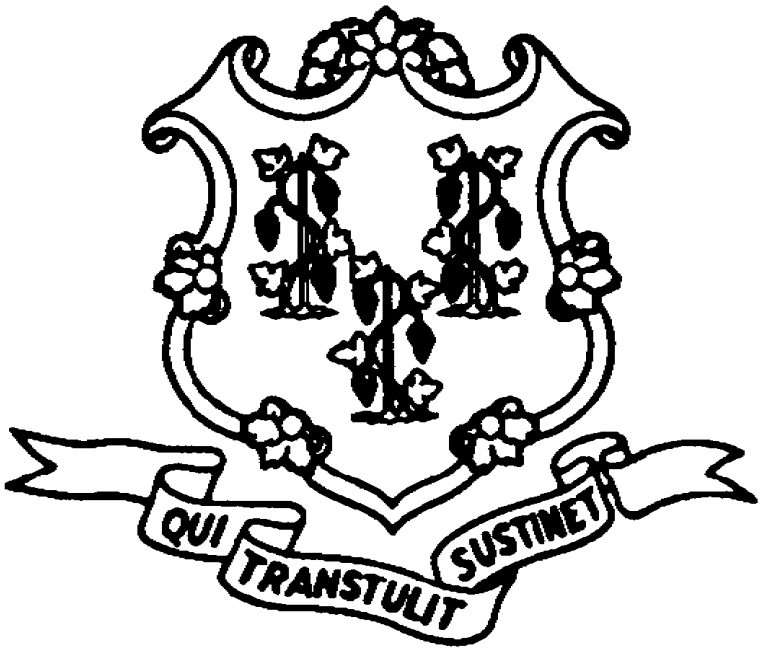
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)
STATE PLAN

FEDERAL FISCAL YEARS
OCTOBER 1, 2011 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2014
REVISIONS: MARCH 28, 2013 & JULY 31, 2013



RODERICK L. BREMBY
Commissioner
Department of Social Services

DANNEL P. MALLOY
Governor
State of Connecticut

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)
STATE PLAN 2012-2014

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AMENDMENTS LOG

TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)
STATE PLAN FFY 2012-2014

Amendments for the period: 10/1/11 – 09/30/14

SECTION AMENDED	EFFECTIVE/ PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE	DATE SUBMITTED TO ACF
Addendum A – Temporary Family Assistance Payment Standards	Effective July 1, 2013	July 31, 2013
Section A, Part I. C.7. Supportive Housing for Families	Fiscal Year 2013	March 28, 2013
Section A, Part I. C.10, C.11, C.12. Non-Recurrent Short Term Benefits	Fiscal Year 2013	March 28, 2013
Section A, Part I. D.1 Child Welfare Prevention and Intervention Services – Community Support for Families and Project Safe	Fiscal Year 2013	March 28, 2013
Section A, Part I. C.6. Medical Assistance for Aliens	Fiscal Year 2009	March 28, 2013
Section A, Part I. A.1. Temporary Family Assistance – Digital Imaging	Fiscal Year 2010	March 28, 2013
Section A, Part I. D.21. Adult Education	Fiscal Year 2012	March 28, 2013

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)
STATE PLAN 2012-2014

INTRODUCTION

This plan describes Connecticut's programs that furnish financial assistance and services to needy families in a manner to fulfill the purposes of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. Connecticut administers a variety of programs through a number of state agencies under the TANF program. Each of the programs is designed to meet at least one of the following purposes of TANF.

TANF Purpose:

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

The plan is for the federal fiscal years of 2012, 2013, and 2014.

SECTION A

Summary of Changes – Plan Revisions

July 31, 2013 Plan Revisions

The State of Connecticut Department of Social Services has revised ADDENDUM A – Temporary Family Assistance Payment Standards in the State Plan for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. The revised payments standards reflect a cost-of-living increase and are effective as of July 1, 2013.

March 28, 2013 Plan Revisions

The State of Connecticut Department of Social Services has revised the State Plan for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program for federal fiscal years 2012 through 2014. Connecticut has made revisions as a result of changes in programs included in the plan, completion of program funding through the TANF Emergency Contingency Fund (ECF), and to maintain compliance with the Social Security Act and federal regulations and guidelines pertaining to TANF.

The TANF Plan 2012-2014 does not include any substantive changes to the TANF program. Some of the programs deleted from the TANF Plan continue to operate but are not claimed in the TANF financial claim and therefore removed from the plan. The plan changes also include the deletion of the remaining TANF Emergency Contingency Fund Non-Recurrent Short Term Benefit Programs, the addition of a program called Community Support for Families, deletion of Project Safe, deletion of Medical Assistance to Aliens, and changes to the description of services as shown below. Numbering in this document has changed due to deletion of programs. The Summary of Changes from prior versions of the TANF Plan can be found at the end of Part I in this document.

1. Revisions have been made to delete the **Supportive Housing for Families** from Section A, Part I. C. 7. *Supportive Housing for Families – Department of Social Services* as this program in no longer included in the TANF plan or financial claim, effective July 1, 2012. This program had been funded as Separate State Program under state maintenance of effort funds, serving TANF Purpose 1 & 2.

2. Revisions have been made to delete the **Non-Recurrent Short Term** benefit programs that had been included in the TANF Emergency Contingency Fund program in FFY 2012. The deletion includes programs from Section A, Part I. C. 10, 11, & 12. C. 10. J*uvenile Intervention Services, C. 11. Summer Feeding, and C. 12. Camp and Recreational.* This program had been funded as Commingled funds that utilize state maintenance of effort funds and served TANF Purposes 1 or 3.

   C. 10. **Juvenile Intervention Services –** Judicial Branch, Court Support Services Division. These programs had been funded as Commingled funds that utilize state maintenance of effort funds and served TANF Purpose 3.

A. Girls Center for Assessment Respite and Enrichment
B. Boys Center for Assessment Respite and Enrichment
C. Family Support Center (FSC)
D. Juvenile Risk Reduction Center-Youth Equipped for Success

C. 11. **Summer Feeding –** Programs had been funded as Commingled funds that utilize state maintenance of effort funds and served TANF Purpose 1.
A. Community Renewal Team, Inc., Summer Food Service Program.
B. Almada Lodge – Times Farm Camp Corporation, Channel 3. Kids Camp Summer Camp Summer Feeding Program
C. EndHungerCT

C. 12. **Camp and Recreational Activities** - Almada Lodge – Times Farm Camp Corporation, Channel 3. Kids Camp Summer Camp Program. This program had been funded as Commingled funds that utilize state maintenance of effort funds and served TANF Purposes 1 & 3.

3. Revisions have been made to description to Section A, Part I. *D.1. Child Welfare Prevention and Intervention Services – Department of Children and Families to* add **Community Support for Families** service, which serves TANF Purpose #1 and is funded under Segregated Federal TANF funds. And, added TANF purpose # 3 to the **Early Childhood Services** description.

4. Revisions have been made to delete **Project Safe** program description from Section A, Part I. *D.1. Child Welfare Prevention and Intervention Services – Department of Children and Families***.** The **Project Safe** program in no longer included in the TANF plan or financial claim. This program had been funded as Segregated Federal TANF funds, serving TANF Purpose 1.

5. Revisions have been made to delete the **Adult Education** program from Section A, Part I. *D.21. Adult Education - State Department of Education.* This program in no longer included in the TANF financial claim (FFY 2012). This program had been funded as Segregated Federal TANF funds, serving TANF Purpose 2.

6. Revisions have been made to delete the *Medical Assistance for Aliens* from Section A, Part I. C. 6. *Medical Assistance for Aliens - Department of Social Services – Department of Social Services,* as this program is no longer claimed under TANF and is removed from the TANF plan. In 2009, changes were made to federal Medicaid to include some eligible families and others had been claimed as Segregated State Program under state maintenance of effort funds, serving TANF Purpose 2.

7. Revisions have been made to delete the reference to the **digital imaging process** from the description of Section A, Part I. A1. *Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) – Department of Social Services,* as this tool is no longer used by the department.

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OVERVIEW OF CONNECTICUT'S TANF PROGRAMS

Sec. 402 (a)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act

(i) – This Overview part outlines how the state intends to 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 and become self-sufficient.

Connecticut's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program provides assistance to needy families and pregnant women meeting eligibility criteria in all political subdivisions of the state. Assistance for basic needs is provided to needy families through the Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) component of the Jobs First program. Assistance also is provided to needy families for an energy assistance program, child care assistance for unemployed persons, and foster care maintenance.

Two-Parent TFA cases are those with two parents as defined at 45 CFR 261.24. The Two-Parent component of the TFA cash assistance program for those meeting these criteria is funded as a Solely State Funded (SSF) program, and is no longer part of the TANF program or claimed as a separate state program. Other TFA families with two parents, other than those included in this definition, continue to be part of the TANF program. Although the eligibility criteria (including income and asset limits) vary from program to program, a family must meet the definition of a needy family to qualify for any of these programs. Connecticut defines a needy family as a family with gross income less than seventy five percent (75%) of Connecticut's median income level. The family must include a dependent child and a caretaker relative.

The ultimate goal of Connecticut's TANF programs is to provide assistance to needy families to enable them to move out of poverty and into self-sufficiency.

A dependent child must be either less than 18 years of age, 18 years of age and attending secondary school or its equivalent, or under age 24 and attending a post secondary school and considered a dependent student through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) process, or under age 25 and participating in a TANF job training or subsidized employment program.

A caretaker relative is a relative who cares for and supervises the dependent child. The caretaker may be a parent or other person related by blood, through adoption or marriage to a relative or another adult acting in loco parentis.

A needy parent is a parent of a child who is a member of a needy family. The parent may be the custodial or non-custodial parent.

A. FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The Family Assistance Programs part outlines TANF programs that provide assistance to needy families.

A. 1. Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) – Department of Social Services

The Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) component of Jobs First is an employment focused, time limited assistance program based on the assumption that welfare should be a temporary program of assistance and it is better to work than to be on welfare. Recipients are encouraged to assume personal responsibility for their economic self-sufficiency. Unless they meet exemption criteria, adults are required to seek and retain employment if it is available. Recipients unable to secure employment without intervention from the state will receive services, including education and training that will assist them in becoming employed. Applicants must attend the initial employment services assessment interview and help develop an employment plan before TFA benefits are granted.

The TFA program attempts to direct participants to employment sufficient to move them off assistance within twenty-one months. The program contains many features that support this objective. The asset limit is $3,000 so families may set aside money for emergencies. Families are allowed to own a reliable car to seek employment, to travel to and from work, or to transport a handicapped family member. To be excluded, the family's equity in the vehicle must not exceed $9,500 or the vehicle must be used to transport a handicapped family member. Earned income of recipients is totally excluded up to the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Once earnings reach the FPL, the family becomes ineligible for assistance. Up to $50 per month of current child support is passed through to the family each month and excluded as income. Child care and transportation benefits are provided in order to enable individuals to prepare for, obtain and retain employment.

