration*
- Occupational Skills and Interest Assessment
- HIRE Career Counseling
- HIRE Placement Assistance
- HIRE Job Retention

Wagner-Peyser programming provides employment services and career counseling to job seeker and labor exchange services to employers. Indiana's WorkOne offices (Americas Job Centers) are the heart of the workforce development system. It's where WorkOne staff assist people to find a new or better job, choose a career, access training and get information needed to succeed in today's economy. This initiative is reasonably expected to achieve outcomes under TANF Purpose #2: To provide services that promote job preparation, work and marriage.

Fathers and Families

Fathers and Families Center is uniquely poised to provide a comprehensive range of programs, services and supports, ranging from pre-orientation to long-term follow up for self-sufficiency of fathers and their families. There are six (6) points of service that are provided by experienced, culturally competent staff who understand the importance of the mission of Fathers and Families Center to the TANF goals.

- Intake Assessment
- Individual Service Plan
- Case Management, Monitoring and Follow-up
- Counseling (non-medical)
- Instruction
- Education Assessments for High School Equivalency, Certifications, and College Readiness

This program emphasizes fathers' involvement with, and responsibility to their children through workshops, small group sessions, and individual sessions; parenting education, paternity establishment and child support discussions, access and visitation rights, and responsible sexual behaviors. This program is designed to strengthen noncustodial fathers' engagement with their children, both emotional and financial, and will make associated case management and support services available to all participants.

This program also provides a robust continuum of programs, services and supports; with the overall goal to encourage healthy family formation, education of at-risk behaviors to reduce out-of-wedlock pregnancies and to move them towards self-sufficiency by promoting job preparation, work and marriage/healthy relationship.

This program is structured, yet a customizable continuum of services that begins with a comprehensive orientation and supportive services and assistance to help stabilize self-sufficiency. Program components focus on parenting, basic life skills training, employment and educational advancement, supported by intensive case management services and barrier alleviation.

This initiative is reasonably expected to achieve outcomes under TANF Purposes #2, #3 and #4: To provide services that promote job preparation, work and marriage, prevent and reduce the incidence of adolescent and out of wedlock pregnancies and encouraging the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

Family Support

Partnership with the Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addictions in order to provide supports, services, etc. to families with serious mental illness. Services could include:

- Housing supports as stable housing is shown to have a significant impact on treatment compliance, efficacy, and community integration.
- Engagement activities to ensure consumer involvement in all aspects of his/her recovery
- Employment services as employment is a main stability pillar for treatment compliance and emotional and mental stability.
- Specialized mental health treatment (excluding medical services) which includes increasing crisis support services throughout mental health systems and criminal justice populations with mental health issues which increases the efficacy of treatment, thus reducing recidivism and increased incarceration costs while promoting recovery and resiliency for the individuals.
- Recovery supports which include an array of services and approaches to foster health and resilience to increase successful navigation of treatment, remove barriers to treatment, and encourage ongoing engagement in the recovery process.

This initiative is reasonably expected to achieve outcomes under TANF Purposes #2 and #4: To provide services that promote job preparation, work and marriage as well as encouraging the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

Family Housing Intervention

Crisis Assistance - Families facing a crisis situation may receive funding which prevents a disconnection or reactivates service. Crisis assistance may also be provided when a past energy debt prevents the family from receiving current utility service.

Deposit Assistance - Families needing assistance with a deposit payment to begin utility service.

Utility Bill Assistance - provide a maximum of two months of assistance with (estimated/budgeted) primary monthly heating or cooling utility bills. All payments are provided directly to the utility company. The family household must have a utility account and have the utilities listed in the name of a household resident /family listed on the application for program services. If, for some reason, the utilities are in a different name (such as a landlord), a detailed explanation and documentation will be required which shows that the family pays/is responsible for utility payments.

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.

Breaking the Cycle of Poverty Project

Income Support, Finance and Job Coaching – Building connections in the Indianapolis Eastside community, connecting families with jobs and supporting them through the established programs at the Shepherd Community Center.

Partnership with Ivy Tech Community College – Allows for college counselors to be on-site at the community center to provide services to enroll and support students in connecting to postsecondary education.

Parenting Classes – providing supports for parents through classes that will offer support and guidance to those who may have grown up in turbulent homes.

After School Program – nurtures the physical, academic, spiritual and emotional development of children and youth in grades 1-12. Participants will receive tutoring, homework help, academic enrichment, critical thinking activities, access to computers and recreational activities.

Summer EXCEL: combats out of school learning loss and provides a safe place where summer hours are filled with opportunities for development.