If a family member refuses to participate in Employment Services activities the family is penalized through grant reduction. Employment Services and benefits to support required activities are provided through Connecticut's Department of Labor.

If the family has made a good faith effort to comply with the employment activities but still has income below the payment standard at the end of twenty-one months of assistance, a six-month extension of benefits may be given. Extensions may also be given to families who have encountered circumstances beyond their control such as domestic violence. To qualify for an extension the family's income cannot exceed the payment standard corresponding to the size of the family.

A. FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

A. 1. Continued

The state imposes a 60-month time limit and time limited families cannot receive more than two extensions to the twenty-one month time limit except when all adults meet one or more of the following criteria:

- The adult is precluded from obtaining or maintaining employment due to domestic violence or another circumstance beyond his or her control, or
- Despite working thirty-five or more hours per week, earning at least the minimum wage, the adult earns less than the family's TFA payment standard, or
- The adult is employed and working less than thirty-five hours per week due to (1) a documented medical impairment that limits his/her hours of work, or (2) the need to care for a disabled member of the household; or
- The adult has two or more substantiated barriers to employment such as the lack of available child care, substance abuse or addiction, severe mental or physical health problems, one or more severe learning disabilities, domestic violence, or a child who has a serious physical or behavioral health problem.

If each adult in the family meets at least one of the following exemption criteria, the family is not subject to the state time limits. These exemptions do not apply to the federal time limit. A person is exempt if he or she is incapacitated; age 60 or older; responsible for the care of an incapacitated family member; a non-parent caretaker relative who does not receive assistance; caring for a child under the age of one who is not subject to the family cap; pregnant if a physician has certified that she is unable to work; or unemployable. A six week exemption is also given when a pregnancy ends. This exemption may be extended if a medical professional certifies that the person is unable to work. Minor parents attending and satisfactorily completing high school or high school equivalency programs and their children are exempt from the time limit. However, unmarried minor parents who are not attending and who have not completed high school or its equivalent are not eligible for benefits.

In addition to a family that includes a member who has been battered or subject to extreme cruelty, a family that is exempt from the twenty-one month time limit is exempt from the state's 60-month time limit. Also, these families are considered hardship cases for the sixty month limit of TANF funded benefits.

Effective October 1, 2008 TFA families, in which all adults are exempt based on incapacity, age 60 or older, pregnant or post-partum, or unemployable, identified as "Certain Exempt" are funded outside of the TANF program in a solely state-funded program.

A. FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

A. 1. Continued

Other features of the TFA program include the following: Additional assistance for a child conceived and born to a family receiving assistance is one half of what it would normally be. Minor parents are required to live with their parents or other adults.

Any relative may receive assistance for a child. In addition, legal guardians and others acting in loco parentis may receive such assistance. Pregnant women are eligible for assistance throughout the entire pregnancy. Children are eligible for assistance until they reach age 19 as long as they are still attending high school or its equivalent.

The TFA benefit levels vary throughout the state based on the average cost of rent in each area. There are three regions in the state each with a different benefit level. The benefit levels and the towns covered by each level are described in Addendum A.

TANF Purpose #1: Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or the homes of relatives.

TANF Purpose #2: End the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work and marriage.

Funding: Commingled State and Federal Funds. (Solely State Funded for TFA for Two Parent families and "certain exempt" families.)

Effective October 1, 2008, benefits to Certain Exempt Households are funded as a Solely State Funded (SSF) program. These benefits had been funded as regular TFA through Federal TANF and Commingled funds (FFY 2008) and had previously been funded as a Separate State Program (prior to FFY 2008).

Effective October 1, 2007, in Connecticut cash assistance to two-parent families, as defined at 45 CFR 261.24, is funded through a Solely State Funded (SSF) program. Two Parent families are eligible for non-assistance benefits such as Jobs First Employment Services.

A. FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

A. 2. Child Care Assistance for Unemployed Persons - Department of Social Services

Connecticut provides child care assistance to TFA family members preparing for employment through Jobs First Employment Services activities. Child care assistance is also provided to teen parents who need child care while completing high school.

Child care assistance payments are based on several factors including: the local market rate, the child care setting, the number of hours care is needed, the age of the child and the special needs of the child. Unemployed families are not required to pay a family fee.

TANF Purpose #1: Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or the homes of relatives.

TANF Purpose #2: End the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work and marriage.

Funding: Separate State Program

A. 3. Emergency Assistance Foster Care Maintenance Months 1-12, Department Of Children and Families

Connecticut provides foster care maintenance to children who are in the custody of the Department of Children and Families (DCF). TANF covers the portion of the maintenance services that were authorized under the prior Emergency Assistance (EAF) program for clients who would have qualified for Emergency Assistance under that prior program. Benefits are funded by TANF for children who remain in foster care up to twelve months of care and are considered assistance. This includes Case Management Services – services provided by DCF staff under the state's Emergency Assistance program in effect on September 30, 1995, as well as a variety of home and community based services to families to address issues that may cause a child to be abused or neglected in an effort to allow a child to remain in his or her home.

These services enable needy families to care for their children in their own homes or in the homes of relatives or were authorized through the Emergency Assistance program described in Connecticut's IV-A State Plan in effect on September 30, 1995.

TANF Purpose # 1: Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or the homes of relatives.

Funding: Segregated Federal TANF Funds

A. FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

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B. FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS – MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT (MOE) PROGRAMS

The Family Assistance Programs – Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Programs part of the plan outlines programs that provide assistance to needy families that utilize state maintenance of effort (MOE) funds.

Program benefits provided to eligible families are evidenced in program descriptions.

B. 1. Energy Assistance - Department of Social Services

Connecticut provides energy assistance to help to pay for heating costs for families with income below 60 percent of State Median Income (SMI) guidelines. This is a separate state program that utilizes state maintenance of effort funds to provide energy assistance to families who qualify for both TFA and the Energy Assistance program.

Households that are required to pay for heating costs separately from rent may receive basic benefits, crisis benefits and safety net benefits. Households with heat included in their rental payment may receive a renter's benefit. Families with a member who is elderly, disabled, or under the age of six are considered vulnerable households and qualify for higher basic benefits than other households. There is a limit on liquid assets of $10,000 for homeowners and $7,000 for non-homeowners. The charts below indicate:

The basic benefit levels available to families are as follows:

POVERTY LEVEL GUIDELINES	VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS	NON-VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS
Up to 100%	$255	$220
101% - 125%	$220	$195
126% - 150%	$195	$175

The benefit levels for renters are as follows:

POVERTY LEVELGUIDELINES	RENTER BENEFIT
Up to 100%	$20
101% - 125%	$15
126% - 150%	$10

Crisis benefits are provided to households unable to secure primary heat, causing a life-threatening situation. Up to $400 is provided to purchase a fuel delivery.

Safety Net Assistance is provided to households that have exhausted crisis assistance benefits and are in a life-threatening situation. Up to $400 per occurrence is provided to purchase an emergency fuel delivery.

TANF Purpose # 1: Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or the homes of relatives.

Funding: Commingled funds

B. FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS – MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT (MOE) PROGRAMS

B. 2. Aliens - Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) - Department of Social Services

Connecticut provides Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) to legal aliens who reside in the state. Eligibility criteria and benefit levels for aliens are the same as they are for citizens.

TANF Purpose # 1: Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or the homes of relatives.

Funding: Segregated State Program that utilizes state maintenance of effort funds to provide cash assistance to qualified aliens who are not eligible for federal TANF benefits solely due to their alien status.

B. 3. Non-hardship Families who Received more than 60 months of TFA Benefits - Department of Social Services

Connecticut provides TFA benefits to families who have exhausted the federal 60 month limit on benefits, but have not exhausted the state's 60 month limit and who do not meet the state's hardship criteria. The exemption criteria for the state time limit is the same as the hardship criteria for the federal limit. When a family loses an exemption they also lose the hardship designation. The state will continue to provide benefits to these families until they reach the state's 60 month time limit. Eligibility criteria and benefit levels for these families are the same as they are for families who have not yet received 60 months of federal TANF benefits.

TANF Purpose # 1: Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or the homes of relatives.

Funding: Segregated State Program that utilizes state maintenance of effort funds.

C. SERVICES & NON-ASSISTANCE MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT (MOE) PROGRAMS

This Services and Non-Assistance Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Programs part describes how Connecticut provides services and non-assistance benefits to needy families through TANF and Maintenance of Effort programs. The programs described in this section utilize either segregated state funds or separate state programs.

Program benefits provided to eligible families are evidenced in program descriptions.

C. 1. Connecticut Workforce Advancement Grants for Education (CT WAGE) – Department of Higher Education

Charter Oak State College's Connecticut Workforce Advancement Grants for Education (CT WAGE) program is designed to addresses the needs of low income parents who could, with post secondary education in career and occupational programs, improve the quality of their lives. The program assists low-income, working parents in completing a college degree. The program is modeled after the Women in Transition program. All individuals provided with services will meet the criteria of "needy parents" as defined in this plan. CT WAGE students must meet academic and financial eligibility criteria.

The CT WAGE participants are provided with laptop computers, internet access, text books or reimbursement for books for coursework, funding for courses not covered by financial aid, academic, career and personal counseling, and other related expenses that may include child care or transportation. The technology tools allow the student to take online courses and to communicate with faculty, student support staff and other students. Taking online courses alleviates the need for childcare and transportation costs and allows the family to spend more quality time together.

TANF Purpose #2: End the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work and marriage.

Funding: Separate State Program that utilizes state maintenance of effort funds.

C. 2. Women in Transition (WIT) – Department of Higher Education

Charter Oak State College's Women in Transition program (WIT) is designed to address the needs of the underemployed and under-served who could, with a college degree, improve the quality of their lives. The Women in Transition program targets minority, low-income, single mothers, many of whom are former AFDC/TANF recipients. All individuals provided with services will meet the criteria of "Needy Parents" as defined in Connecticut's State Plan for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program.

The WIT participants are provided with laptop computers, Internet access, a printer, funding for courses not covered by financial aid, textbooks, and academic and career counseling. The technology tools allow the student to take online courses and to

communicate with the WIT Coordinator, faculty, and other students. Taking online courses alleviates the need for childcare and transportation costs and allows the family to spend more quality time together.

The WIT counselor contacts each student on a regular schedule to discuss progress. The student works with the counselor to determine the appropriate degree concentration. Together they carefully consider and evaluate (1) the participant's goals regarding future employment and/or career change and (2) the immediate labor market employment and potential salary levels for that specific area. In addition, academic weaknesses are discussed and additional coursework is recommended to improve in those areas, e.g. writing and technology skills. Funds are used to provide recruitment, assessment, counseling, technology training and support, books, tuition and other fees not covered by federal or state financial aid.

TANF Purpose #2: End the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work and marriage.

Funding: Separate State Program that utilizes state maintenance of effort funds.