This initiative is reasonably expected to achieve outcomes under TANF Purposes #1, #2, #3 and #4: Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives; services that promote job preparation, work and marriage; prevent and reduce the incidence of adolescent and out of wedlock pregnancies; encouraging the formation and maintenance of two-parent families

TANF and IMPACT

Indiana uses TANF Block Grant and State funds for the cash assistance and IMPACT services provided to eligible TANF families. Since November 1, 2007, cash assistance applicants deemed mandatory for IMPACT have been referred to IMPACT for employment and training services.

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (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 standard for initial eligibility is listed below:

Assistance Groups which Include Adults and Children		Assistance Groups which Include only Children	
<u># of Members</u>	<u>Monthly Amount</u>	<u># of Members</u>	<u>Monthly Amount</u>
1	\$139.50	1	\$139.50
2	229.50	2	198.00
3	288.00	3	256.50
4	346.00	4	315.00
5	405.50	5	373.50
6	463.00	6	432.00
7	522.50	7	490.50
8	580.00	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. This means 75% of earned income is disregarded in the benefit calculation.

The resource standard for initial eligibility is \$1,000. Once determined eligible, the case is subject to a resource standard of \$1,500.

Indiana Manpower Placement and Comprehensive Training (IMPACT)
Employment, Training and Support Services

IMPACT is intended to have a strong focus on employment. It supports the utilization of training and education as a complement to work. The goal of IMPACT is employment, employment advancement and/or wage increase. FSSA staff believes a combined approach of employment with training or skills development will best prepare an individual for promotional opportunities and wage progression. DFR will actively encourage and support the development of training programs that are integrated into or delivered as part of the client’s employment experience. Clients 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.

For descriptions of the work activities that IMPACT will use, please refer to Indiana’s Work Verification Plan.

Case management and service coordination will focus on job placement, complemented by supplemental education, training and skills development. Coordination with the Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services and the Department of Workforce Development will be emphasized for appropriate clients. Case management, 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 mo.	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. **

**Also allowed to support the IMPACT participant’s employment for 90 days following the loss of TANF benefits.

Domestic violence and substance abuse are factors that can impede any family's ability to become self-sufficient. The prevalence of these factors is believed to be great 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. DFR recognizes the complexity of these issues and has worked to raise worker awareness of the problems and client awareness of the exemption and extension options.

SEPARATE STATE PROGRAMS

In addition to the federal funded TANF programs, Indiana will utilize TANF maintenance of effort funds to support the following separate state programs for families who meet the definition of TANF eligible detailed within each section below. The expenditure of funds under these programs for services provided to TANF eligible families will be used to meet the maintenance of effort requirements under the TANF Program.

- ❖ Part-time Student Grant Program
- ❖ 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

Part-time Student Grant Program

This program is designed to encourage part-time undergraduates to start and complete their Associate or Baccalaureate degrees or Certificates by subsidizing part-time tuition costs. The program provides financial assistance for students taking at least six (6) and no more than twelve (12) hours of class per semester. To qualify, the student and their family income must be less than 250% of the federal poverty level. Eligible students must be either: 1) a dependent student less than twenty-four (24) years of age who has a custodial parent or caretaker (even if the student lives apart from the parent or caretaker) or 2) a parent with a dependent child.

Textbook Reimbursement Program

The State of 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 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. The income standards for tax year 2012 are as follows:

- Families with one child who earned less than \$36,920 in 2012 (or less than \$42,130 for married workers).
- Families with two or more children who earned less than \$41,952 (or less than \$47,162 for married workers).
- Families with three or more children who earned less than \$45,060 (or less than \$50,270 for married workers).
- The EITC is 9% of the federal credit.

Only the refundable portion of the tax credit is reported as MOE.

Individual Development Accounts (IDA)

The IDA Program is designed to provide 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 \$900 per year. The state contribution for families with dependent children who receive public assistance or have incomes less than 150% of the federal poverty level will be counted towards MOE.

Early Intervention/First Steps Medical Services

First Steps provides medical services to TANF eligible children with developmental needs whose family's household income is under 250% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, regardless of Medicaid eligibility. First Steps does not provide comprehensive medical care but provides services determined necessary by the child's early intervention team to meet the child's 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.

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 health care 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.

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; and
- 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.”
Post-secondary 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.

(A) General Provisions-continued

(ii) A parent or caretaker receiving assistance under the program will be required to engage in work once the State determines 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 is earlier.

(iii) 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.

(iv) 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.

(v) 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, and establish numerical goals for reducing the out-of-wedlock birth ratio of the State. The Indiana Department of Health is the lead agency in monitoring health outcomes and coordinating strategies to encourage abstinence and reduce teen pregnancy. The target goal for births to children age 15-17 is 18.8 births per 1,000 and can be found on page 30 of the 2010 Title V Current Executive Advisory Panel Summary which can be found at:

www.in.gov/isdh/files/Title_V_Block_Grant_Executive_Advisory_Panel_Summary_2008-2010.pdf

(vi) Indiana does conduct programs that provide education and training on teenage pregnancy prevention. Programs may be expanded in scope to include men. Many of the programs funded through Indiana's Fatherhood Initiative provide education on responsible sexual behavior and statutory rape. These programs are generally targeted to fathers but some include other men as well. There are also local initiatives 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.