C. 3. Jobs Funnel – Department of Labor, Office of Workforce Competitiveness

The Office of Workforce Competitiveness in the Department of Labor funds Jobs Funnel programs in various cities to help individuals avail themselves of career opportunities in construction jobs. The projects represent joint, public-private efforts to create career opportunities in the construction trades for residents in participating cities. Services through the Jobs Funnel projects include outreach, recruitment, assessment, case management, pre-employment preparation (consisting of math, remediation, life skills workshops, customized training, and/or pre-apprenticeship training), job placement, and retention support services for people who want to pursue construction related careers. The program offers an initial training followed by assistance in finding employment in apprenticeships and other jobs in the local areas. Integral to the program are the outreach, assessment, and support services provided by community-based organizations. By providing these services, the goal of the program is to help participants become more job-ready.

Services for program participants who are members of families with dependent children are U.S. citizens, and have income less than seventy five percent (75%) of the State Median Income (SMI) are funded by the TANF program.

TANF Purpose #2: End the dependence of needy parents by promoting work, job preparation, and marriage.

Funding: Separate State Program that utilizes state maintenance of effort funds.

C. SERVICES & NON-ASSISTANCE MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT (MOE) PROGRAMS

C. 4. Child Care Assistance Programs (Non-TFA and former TFA families) - Department of Social Services

Connecticut provides child care assistance to working families transitioning off TFA and non-TFA working families.

Initial eligibility for child care assistance is based on countable family income and the need for child care. At application, a family may be eligible if their countable income is below fifty percent (50%) of the state median income (SMI) related to family size. Child support received or paid by the family is not considered countable income. Once determined eligible, a family may receive child care assistance as long as their need for care continues and their countable income remains under seventy-five percent (75%) of the SMI related to family size. There is no time limit on a family's eligibility for child care assistance.

Child care payment rates are based on several factors including: the local market rate, the child care setting, the number of hours care is needed, the age of the child and the special needs of the child. All working families are required to pay a portion of the approved child care assistance payment. This Family Fee, paid by the family directly to the child care provider, is calculated based on countable family income in accordance with the following scale.

COUNTABLE FAMILY INCOME	FAMILY FEE
Less than 20% of SMI	2%
20% to 30% of SMI	4%
30% to 40% of SMI	6%
40% to 50% of SMI	8%
50% or more of SMI	10%

TANF Purpose #2: End the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work and marriage.

Funding: Separate State Program that utilizes state maintenance of effort funds.

C. SERVICES & NON-ASSISTANCE MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT (MOE) PROGRAMS

C. 5. Fatherhood Initiative - Department of Social Services

Connecticut's fatherhood initiative is a statewide program led by the Department of Social Services that focuses on changing the systems that can improve fathers' ability to be fully and positively involved in the lives of their children.

The program's objectives are as follows –

- Promote public education concerning the financial and emotional responsibilities of fatherhood
- Assist men in preparing for the legal, financial and emotional responsibilities of fatherhood
- Promote the establishment of paternity at childbirth
- Encourage fathers, regardless of marital status, to foster their emotional connection to and financial support of their children
- Establish support mechanisms for fathers in their relationship with their children, regardless of their marital and financial status
- Integrate state and local services available for families

TANF Purpose #4: Encourages the formation and maintenance of two parent families.

Funding: Commingled funds that utilize state maintenance of effort funds.

C. SERVICES & NON-ASSISTANCE MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT (MOE) PROGRAMS

C. 6. Safety Net Services - Department of Social Services

Safety Net services are available to families who have exhausted the 21-month time limit of TFA benefits, have income below the payment standard for the appropriate family size, and are not eligible for an extension, regardless of the reason that an extension cannot be provided. This program works to 1) minimize the likelihood of harm to the children, 2) stabilize families and assist with access to resources to strengthen parenting skills and protect children and 3) assist families to attain and maintain employment through the identification and amelioration of existing psychological, personal and structural barriers.

Services provided include the following.

- Home based outreach services during non-traditional hours (early mornings and weekends)
- Intensive family support services that are based on mutual trust and respect
- Availability of a regional clinical staff that is bilingual, bicultural, and available for in-home or office based clinical assessments, referrals and follow-up
- Comprehensive, qualitative assessment of family strengths and risk factors using a unique tool designed for the program
- Family focus and environmental systems approach

These services are offered on behalf of families with a gross income less than seventy-five percent (75%) of the State Median Income (SMI).

Effective 10/1/06 Non-TANF funds (Solely State Funded) are used to provide basic needs payments for rent, utilities and food for eligible families receiving Safety Net Services.

TANF Purpose # 1: Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or the homes of relatives.

TANF Purpose # 2: End the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work and marriage.

FUNDING: Separate State Program

C. SERVICES & NON-ASSISTANCE MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT (MOE) PROGRAMS

C. 7. School Readiness - State Department of Education

The initiative is designed to ensure that children from low-income families have access to high-quality early learning experiences by combining the strengths and resources of the public and private child care and school systems. Funds are made available to School Readiness Councils in communities with large numbers of low-income children. The Councils assess community needs, identify gaps, and allocate funds. Each Council is allocated funds to increase the number of 3- and 4-year old children served in early care and education programs and to improve the quality of those services. The Councils are required to ensure that full-day early childhood care and education services are available year-round. Additionally, funds are made available on a statewide basis to train new early childhood teachers.

These services are offered on behalf of families with a gross income less than seventy-five percent (75%) of the State Median Income (SMI).

TANF Purpose #3: Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies.

Funding: Separate State Program that utilizes state maintenance of effort funds.

C. SERVICES & NON-ASSISTANCE MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT (MOE) PROGRAMS

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D. SERVICES & NON-ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The Services and Non-Assistance Programs part describes how Connecticut provides services and non-assistance benefits to needy families through TANF programs. The programs described in this section utilize federal funds or commingled state and federal funds.

D. 1. Child Welfare Prevention and Intervention Services – Department of Children and Families

These services are provided when conditions exist requiring the intervention of the Department of Children and Families (DCF). These services include:

- **Care Coordination** - provides intensive individualized case management and support services to a family with a child with complex behavioral health needs, who are at-risk of being removed from their homes and who are not involved in DCF Protective Services;
- **Case Management Services** – services provided by DCF staff, as well as a variety of home and community based services to families to address issues that may cause a child to be abused or neglected in an effort to allow a child to remain in his or her home.
- **Community Support for Families** – this service will engage families who have received a Family Assessment Response from the Department and connect them to concrete, traditional and non-traditional resources and services in their community. This inclusive approach and partnership, places the family in the lead role of its own service delivery. The role of the contractor is to assist the family in developing solutions, identify community resources and supports based on need and help promote permanent connections for the family with an array of supports and resources within their community.
- **Early Childhood Services** – through center based programs and home visitation, promotes school readiness skills and healthy development for children, ages birth to six, who may be identified as at risk for abuse and/or neglect and who may have developmental delays. [TANF Purpose 3]
- **Family Enrichment Services** – provides a range of in-home teaching, modeling and support services to parents in order to enhance parenting competencies and to improve the parent's overall functioning and ability to care for their children.
- **Family Support** – provides coordination and facilitation of five parent support groups with goals of peer support, information on appropriate parenting skills, and education on the development of effective coping strategies.
- **Family Support Team** – provides an integrated team of licensed professional staff who offer a range of therapeutic services for families with children who have

D. SERVICES & NON-ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

significant behavioral health needs. Services are provided both in the family's home and in other appropriate settings offering mentoring, transportation, tutoring, and recreational opportunities.

- **Integrated Family Violence Services** – through group and individual interventions, assistance for all family members where there has been domestic violence. Core services include safety assessments, safety planning, and relationship and batterer interventions.
- **Intensive Family Preservation** – short-term, intensive, in-home service designed to intervene quickly in order to reduce the risk of out of home placement and/or abuse and/or neglect. Services are provided to families 24 hours per day, seven days a week with a minimum of 2 home visits per week for to 12 weeks.
- **Intensive Home Based Services – MST – Building Stronger Families –** provides intensive family and community based treatment to families that are active with DCF due to the physical abuse and/or neglect of a child in the family and due to the abuse of or dependence on marijuana and/or cocaine by at least one caregiver in the family.
- **Intensive Home Based Services – Functional Family Therapy (FFT) –** provides an intensive period of intervention, family support and empowerment, access to medication evaluation and management, crisis intervention and case management in order to stabilize children at risk of out of home placement due to mental health issues, emotional disturbance or substance abuse.
- **Intensive Home Based Services – Multidimensional Family Therapy (MDFT) –** provides intensive home based clinical interventions for children with significant health service needs who are at risk of removal from their home.
- **Intensive Home Based Services – Family Based Recovery (FBR) –** provides intensive service that integrates adult substance abuse treatment with family treatment designed to enhance parenting and parent-child attachment. Primarily home and community bases, is provided to infants ages 0-24 months.
- **Intensive Home Based Services – Multisystemic Therapy (MST)** – intensive home based services to children who are returning or have returned from a residential level of care or are at imminent risk of removal due to mental health issues. Includes comprehensive evaluation, interventions, services and supports.
- **Investigations** – DCF staff provide investigations of reports of child abuse and neglect, to prevent or eliminate the need for removal of children from their homes in cases where a removal has not occurred but such a removal is a reasonable possibility in the absence of preventive services. Investigations had been part of the state's Emergency Assistance program in effect on September 30, 1995.

D. SERVICES & NON-ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

- **Multi-Disciplinary Investigation Teams (MDT)** – This service promotes the coordination of investigations of and interventions for cases of child abuse/neglect among agencies, including DCF, police, medical, mental health, victim advocates, and prosecutors. Cases are referred to the regularly scheduled team meetings by DCF, law enforcement or other agency members of the team. A team Coordinator assumes the coordination and administrative responsibilities in addition to being an active member of the team. Training in aspects of child abuse and the investigation process is provided to the team members.
- **Multisystemic Therapy: Consultation and Evaluation** – provides clinical consultation to statewide Court Support Services Division (CSSD) of the Judicial Branch and DCF Multisystemic Therapy (MST) providers in order to integrate standards and practices.
- **Outpatient Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment** - services for substance abusing adolescents or those at risk for substance abuse who are of all ethnic backgrounds and genders, ages 11-17, and who may also have underlying mental health issues. Intervention, evaluation, treatment and case management services are provided to both youth and their families.
- **Parent Aide (Love and Security)** - This service provides preventative education, information and support primarily to low income Hispanic adolescents and young adults who are pregnant or are parents of young children, in order to reduce the stress of parenting an to ensure the positive development of their children.
- **Parent Aide (Women's Recovery)** - This service provides regularly scheduled in home visits, evening and weekend support as well as parenting skills classes, recreation and respite to women as they enter into drug treatment through referrals.
- **Positive Youth Development** – provides psycho-educational programming, opportunities for experimental learning and life skill building for youth. Topics addressed include: peer support, conflict resolution, employment skills, anger management, leadership and the encouragement of empathy.
- **Siblings Connections Camp** – designed to engage, support and reconnect siblings who are placed in out of home care by providing a week long overnight camp experience focused on strengthening sibling relationships.
- **Supportive Housing for Families** – intensive case management and counseling supportive services for clients for whom inadequate housing jeopardizes the safety, permanency, and well being of their children. Intensive case management services are provided to assist individuals to develop and utilize economic, social and health services. (This is a different program than the Next Steps Supportive Housing program described previously in the plan.)

D. SERVICES & NON-ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

- **Therapeutic Child Care** - This service offers a range of support services for children in licensed child care facility, designed for infants, toddlers, and pre-schoolers who have behavioral health and/or developmental needs.
- **Treatment/Prevention of Child Abuse program** - community-based prevention and treatment of child abuse.

Also included are services provided such as parenting programs for first-time parents, Parents Anonymous groups, and other developmental and support services. These services are offered on behalf of children under the age of 19 who are members of families with a gross income less than seventy-five percent (75%) of the State Median Income (SMI).

TANF Purpose # 1: Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or the homes of relatives.

TANF Purpose # 3: Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies – (Early Childhood Services)

FUNDING: Segregated Federal TANF funds.

D. 2. Extended Day Treatment Program - Department of Children and Families

The Extended Day Treatment program, operated by the Department of Children and Families, is a site-based, before and/or after school, treatment and support service for children and youth with behavioral health needs who have returned to their homes from out of home care or are at risk of placement due to mental health issues or emotional disturbance. Services are provided daily before and after school, with extended daily service on days or weeks in which school is not in session.

This program qualifies for TANF under Purpose 3 ("to reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies"). The ACF "Funding Guide" states that programs that are operated during non-school hours support the third purpose of TANF, because these programs offer supervision during the day when youth are likely to engage in at-risk behaviors (page 11 of the "Funding Guide"). Since the Extended Day Treatment program provides services before or after school, and at other times when school is not in session, it would meet this criteria. There are no income guidelines for this program.

TANF Purpose # 3: Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies.

FUNDING: Segregated Federal TANF funds

D. 3. Addiction Treatment Services - Department of Correction

D. SERVICES & NON-ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The Department of Correction (DOC) provides addiction services to clients who have varying levels of needs, from basic addiction education to intensive counseling. TANF claiming is limited to costs of non-medical services provided to clients who are parents. By providing addiction treatment to parents, the program helps them become clean and sober, which ultimately will enable them to become contributing members of the family.

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

FUNDING: Segregated Federal TANF funds

D. 4. Education and Training Services - Department of Correction

The Department of Correction (DOC) provides education and training services that prepare clients to develop job skills and ultimately secure employment. By providing education and training services to parents, the program helps them obtain the skills and ultimately jobs that will enable them to be contributing members of their families. TANF claiming is limited to costs related to services provided to clients who are parents.

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

FUNDING: Segregated Federal TANF funds

D. SERVICES & NON-ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

D. 5. Individual and Family Grant Program - Department of Developmental Services

The Department of Developmental Services administers a program called the Individual and Family Grant program. This program makes grants to families that have children who are diagnosed with mental retardation. The purpose of the grants is to enable the families to purchase respite services. Families may also use the grant to purchase special equipment, or to pay for activities or emergencies. The respite services include in-home respite care and temporary out-of-home respite care. "Respite" provides time for the family to re-energize, deal with emergency situations, or engage in activities that may be neglected as a result of the ongoing demands of caring for a family member who has mental retardation. The goal of the program is to support persons with mental retardation to live with their families in their communities. Grants ranging from $600 per year to $1,000 per year, depending on need, are available to "needy families" with income less than seventy-five percent (75%) of the state's median income level for the family's size. In extraordinary circumstances, the maximum Individual and Family Grant payment per year is $5,000. These grants do not represent 'basic income support' and therefore do not meet the criteria for "assistance."

TANF Purpose # 1: Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or the homes of relatives.

FUNDING: Segregated Federal TANF funds

D. 6. State Respite Centers Program - Department of Developmental Services

The Department of Developmental Services administers respite care through DDS staff and through contracts with private providers. These services provide temporary out-of-home relief to families with children who are diagnosed with mental retardation. The purpose of providing temporary (e.g., one to seven days) out-of-home respite is to enable the family to re-energize, deal with emergency situations, or engage in activities that may be neglected as a result of the ongoing demands of caring for a family member who has mental retardation. The goal of the respite program is to support persons with mental retardation to live with their families in their communities. The program is available to family's with income less than seventy-five percent (75%) of the state's median income level for the family's size.

TANF Purpose # 1: Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or the homes of relatives.

FUNDING: Segregated Federal TANF funds

D. SERVICES & NON-ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

D. 7. Employment Services – Department of Labor

The state provides employment services to all recipients of Temporary Family Assistance (TFA). Employment services are also provided to those who are participating in an employment service activity authorized by their employment plan at the time of becoming ineligible for TFA until they complete that activity. The state refers to these employment services as Jobs First Employment Services. The Connecticut Department of Labor (DOL) administers Jobs First Employment Services (JFES) through *CT Works. CT Works* is a partnership of the CT Department of Labor, the five Regional Workforce Development Boards (RWDB's), and other state and local agencies, including the Department of Social Services.

Jobs First Employment Services are provided to adults or minor parents in families applying for or receiving Temporary Family Assistance funded by TANF, and to Two-Parent families funded as a solely state funded program. All TFA applicants and recipients, including Two-Parent families, are eligible for employment services even if they are not required to participate by the regulations governing the TFA program. If a TANF funded TFA recipient is in an employment service activity authorized by the employment plan at the time of becoming ineligible for TFA, employment services continue until completion of that activity, provided the individual remains part of a needy family with income less than seventy-five percent (75%) of the state's median income level.

Similarly, services to participants in two-parent families who become ineligible for TFA while in an authorized activity will continue until the completion of that activity.

The goals of the Jobs First Employment Services program are as follows:

1. Enable TFA participants, through employment, to become independent from cash assistance by the end of the 21-month time limit established by state law;
2. Enable TFA participants who become independent from cash assistance to remain employed and independent of TFA; and
3. Ensure that federally established participation rates are met through employment of TFA participants and engagement in other countable TANF work activities deemed appropriate based on assessments of clients' needs.

<u>Operating Principles</u>

1. The primary focus of the Jobs First Employment Services Program is to assist participants to become independent of assistance through employment.

D. SERVICES & NON-ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

2. Every participant is assigned to activities that will enable him/her to become and remain independent of TFA. Whenever possible, activities are combined in a way that will meet the federally established participation rates. Each service delivery area manages its caseload in such a way as to meet the state target levels for the participation rates.

3. An individualized employment plan based on assessment of skills, abilities, work experience, education level, aptitudes, interests and program goals is developed for every participant. The individual employment plans for parents in a two-parent family are coordinated with each other in order to meet program goals. The combination of both parents' plans constitutes a plan for the family.

4. If, based on the assessment, it is determined that the family is capable within the first 21 months or anytime during an extension period of obtaining employment at earnings equal to the Federal Poverty Level for their family size, the participant (s) are required to find and/or maintain employment at the Federal Poverty Level as soon as possible.

5. If it is determined that the family cannot obtain earnings at the Federal Poverty Level (in the case of a two-parent family, both parents wages or potential wages are combined) without further training and/or education, the participant (s) are assigned work, education and/or training activities that will maximize the family's income level within the first 21 months of assistance. For participants in extensions, work, education and/or training activities that will maximize the family income level as soon as possible are assigned. Whenever possible, employment is combined with education and training in such a way that the combination is countable toward the federally established participation rate.

6. As long as consistent with the program goals, employment plan activities are based on the participant's interests, ability, availability of resources and labor market demands.

7. If it is evident that the family will not be able to become or remain independent of TFA through current employment or future employment that is secured (such as seasonal employment) without additional education and/or training, new or additional activities designed to increase the family income may be assigned, which may preclude continuation of existing employment or self-employment.

8. These operating principles apply to all participants according to their needs, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, disability or sexual orientation.

D. SERVICES & NON-ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Type of Employment Services

Connecticut's Jobs First Employment Services is a "balanced work first" program. This means that if the welfare recipient is capable of going to work, he or she is expected to work. It also means that if welfare recipients are capable of working, but need education or training to improve earnings to better support their families, they will generally be expected to work while receiving that training. In some cases, work follows immediately upon completion of intensive, short-term training or education.

To attain all three program goals, Jobs First Employment Services include a combination of job search, employment, education, training and support services.

The combination of services varies with each individual participant. This balance of employment activity with other services utilizes individual strengths and resources while addressing employment-related needs. This balanced work first approach ensures that participants will not only become independent, but will remain independent from assistance while the federal participation rates are met.

Each participant, including volunteers, may receive employment services that include, but are not limited to the following: orientation, assessment, case management, employment plan development, barrier resolution, employment related education and training programs, subsidized employment, job search skill training, job placement services, case management, support services (such as Special Benefits), retention services, and re-employment services.

Post-secondary education (two and four year degree programs) is allowable Jobs First employment services when included in employment plan as permitted by state and federal regulations. Self-initiated participation in such educational programs may co-exist with approved plan activities if funded with other resources, to the extent that such enrollment does not preclude participation in required plan activities.

Entry into Jobs First Employment Services

Initial entry into the Jobs First Employment Services Program is through a referral from the Department of Social Services (DSS). DSS conducts a service needs assessment of the TFA recipient during or soon after the initial TFA intake interview. The service needs assessment includes gathering information from the recipients on their education, employment and training history; time on assistance and social service needs. The results of the human needs assessment are then forwarded to the local *CT Works* office.

D. SERVICES & NON-ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

CT Works Intake

Intake sessions include an orientation, employability assessment, initial employment plan development, eligibility determination for separately funded employment programs, assignment of a case manager and assignment to initial employment plan activities by either Regional Workforce Development Board (RWDB) staff and/or case managers.

All new participants for employment services must attend an intake session. However, special accommodations are made for participants who cannot attend the group sessions due to their employment schedule. These participants are scheduled for separate individual appointments at times that do not interfere with work hours. If necessary, the intake session can be conducted in a combination of phone interviews and mailed correspondence. Participants are not required to miss work, training or a job interview to attend any employment services activity.

Every participant leaves the intake session with a clear understanding of the next step in his/her employment plan, the name and phone number of his/her case manager and a copy of his/her employment plan.

Case Management

After intake into *CT Works*, the assigned case manager in conjunction with the participant completes the employment plan. The case manager arranges for services and tracks and monitors the participant to ensure progression towards independence from cash assistance. If the participant does not comply with the provisions of the employment plan without good cause, the case manager refers the participant to the DSS for conciliation and possible sanctioning.

Special Benefits and Childcare Assistance

To facilitate maximum participation, TFA applicants or recipients who participate in employment services are supported by special benefit payments.

Transportation benefits are provided to participants of regular, on-going employment services activities other than unsubsidized employment. Payment is made for bus fares or mileage for driving private automobiles.