(vii) Indiana has implemented several policies and procedures aimed at preventing access to TANF assistance through any electronic fund transaction in an automated teller machine or point of sale device at restricted locations. 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 as being responsible for posting signs containing notice that ATM or POS terminals may not be used for distribution of TANF assistance or refugee assistance.

The Indiana State Legislature, during the 2013 session, passed Senate Bill 559, now known as Public Law 197, which requires ATM and point 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. With the exception of packaged liquor, small brewers, and Type II gaming permits, this 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 – Applebee’s or Friday’s, for example – the DFR staffer will mark the transaction as okay in the reporting tool. If the business is in a restricted location – Vickie’s Lounge, Old Point Tavern, etc. – DFR will send a letter to the TANF recipient informing them of the infraction – providing the date and location – and notify the recipient 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 client informing them 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.

1. 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.

2. Subsequent Letters

After the initial warning, if the client continues to use his or her benefits in a ‘restricted’ location, the client 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.

(viii) Below are the State's procedures to ensure that recipients have adequate access to their cash assistance and have access to using or withdrawing assistance with minimal fees or charges.

Cash benefits may be redeemed at any commercial POS machine that displays the QUEST logo and any financial institution's ATM (automated teller machine) that displays the QUEST logo. Merchants that accept the Hoosier Works EBT card display the QUEST logo in order to inform cardholders that their cards can 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 Xerox EBT Website at www.ebt.acs-inc.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, Xerox, in order 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, Xerox. After 12 withdrawals, all withdrawals are again free. Therefore, Xerox receives a maximum of \$13.75 per month in ATM fees per client.

There are about 1,600 POS participating merchants who offer surcharge free cash EBT only merchants (these would be places like Kroger, Wal-mart etc who offer cash back). Information about surcharges is current on our EBT brochure. TANF withdrawal and surcharge information has been included in a new brochure that has gone into production with the EBT conversion from JP Morgan Chase to Xerox that occurred in September 2015. The information withdrawal and surcharge information is boxed in an "avoid fees" section with pictures so it is easier to understand than the current brochure.

(B) Special Provisions

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

(ii) 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.

(iii) 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 a State 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 Food Stamp and Medicaid Programs as well.

(iv) Indiana has opted out of the provision to require a parent or caretaker receiving assistance under the program who, after receiving such assistance for two (2) months is not exempt from work requirements and is not engaged in work, as determined under Section 407(c)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act, to participate in community service employment, with minimum hours per week and tasks to be determined by the State.

(v) Indiana does not intend to specifically assist individuals to train for, seek, and maintain employment in other (health care) occupations related to elder care. The State will, however, consult with our employment and training contracted provider and if such decision would be to begin providing such assistance, we will provide an amended State plan at that time. Indiana does strive to continue to encourage all individuals participating in TANF to train for occupations with growth and high wage potential.

Section 402(b) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF STATE PLAN SUMMARY

This state plan includes several minor changes from the previous plan amended in March 2016 and is available on the FSSA website.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF): the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Block Grant began in 1996. TANF is a program that provides cash assistance to families with children under the age 18.

Assistance Group: The family members who are considered for eligibility cash assistance or employment and training services. At a minimum this group includes a child under age 18 and his or her parents living with the child.

Department of Workforce Development (DWD): State agency that manages and implements employment programs for Hoosiers, unemployment insurance systems, and facilitates regional economic growth initiatives for Indiana.

Indiana Manpower Placement and Comprehensive Training (IMPACT): Program is the employment and training program under which recipients of the SNAP and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Programs participate.

CERTIFICATION BY CHIEF OFFICER OF THE STATE OF INDIANA

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:

1. Indiana will operate a child support enforcement program under the state plan approved under part D.
2. Indiana will 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 party are eligible for medical assistance under the state plan under title XIX.
3. The Families and Social Services Administration is the State agency which administers and supervises the TANF Block Grant.
4. That local governments and private sector organizations:
 - a. Have been consulted regarding the plan and design of welfare services in the state so that services are provided in a manner appropriate to local populations; and
 - b. Have had at least 45 days to submit comments on the plan and the design of such services.
5. Indiana will provide each member of an Indian tribe, who is domiciled in the State, with equitable access to assistance in the State program funded under this part attributed to funds provided by the Federal Government.
6. Indiana 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.

Michael R. Pence, Governor

Date