A participation allowance which is intended to assist participants with transportation and baby-sitting expenses is provided for short-term, intermittent employment services activities that last no longer than five consecutive days.

Ongoing childcare assistance is provided through DSS's Child Care Assistance Program.

D. SERVICES & NON-ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The services offered on behalf of families with a gross income less than seventy-five percent (75%) of the State Median Income (SMI) and qualify for Temporary Family Assistance.

TANF Purpose # 1: Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or the homes of relatives.

TANF Purpose #2: End the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work and marriage.

Funding: Commingled funds.

D. 8. Individual Performance Contracts (IPCs) – Department of Labor

Families that are at risk of becoming ineligible for an extension due to non-compliance with Employment Services at the end of the 21 month time limit are offered an Individual Performance Contract (IPC). Components of an IPC include intensive short-term case management and may also include job training, job search, volunteer work, participation in parenting programs, counseling or any other requirements that will lead to independence from TFA benefits. If, by the end of the twenty-one (21) month time limit, the individual is successfully meeting the requirements of the IPC and does not incur an additional penalty for non-compliance with Employment Services, the family is considered to meet the good faith effort criteria for qualifying for an extension.

The services offered on behalf of families with a gross income less than seventy-five percent (75%) of the State Median Income (SMI) and qualify for Temporary Family Assistance.

TANF Purpose # 1: Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or the homes of relatives.

TANF Purpose #2: End the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work and marriage.

Funding: Commingled funds.

D. SERVICES & NON-ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

D. 9. Compulsive Gamblers Program - Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

The "Connecticut Partnership for Responsible Gambling" (the Partnership) was created by the Connecticut Lottery Corporation. The Partnership is designed to educate consumers on problem gambling, underage gambling, and to promote responsible play. The Partnership also serves as a leading resource for responsible gambling, warning signs of problem gambling and available treatment services.

Through the Problem Gambling Services program, DMHAS provides counseling, assessment, financial management counseling, and peer counseling. They also provide gambling prevention services and perform advocacy work. The program operates in many sites throughout the State, which are either State-operated or operated by private non-for-profit organizations.

The program addresses problem gambling, which can be a source of family separation and can be a contributing cause of lack of parental support. The ACF "Guide on Funding Services for Children and Families through the TANF Program" notes "some activities that are reasonably calculated to accomplish (TANF Purpose 4) might include initiatives to promote responsible parenthood including responsible fatherhood and increase the capacity of fathers and mothers to provide emotional and financial support for their children." (Page 11 of the Guide). A recent study of the Problem Gambling Services program showed that many of the clients are married and that pathological gambling does lead to negative social and financial outcomes, such as divorce and unemployment. There are no income guidelines for this program.

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

FUNDING: Segregated Federal TANF funds

D. SERVICES & NON-ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

D. 10. Young Adult Services - Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

The Young Adult Services program, operated out of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, provides services primarily to youth who are transitioning from the Department of Children and Families to the adult mental health system.

These youth tend to engage in many high risk behaviors including sexual behaviors which, when coupled with their psychiatric disorders, put them at high risk for unwanted pregnancies. In addition to engaging in high risk behaviors, most of the youth that are referred have extensive histories of trauma, complex psychiatric and neuro-cognitive issues that limit their ability to function and to make age appropriate decisions.

As a result, most of these young adults are at risk for unwanted or out-of-wedlock pregnancies. Young adult services staff identify this risk factor in their clients and provide intervention to lessen the risk.

The Young Adult Services programs operate at both state-operated and private non-profit Local Mental Health Authorities throughout the state.

There are no income guidelines for this program.

TANF Purpose # 3: Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies.

FUNDING: Segregated Federal TANF funds

D. SERVICES & NON-ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

D.11. Child Care Assistance Programs (TFA Recipients) - Department of Social Services

Connecticut provides child care assistance to families receiving TFA to enable parents to work. Initial eligibility for child care assistance is based on countable family income and the need for child care. At application, a family may be eligible if their countable income is below fifty percent (50%) of the state median income (SMI) related to family size. TFA benefits and child support received or paid by the family are not considered countable income. Once determined eligible, a family may receive child care assistance as long as their need for care continues and their countable income remains under the income limit.

Child care payment rates are based on several factors including: the local market rate, the child care setting, the number of hours care is needed, the age of the child and the special needs of the child. All working families are required to pay a portion of the approved child care assistance payment. This Family Fee, paid by the family directly to the child care provider, is calculated based on countable family income in accordance with the following scale.

COUNTABLE FAMILY INCOME	FAMILY FEE
Less than 20% of SMI	2%
20% to 30% of SMI	4%
30% to 40% of SMI	6%
40% to 50% of SMI	8%
50% or more of SMI	10%

TANF Purpose #2: End the dependence of needy parents by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage.

FUNDING: Commingled funds.

D. SERVICES & NON-ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

D. 12. Diversion - Department of Social Services

Connecticut's diversion program became effective October 1, 1998. This program provides qualifying applicants with up to three times the amount the family would receive each month under the Jobs First program. Applicants are screened to determine if a lump sum payment can address the issue that compelled them to apply for assistance. Applicants must be determined to be otherwise eligible for Jobs First assistance, meet the program profile characteristics and have short-term needs that, if provided, will prevent the need for ongoing cash assistance.

To meet the program profile characteristics a person must be employed or have a job offer that will begin within three months, have a solid work history, or have marketable job skills that will lead to employment.

After eligibility is determined, applicants have three working days to refuse diversion and accept full assistance. Applicants subject to the time limit who accept diversion payments are treated as if they have received three months of Jobs First cash assistance. For families subject to the time limit, three months is deducted from their twenty-one month time limit. Medicaid eligibility is also explored at the time of application. The family also may qualify for childcare benefits.

TANF Purpose # 2: End the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work and marriage.

FUNDING: Commingled funds

D. 13. Employment Success Program – Department of Social Services

This program is designed to identify and immediately address barriers to employment as part of the initial Jobs First Employment Services assessment process. This program provides Jobs First Employment Services participants with in-depth home based assessments, intensive case management and referral to community resources. The goal is to increase successful employment outcomes and reduce the likelihood of ongoing dependency of the Jobs First program. Also clients with serious conditions are identified and an evaluation for an incapacity exemption from the time-limited program is made.

The services offered on behalf of families with a gross income less than seventy-five percent (75%) of the State Median Income (SMI) and qualify for Temporary Family Assistance.

TANF Purpose # 1: Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or the homes of relatives.

D. SERVICES & NON-ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

TANF Purpose #2: End the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work and marriage.

Funding: Commingled funds.

D. 14. Outreach - Department of Social Services

These services include activities that provide information about TANF and related services or programs for which low income families might be eligible, including Medicaid and SCHIP. This component meets all four TANF purposes.

Outreach services include costs associated with the administration of the Help for People in Need program. This is an informational brochure, provided to all recipients of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) with income less than 185% of the federal poverty level. The brochure contains information on how to access such benefits and services as School Breakfast and School Lunch programs, Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for **W**omen, **I**nfants, and **C**hildren (WIC), HUSKY and Charter Oak health care coverage, Care 4 Kids Child Care benefits, the state's Fatherhood Initiative, Family Planning and Pregnancy Prevention Services, Domestic Violence services, Energy Assistance, Free Tax Preparation services and Housing services. Effective June 1, 2009. The Help for People in Need Outreach meets TANF Purposes 3 & 4.

General Outreach Services meets TANF Purposes 1, 2, 3, and 4, providing access to programs. The Help for People in Need component meets TANF Purposes 3 & 4:

TANF Purpose # 1: Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or the homes of relatives.

TANF Purpose #2: End the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work and marriage.

TANF Purpose # 3: Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies.

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

FUNDING: Segregated Federal TANF funds

D. SERVICES & NON-ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

D. 15. Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative (TPPI) - Department of Social Services

The Department of Social Services (DSS) operates a statewide teen pregnancy prevention initiative comprised of individual programs run by not-for profit organizations and municipalities in thirteen (13) Connecticut towns and cities. The communities served are: Bridgeport, East Hartford, Hartford, Killingly, Meriden, New Britain, New Haven, New London, Norwich, Torrington, Waterbury, West Haven, and Willimantic. The programs in these areas serve six-hundred ninety (690) participants.

The implemented programs utilize either of two science-based models: 1) the comprehensive, long-term, holistic, youth development model, based on the Carrera program model; or 2) The Teen Outreach Program, a service learning model, where participants engage in, reflect on, and learn from community service projects. Both of these program models have been evaluated and have shown evidence that they are among the most effective approaches to preventing teen pregnancies. Currently, New Britain, Torrington, Waterbury and Willimantic have implemented Carrera programs. Bridgeport, East Hartford, Hartford, Killingly, Meriden, New Haven, New London, Norwich, and West Haven and have implemented service learning programs.

The current allocation primarily supports the individual programs, but also covers independent research and evaluation with Philliber Research Associates (PRA), statistical analysis (UConn Family Planning Division), training with Michael Carrera who created the Carrera program and Wyman Associates who owns the Teen Outreach Service Learning program.

DSS worked with the Department of Public Health to include the collection of marital status information on birth certificates to allow more accurate data collection on out-of-wedlock pregnancies. DSS has set numerical goals for reducing the number out-of-wedlock pregnancies for teens between the ages of 15 and 19 in these programs, to no more than 22 births per 1,000 for 2011, 22 births per 1,000 in 2012, 22 births per 1,000 in 2013 and 22 births per 1,000 in 2014.

TANF Purpose # 3: Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies.

FUNDING: Segregated Federal TANF funds

D. SERVICES & NON-ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

D. 16. Transportation Programs - Department of Social Services

Connecticut funds five regional programs to assist families in overcoming barriers to employment due to lack of transportation. Each of the region's programs is designed to meet the needs of the families in their area. The programs assess regional employment and training needs and priorities, conduct planning for and coordinate programs that address those needs. In addition, the programs create annual employment and training plans, and review regional grant proposals and plans submitted to state agencies by other organizations to assure that all regional planning is consistent with an overall statewide blueprint for workforce development. The programs then subcontract to providers who carry out specific transportation services to families with dependent children currently receiving or are eligible to receive TANF benefits from DSS. Initiatives include new bus routes to target areas with employment opportunities that were previously inaccessible by public transportation; extended hours of bus service to provide transportation for individuals working in the evenings; coordination with Connecticut's Rideshare Company to provide vans where transportation gaps exist; automotive emergency repair services, fare subsidies, and providing a guaranteed free ride home for participants in the case of illness or a family emergency.

The income limit is less than seventy-five percent (75%) of the state's median income level. These funds may be used as a match for the Federal Job Access and Reverse Commute grant, in accordance with Section 404(d)(2) of the Social Security Act.

TANF Purpose #2: End the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work and marriage.

Funding: Commingled funds.

D. SERVICES & NON-ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

D. 17. Alternative In the Community (AICO) – Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division

The General Assembly has appropriated funds to the Court Support Services Division (CSSD) of the Judicial Branch to fund the Alternative In the Community (AICO) program within Connecticut. The AICO program is a community-based program that provides supervision and services to individuals who are 17 years old or above. This program provides an alternative for specific individuals who without this program would be incarcerated. The Alternative In the Community involves partnerships with local community providers who offer services to the individuals participating in the program and to Families with Service Needs. Program services include: intake, assessment for risk and need, case management, substance abuse assessment, group interventions (employment, cognitive skills, and substance abuse), community service restitution; pre-trial urinalysis testing; referral to community resources, including education and job development. These services are considered "non assistance," as they do not provide for basic needs like food, shelter, and clothing.

TANF Purpose # 3: Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies.
TANF Purpose # 4: Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

FUNDING: Segregated Federal TANF funds. Federal TANF funds are used in this program to support activities for United States citizens only. Non-TANF funds are used for the activities of non-citizens.

D. 18. Court Based Juvenile Assessment Services – Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division

This program provides assessment services for youth referred by the courts to the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch. It provides for mental health, substance abuse, and sex offender assessments, which are performed to determine what the specific needs of the individual are in order to address the causes of his or her risky behaviors. Such needs may include, for example, substance abuse services or family counseling. Professionals in the areas of psychology, psychiatry, and substance abuse perform the assessments on the youth referred.

These services are considered "non assistance," as they do not provide for basic needs like food, shelter, and clothing. In addition, the services are provided to "needy families," which is described as having an income level less than seventy-five percent (75%) of the state median income for family size.

TANF Purpose # 1: Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or the homes of relatives.

D. SERVICES & NON-ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

FUNDING: Segregated Federal TANF funds. Federal TANF funds are used in this program to support activities for United States citizens only. Non-TANF funds are used for the activities of non-citizens.

D. 19. Judicial Branch Counseling Services Program – Judicial Branch

The Judicial Branch provides mental health counseling services in the two state detention centers. Judicial contracts with private providers for services such as: psychiatric assessment, psychotropic medication management, licensed clinical social work assessment and treatment, substance abuse assessment and short-term treatment and psycho-education for the child and the parent(s). The assessment and counseling services are claimed under TANF and the medical services are not.

The mental health and substance abuse services available in the state detention centers provide much needed assessment and early intervention for youths presenting with these types of issues. The research literature shows that children placed in detention for delinquent behavior are at high-risk for further involvement with the criminal justice system. High-risk adolescents involved with the court are also at high-risk or already have a history of out-of-wedlock pregnancy, school failure and unemployment. The adolescent detention population is disproportionately over-represented by children from high conflict families and the children can often continue in the family legacy of family instability.

TANF Purpose # 3: Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies.

FUNDING: Segregated Federal TANF funds

D. 20. Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) – Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division

The MST program operated by the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch, serves to address the behavioral health needs of high-risk youth to reduce their risky behaviors, such as substance abuse, and improve school, family, and social functioning. This is a family and community based program. The services identify family/client strengths, help the client/family define goals, and provide instruction on ways to prevent the recurrence of delinquent behavior and other family conflict, as well as establishing resources and skills to maintain ongoing progress. These services are considered "non assistance," as they do not provide for basic needs like food, shelter, and clothing. In addition, the services are provided to "needy families," which is described as having an income level less than seventy-five percent (75%) of the state median income for family size.

D. SERVICES & NON-ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The program target population includes post-dispositional juveniles with a high or very high Juvenile Assessment Generic (JAG) score and Families with Service Needs (FWSN) girls. Clients are referred from judges and probation officers, but are not under a detention order. This is a less restrictive residential setting than the Alternative to Detention Program (ADP), for those to be detained for up to 45 days.

TANF Purpose # 1: Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or the homes of relatives.

Funding: Segregated Federal Program. Federal TANF funds are used in this program to support activities for United States citizens only. Non-TANF funds are used for the activities of non-citizens.

D. SERVICES & NON-ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

D. 21. Family Resource Centers – State Department of Education

Operated through the State Department of Education, these centers are designed to promote comprehensive, integrated, community-based systems of family support, parent education and training, and child development.

Family Resource Centers provide or collaborate with existing agencies to operate full-time preschool childcare, school-age childcare, families–in-training (including home visiting and monitoring of child development for new and expectant parents), adult education, support and training for family daycare providers, teen pregnancy prevention, positive youth development services, and resource and referral services. There are no income or asset limits for this program.

TANF Purpose # 3: Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies.
TANF Purpose # 4: Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

FUNDING: Segregated Federal TANF funds

D. 22. Leadership, Education and Athletics in Partnership (LEAP) – State Department of Education

The State Department of Education (SDE) funds the Leadership, Education, Athletics in Partnership (LEAP) program. This program provides neighborhood-based education and mentoring programs that match children, ages 7 to 14; from high poverty urban neighborhoods with trained high school and college student counselors, to help children develop their academic skills, self esteem, improve their ability to succeed in school, and to be involved in their community. The children meet with their mentors after school and during the summer. This program helps to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock births. There are no income guidelines for this program.

TANF Purpose # 3: Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies.

FUNDING: Segregated Federal TANF funds

D. 23. Neighborhood Youth Centers – State Department of Education

The State Department of Education (SDE) offers competitive grants to priority cities to create and maintain neighborhood youth centers. The grantees must use the funds to provide skill development training, tutoring, parental involvement, and other supportive services increase the range and extent of positive experiences for at-risk youth. Programs offer athletic and recreational opportunities, enrichment or tutoring activities, skills training, and other preventive and intervention services for youth ages

12 to 17 years and their families. These services take place during after-school hours, evenings and weekends. There are no income guidelines for this program.

TANF Purpose # 3: Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies.

FUNDING: Segregated Federal TANF funds.

D. 24. Priority School Districts, Extended Hours – State Department of Education

The State Department of Education provides funds to priority school districts to fund extended day programs that offer academic enrichment and recreational programs in hours beyond the normal school term and alternative programs for students. These services are offered through extended hours and extended year programs. These programs are targeted to priority school districts and offer support services outside of basic education that are designed to foster success and result in enhanced opportunities for children as they mature into adulthood.

The services offered under these programs are targeted to children of needy families, although services are provided to all children within the school district who would benefit by receiving the service.

TANF Purpose # 3: Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies.

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

FUNDING: Segregated Federal TANF funds

D. 25. Priority School Districts Grants – State Department of Education

The State Department of Education provides funds to priority school districts to fund extended school hour programs, summer programs, early reading intervention, parent involvement programs, parent-teacher communication, drop-out prevention, and alternative programs for students, development or expansion of extended day kindergarten programs and technology enhancement to support instruction or improve parent and teacher communication. These services are offered through after school and summer, extended hours and extended year programs. These programs are targeted to priority school districts and offer support services outside of basic education that are designed to foster success and result in enhanced opportunities for children as they mature into adulthood.

The services offered under these programs are targeted to children of needy families, although services are provided to all children within the school district who would benefit by receiving the service.

D. SERVICES & NON-ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

TANF Purpose # 3: Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies.

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

FUNDING: Segregated Federal TANF funds

D. 26. Young Parents Program – State Department of Education

The State Department of Education (SDE) provides funds for programs to help teen parents stay in school. The funds are used to cover transportation costs for teen parents and their children to and from school and child-care facilities. The funds are also used to operate parenting education programs and prevention programs for teens that are at-risk of becoming teen parents. There are no income guidelines for this program.

TANF Purpose # 3: Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies.

FUNDING: Segregated Federal TANF funds

D. 27. Youth Services Bureau – State Department of Education

The State Department of Education (SDE) grants funds to Youth Service Bureaus to promote positive youth involvement and to support at-risk youth in their communities by addressing issues related to social development, mental health, and physical well-being, teen pregnancy prevention, diversion from juvenile justice services. The bureaus provide counseling on at-risk behaviors such as out-of-wedlock births. There are no income guidelines for this program.

These services prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock births.

TANF Purpose # 3: Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies.

FUNDING: Segregated Federal TANF funds

SUMMARY OF CHANGES – FROM PREVIOUS PLAN REVISIONS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

December 23, 2011 Plan Revisions

The State of Connecticut Department of Social Services has revised the State Plan for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program for federal fiscal years 2012 through 2014. Connecticut has made revisions as a result of decisions regarding program design and implementation, to maintain compliance with the Social Security Act and federal regulations and guidelines pertaining to TANF, and changes in relating to the TANF Emergency Contingency Fund (ECF).

The TANF Plan 2012-2014 does not include any substantive changes to the TANF program. The plan includes changes to the program descriptions including Teen Pregnancy Prevention, Energy Assistance, Child Care, Young Adult Services, Employment Success Program, Child Care Assistance, Judicial CSSD Young Alternative in the Community and Counseling Services, Foster Care Maintenance, Child Welfare Prevention and Intervention Services in the Department of Children and Families. Programs have been added to and deleted from the Child Welfare Prevention and Intervention Services in the Department of Children and Families. The principal change in the plan is the deletion of programs that had been part of the TANF Emergency Contingency Fund program. These programs were effective between October 1, 2008 and September 30, 2011.

The TANF Plan draft dated October 20, 2011 was available for public review and comment. The state has consulted with local governments, tribal nations, private sector organizations and state agencies and has provided the opportunity to comment on the design of the services and programs so that programs and services may be provided in a manner appropriate to local populations. The Notice published on October 21, 2011 invited public comment on the TANF Plan 2012-2014; revised October 20, 2011 was made the plan available at http://www.ct.gov/dss or upon request. The public was given at least 45 days for review and comment on the plan between October 21, 2011 and December 8, 2011. Public comments were reviewed by the Department of Social Services and incorporated into the final plan as appropriate.

Revisions to the TANF Plan are as follows:

8. Revisions have been made to the description of the Emergency Assistance Foster Care Maintenance to more clearly describe case management services that are included in this program in Section A, Part I. A.
9. Revisions have been made to the description of the Energy Assistance program income limits and benefit levels in Section A, Part I. B.

10. Revisions have been made to delete the Child Care Development Apprenticeship Program – Department of Labor as it is no longer operating or included in TANF. Section A, Part I. C.
11. Revisions have been made to the Jobs Funnel description and title referencing the agency consolidation of Office of Workforce Competitiveness and the Department of Labor (as of July 1, 2011) in Section A, Part I. C.
12. Revisions have been made to the Child Care Assistance descriptions to more clearly define the maximum family income under 75% of the State Median Income, in Section A, Part I. C.
13. Revisions have been made to the Non-Recurrent Short-Term (NRST) Benefit category programs and one community based Subsidized Employment program that were part of the TANF ECF program. These programs were effective October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2011. Section A, Part I. C.
14. The Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU), Summer Educational Opportunity Program (SEOP), shown in the Non-Recurrent Short Term Benefit Program, Job Training for Youth (non-subsidized employment), is removed from this plan effective January 1, 2012. The program served TANF Purpose # 3 and was funded with Commingled Maintenance of Effort funds. SCSU, SEOP had been included in Section A, Part I. C.
15. Revisions have been made to the description Child Welfare Prevention and Intervention Services in the Department of Children and Families, to delete reference to the Children's Trust Fund, and to remove the following programs: Individualized Family Support, Local Systems of Care – Emergency Mobile Psychiatric Services, Local Systems of Care - Crisis Stabilization, Parent Aide (Family Enrichment), Parent Education Assessment Services, and Substance Abusing Families At Risk, in Section A, Part I. D.
16. Revisions have been made to the description Child Welfare Prevention and Intervention Services in the Department of Children and Families and to add the following programs: Family Enrichment Services, Family Support, Intensive Home Based Services – Multisystemic Therapy, Functional Family Therapy, Multidimensional Family Therapy, Family Based Recovery, Multisystemic Therapy, Multisystemic Therapy Consultation and Evaluation, Outpatient Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment, Parent Aide (Love and Security), Parent Aide (Women's Recovery), Positive Youth Development and Siblings Connections Camp, in Section A, Part I. D.
17. Revisions have been made to the Young Adult Services Program description, in Section A, Part I. D.
18. Revisions have been made to the Employment Services description to the Special Benefits language, in Section A, Part I. D.

19. Revisions have been made to the Employment Success Program description to include TANF Purpose # 1, in Section A, Part I. D.
20. Revisions have been made to the Diversion description to delete reference to Section 1931, in Section A, Part I. D.
21. Revisions have been made to the description and numerical goals for the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative in Section A, Part I. D.
22. Revisions have been made to the Transportation program, in Section A, Part I. D.
23. Revisions have been made to the Judicial Branch CSSD Alternative In the Community Program description to change the age from 16 years to 17 years, in Section A, Part I. D.
24. Revisions have been made to the Judicial Branch Counseling Services Program description to reference two sites instead of three, in Section A, Part I. D.
25. Revisions have been made to the Judicial Branch CSSD Gender Specific Female Program which closed on October 31, 2011 and has been removed from this plan effective November 1, 2011. The program served TANF Purpose # 3 and was funded with segregated federal TANF funds. It was in Section A, Part I. D.
26. Revisions have been made to change the agency implementing the Young Parents Program and Leadership, Education & Athletics in Partnership program from the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to the State Department of Education (SDE), in Section A, Part I. D.
27. Revisions have been made to the description and numerical goals for the Teen Pregnancy Prevention in Section A, Part V.
28. Revisions have been made to the description for state actions relating to Statutory Rape Section A, Part VI.
29. Revisions have been made to add a section to indicate that the state intends to assist individuals in training for, seeking and obtaining Employment in Long-Term Care and Elder Care in accordance with Section 402(a)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act, added to Section B, Part V.

The following is a list of programs that have been removed from the TANF plan effective October 1, 2011, as they no longer participate or are claimed as TANF programs. The letter and number preceding the program name is the reference from the 2009-2011 TANF Plan.

Non-Recurrent Short Term Benefit Programs

C. 11. Emergency Assistance

Catholic Charities, Inc. – Archdiocese of Hartford, Basic Human Needs Greater Hartford, Basic Human Needs Greater New Haven, Family Center Waterbury, Waterbury Family Center Basic Human Needs, and Emergency Assistance; Gifts of Love, Basic Needs Program; Human Resources of New Britain, Inc., New Britain Food and Resource Center; Jewish Family Services of Greater Hartford, Kosher Food Pantry; JUNTA for Progressive Action, Family Management and Information Referral; Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis, Inc., Short-Term Domestic Violence Services; Mystic Area Shelter and Hospitality, Inc., (MASH), Homelessness Prevention Program for Families with Children; New Haven Home Recovery, Inc., HPRP; Town of Hamden, Town of Hamden General Assistance Program; Windham Area Interfaith Ministry Energy Assistance Program; Greater New Haven Community Loan Fund, Rescue; Jewish Family Services of Greater Hartford, Basic Human Needs; Middlesex County Coalition on Housing and Homelessness (MCCHH); Fiduciary – Middlesex United Way, Inc., Homelessness Prevention Program; United Way of Greater New Haven, Neighbor-to-Neighbor Lifeline; Mutual Housing dba NeighborWorks New Horizons, Rent Bank; New Haven Home Recovery, Inc., Stable Families; Family Services of Greater Waterbury, Inc., Personal Needs; Operation Fuel, Inc., Utilities Assistance Program; United Way of Greater New Haven, Community Flexible Benefits Fund; United Way of Coastal Fairfield County, Neighbor-to-Neighbor program.

C. 12. Economic Stabilization Services

Community Renewal Team, Inc., (CRT) Access to Food; Co-opportunity, Inc., Asset Building 1 (Budget Coaching and Financial literacy); Co-opportunity, Inc., Asset Building 2 (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance/Earner Income Tax Credit); Greater New Haven Community Loan Fund, Foreclosure Counseling;

C. 13. Social Services Safety Net Programs for Families

Family & Children Agency, Inc., Intensive Safety Planning Program – Family Support & Intervention; Intensive Family Preservation Program, and Parent Aide Program.

C. 14. Furniture and Home Goods

Covenant to Care for Children, Inc., Critical Goods Distribution Program; Family Life Education, Inc. Donation Room & School Supplies; New Haven Home Recovery, Inc., The Furniture Co-Op.

C. 15. Educational and Youth Support and Supplies

Hands on Hartford, Back to School Kickoff Events; Norwalk Housing Foundation, Inc., Computer for College-Bound Public Housing Residents attending college in September 2010 in 4th quarter 2010; Waterbury Youth Services System, Inc., Back to School Rally; Housing Authority of the City of Bridgeport, Emergency Education Program-Bridgeport; Bridgeport Board of Education Parent Center, Be Prepared: Bridgeport Back Pack Program; New Opportunities, Inc., New Opportunities, Inc., - Back to School Program

C. 16. Emergency Shelter with Domestic Violence Services

Hartford Interval House, Inc., Interval house; Prudence Crandall Center, Prudence Crandall Emergency Shelter; Susan B. Anthony Project, Domestic Violence Shelter

C. 17. Emergency Homeless Shelter

Christian Community Action, Inc. Hillside Family Shelter; Connecticut Department of Social Services, Counselors in Shelters and Emergency Shelters; Holy Family Home and Shelter, Emergency Shelter; Mystic Area Shelter and Hospitality, Inc., (MASH), Rapid Re-Housing Program for Homeless Families with Children. New Haven Home Recovery, Inc., The CareWays and Martha's Place Emergency Shelters.

C. 18. Food Bank and Crisis Food Support

Christian Community Action, Inc., Thanksgiving Food Program, Family Life Education, Inc., Food Distribution; Town of Hamden, Town of Hamden Food Bank; St. John's Family Center, Inc., Food Pantry; Covenant to Care for Children, Inc., Crisis Food Support-New Britain; Brass City harvest, Inc., Pilot Farmers' Market Double Value Coupons for EBT/WIC Sales; Norwalk Housing Foundation, Inc. Summer Lunch for at-risk –match is GLEAM: Generating Literacy Education through Artistic Modeling.

C. 19. Job Training for Youth (non-subsidized employment)

Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU), Summer Educational Opportunity Program; USA Moving Forward Learning Center, education Services for All Ages including those with Disabilities; Human Resources Agency of New Britain, Inc., Youth Employment Services Program; Connecticut Public Broadcasting, Inc., Project Reach Higher

C. 20. Jobs and Training

South Arsenal Neighborhood Development (SAND) Corporation, STRIVE/SAND, The WorkPlace, Inc., Mortgage Crisis Job Training Program; The Young Women's Christian Association of New Britain, Inc., The YWCA New Britain Certified Nurse Assistant Training Program; Community Action Committee of Danbury, Inc.

(CACD), Employment Initiative; The Urban League of Greater Hartford, Medical Billing and Coding Specialists Training Program; CT Business & Industry Association Education Foundation, Electric/Gas Utility Worker Training; CT Business & Industry Association Education Foundation, Solar Photovoltaic NABCEP Certificate of Knowledge – Installation and Technical Sales CT Puerto Rican Forum and Spanish American Merchants Association, E-Workplace Basics with Business Tools for Entrepreneurs.

C. 21. Jobs and Training (with focus on non-custodial parents)
Greater Bridgeport Community Enterprises, Inc. (The Green Team), Greater Bridgeport Community Enterprises, Inc. (GBCE) – Skills Training/Deconstruction, ReUse & Recycling; Family Strides, Inc., Family Strides, inc., Job Training Partnership Program.

C. 22. Educational/Career Oriented Summer Programs
Junior Achievement of Southwest New England, Inc., JA Success Skills; Our Piece of the Pie, Inc., River Wrights Science Program; Eastern CT State University, "College Knowledge" Program; Waterbury Youth Service System, Inc., Gender Specific Vocational Skill Program (GSVSP); Western Connecticut State University, Young Writer's Camp.

C. 23. Camp and Recreational Activities
Town of Hamden, Camp Scholarships; Solar Youth, Inc., Solar Youth Summer Camp; Children's Community School, Inc., CCS Summer Bridges Program; Boys & Girls Club of New Haven, Summer Care Initiative; Charter Oak Cultural Center, Summer Youth Arts Institute; CT Coalition to End Homelessness, Summer Campership and Recreation Program; Boys & Girls Club of Waterbury, Summer Camperships; Shakesperience Productions, Inc., Summer Acting Classes for Needy Youth; Wellspring Foundation, Summer Adventure Experience;

C. 24. Diapers and New Baby Supplies
Family Life Education, Inc., Diaper Bank; Family life Education, Inc., Emergency Client Funds/New Baby Supplies; The Diaper Bank, Emergency Diaper Distribution for The Diaper Bank Clients; The Diaper Bank, Emergency Diaper Funding for low-income CT Residents

C. 26. Pregnancy Prevention
Fair Haven Community Health Clinic, Inc. PUMA

C. 27. Short Term Congregate Care for Children
The Village for Families & Children, Inc. Safe Home.

C. 28. Family Support
Meriden Children's First, Meriden Family Zone.

C. 29. Job Readiness and Emergency Assistance
Norwalk Economic Opportunity Now, Inc. Neighbor2Neighbor.

C. 30. Critical Goods and Services for Youth
Covenant for Care for Children, Inc., Children's Enrichment Fund.

C. 31. Short-Term Child Care Subsidy and Family Support
Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness, Children in Shelters Program.

C. 32. Emergency, Basic Needs and Family Support Assistance
Friendship Service Center of New Britain, Inc., Melville Educational Opportunities Fund.

C. 33. Vocational Assessment, Education and Individual Development Plan
Family Centers, Reaching Independence through Employment (RITE).

C. 35. Family Stabilization
Child Health and Development Institute – CHDI, Child FIRST – Family Stabilization Program.

C. 36. Literacy at Home Outreach Project
Connecticut Children's Museum, Driving Literacy Home in New Haven

<u>Subsidized Employment</u>

C. 36. Subsidized Employment Program(s)

Community Action Agency of Greater New Haven Subsidized Employment program in collaboration with Solar Youth Green Jobs Initiative, Higher Heights Empowerment Programs, Inc., Youth Rights Media, Children's Museum and TEAM, Inc. providing subsidized employment & training opportunities for youth and adults.

The Department of Labor and Regional Workforce Development Boards Subsidized Employment program continues to be included in the TANF Plan and is shown in the Employment Services program.

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WORK REQUIREMENTS

Sec. 402(a)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act

(ii) – This Work Requirements part describes how the state intends to require a parent or caretaker relative receiving assistance under the program to engage in work (as defined by the state) 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, consistent with Section 407(e)(2).

Work Requirements

Upon entering the time-limited program all adult recipients must participate in work activities, unless specifically exempted by state regulation. A person is exempt if he or she is incapacitated; age 60 or older; responsible for the care of an incapacitated family member; a non-parent caretaker relative who does not receive assistance; caring for a child under the age of one who is not subject to the family cap; pregnant or postpartum if a physician has certified that she is unable to work; or unemployable. Minor parents are exempt if attending and satisfactorily completing high school or high school equivalency programs.

WORK ACTIVITIES

Sec. 402(a)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act

(iii) – This Work Activities part describes how the state intends to ensure that parents and caretakers receiving assistance under the program engage in work activities in accordance with section 407 of the Social Security Act.

Recipients are required to engage in work activities as prescribed by their employability plans. Failure to participate without good cause results in a penalty being imposed on the entire family.

During the twenty-one month time limit, the penalty for not participating becomes progressively more severe. For the first instance of failure to participate, the penalty is a 25% reduction in the family's TFA payment for three months. For the second instance of non-compliance, the penalty is a 35% reduction in the TFA payment for three months. For all subsequent instances of non-compliance during the twenty-one month time limit, the penalty is ineligibility for TFA payments for three months. Also, when the adult who fails to comply is the only recipient of TFA, the assistance unit of one is ineligible for benefits for three consecutive months for the first, second and third offense. The three months that the family does not receive TFA payments do not count in determining twenty-one months of time limited eligibility.

If the family is penalized more than one time during the twenty-one month time limit, they are given the opportunity to participate in an Individual Performance Contract (IPC). If the IPC is successfully completed an extension may be granted. If the IPC is unsuccessful no future extension is allowed unless the family experiences special circumstances such as domestic violence or it becomes exempt from work requirements.

If a family fails to participate without good cause during an extension, the penalty is ineligibility for the remainder of the extension period. No future extension is allowed unless the family experiences special circumstances such as domestic violence.

(iii) – Work Activities Continued

The following are the categories and state definitions of the **Work Activities** for Connecticut's program:

Work Activity Categories:

1. Unsubsidized Employment
2. Subsidized Private Sector Employment
3. Subsidized Public Sector Employment
4. On-the-Job Training
5. Job Search and Job Readiness Assistance
6. Work Experience
7. Community Service Programs
8. Vocational Educational Training Not to Exceed 12 Months
9. Child Care for an Individual Participating in Community Service Program
10. Job Skills Training Directly Related to Employment
11. Education Directly Related to Employment
12. Satisfactory Attendance at Secondary School or a GED program

State Definitions of Countable Work Activities

1. **Unsubsidized Employment:** Full- or part-time employment in the public or private sector that is not subsidized by TANF or any other public program.

2. **Subsidized Private Sector Employment:** Employment in the private sector for which the employer receives a subsidy from TANF or other public funds to offset some or all of the wages and costs of employing an individual.

3. **Subsidized Public Sector Employment:** Employment in the public sector for which the employer receives a subsidy from TANF or other public funds to offset some or all of the wages and costs of employing a recipient. This includes work-study and stipend programs.

4. **On-the-Job Training:** Training in the public or private sector that is given to a paid employee while he or she is engaged in productive work and that provides knowledge and skills essential to the full and adequate performance of the job.

5. **Job Search and Job Readiness Assistance:** The act of seeking or obtaining employment, preparation to seek or obtain employment, including life skills training, and short-term substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, or rehabilitation activities. Such treatment or therapy must be determined to be necessary and documented by a qualified medical, substance abuse or mental health professional.

(iii) – Work Activities Continued

Job search and job readiness assistance activities must be supervised by the TANF agency or other responsible party on an ongoing basis no less frequently than once each day in which the individual is scheduled to participate. This activity is limited by statute to count toward the Participation rate for no more than six weeks per year (no more than four weeks may be consecutive to count toward the work participation rates).

6. **Work Experience:** A work activity performed in return for welfare that provides an individual with an opportunity to acquire the general skills, training, knowledge, and work habits necessary to obtain employment. The purpose of work experience is to improve the employability of those who cannot find unsubsidized employment. This activity must be supervised by an employer, work site sponsor, or other responsible party on an ongoing basis no less frequently than once each day in which the individual is scheduled to participate.

7. **Community Service Programs:** Structured programs in which TANF recipients perform work for the direct benefit of the community under the auspices of public or nonprofit organizations. Community service programs must be limited to projects that serve a useful community purpose in fields such as health, social service, environmental protection, education, urban and rural redevelopment, welfare, recreation, public facilities, public safety, and childcare. Community service programs are designed to improve the employability of recipients not otherwise able to obtain employment, and must be supervised on an ongoing basis no less frequently than once each day in which the individual is scheduled to participate. A State agency shall take into account, to the extent possible, the prior training, experience, and skills of a recipient in making appropriate community service assignments.

8. **Vocational Educational Training Not to Exceed 12 Months**:
Organized educational programs that are directly related to the preparation of individuals for employment in current or emerging occupations requiring training including a baccalaureate or advanced degree if incorporated in employment plan and in compliance with state and federal regulations. Vocational educational training must be supervised on an ongoing basis no less frequently than once each day in which the individual is scheduled to participate and may include work-focused general education and language instruction.

(iii) – Work Activities Continued

9. **Child Care for an Individual Participating in a Community Service Program:** Providing childcare to enable another TANF recipient to participate in a community service program. This activity must be supervised on an ongoing basis no less frequently than once each day in which the individual is scheduled to participate.

10. **Job Skills Training Directly Related to Employment:** Training or education for job skills required by an employer to provide an individual with the ability to obtain employment or to advance or adapt to the changing demands of the workplace. Job skills training directly related to employment must be supervised on an ongoing basis no less frequently than once each day in which the individual is scheduled to participate.

11. **Education Directly Related to Employment:** Education related to a specific occupation, job, or job offer. Education directly related to employment must be supervised on an ongoing basis no less frequently than once each day in which the individual is scheduled to participate.

12. **Satisfactory Attendance at Secondary School or in a GED Program:** Regular attendance, in accordance with the requirements of the secondary school or course of study, at a secondary school or in a course of study leading to a certificate of general equivalence, in the case of a work eligible individual who has not completed secondary school or received such a certificate. This activity must be supervised on an ongoing basis no less frequently than once each day in which the individual is scheduled to participate.

SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION

Sec. 402(a)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act

(iv) – This Safeguarding Information part describes how the state intends to 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.

The use and disclosure of information about individuals and families receiving assistance under the program is restricted. The department releases information concerning recipients only for purposes directly connected with the administration of the department's programs; an investigation, prosecution, or civil or criminal proceeding related to the administration of the department's program; the administration of any other federal or federally assisted program which provides assistance in cash, or in kind, or services directly to individuals on the basis of need; certification of receipt of assistance to an employer for the purposes of claiming a tax credit; an audit or similar activity conducted in connection with the administration of the program by any governmental entity authorized by law to conduct such audit or activity. The department also discloses, upon request by law enforcement officers, the address of any recipient who is wanted on charges of a felony or high misdemeanor or who is in violation of parole or probation. Any suspected cases of child neglect or abuse are reported to the Department of Children and Families.

TEEN-PREGNANCY PREVENTION

Sec. 402(a)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act

(v) – This Teen-Pregnancy Prevention part describes how the state intends 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 illegitimacy ratio of the state (as defined in Section 403(a)(2)(C)(iii) of the Social Security Act), for calendar years 2011 through 2014.

The Department of Social Services (DSS) operates a statewide teen pregnancy prevention initiative comprised of individual programs run by not-for profit organizations and municipalities in thirteen (13) Connecticut towns and cities. The communities served are: Bridgeport, East Hartford, Hartford, Killingly, Meriden, New Britain, New Haven, New London, Norwich, Torrington, Waterbury, West Haven, and Willimantic. The programs in these areas serve six-hundred ninety (690) participants.

The initiative was restructured and went out to bid in 2007 and 2008 with the purpose of procuring teen pregnancy prevention services from not-for-profit organizations and municipalities utilizing proven science-based program models. The implemented programs utilize either of two science-based models: 1) the comprehensive, long-term, holistic, youth development model, based on the Carrera program model; or 2) The Teen Outreach Program, a service learning model, where participants engage in, reflect on, and learn from community service projects. Both of these program models have been evaluated and have shown evidence that they are among the most effective approaches to preventing teen pregnancies. Currently, New Britain, Torrington, Waterbury and Willimantic have implemented Carrera programs. Bridgeport, East Hartford, Hartford, Killingly, Meriden, New Haven, New London, Norwich, and West Haven and have implemented service learning programs.

The DSS funded teen pregnancy prevention initiative funds primarily support the individual programs, but also cover independent research and evaluation with Philliber Research Associates (PRA), statistical analysis (UConn Family Planning Division), training with Michael Carrera who created the Carrera program and Wyman Associates who owns the Teen Outreach Service Learning program.

DSS worked with the Department of Public Health to include the collection of marital status information on birth certificates to allow more accurate data collection on out-of-wedlock pregnancies. DSS has set numerical goals for reducing the number out-of-wedlock pregnancies for teens between the ages of 15 and 19 in the DSS Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative to no more than 22 births per 1,000 for 2011, 22 births per 1,000 in 2012, 22 births per 1,000 in 2013 and 22 births per 1,000 in 2014.

STATUTORY RAPE

Sec. 402(a)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act

(vi) – This Statutory Rape part describes how the state intends to 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 in scope to include men.

The statutory rape laws in Connecticut, in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes are to be enforced throughout the state. State agencies work together on implementation of protocol for referral of statutory rape cases. In addition, the Department of Social Services (DSS) has notified its employees that information pertaining to any possible case of statutory rape should be referred to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) for investigation of possible child abuse. DCF may further refer the case to the Chief State's Attorney's Office for prosecution. DSS also encourages the victim and their family to report the case to the Chief State's Attorney's Office.

Teen-pregnancy prevention programs funded by DSS work intensively with young men as well as young women to address issues of health, education and other life issues.

SECTION B

TREATMENT OF FAMILIES MOVING INTO THE STATE

Sec. 402(a)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act

(i) – This Treatment of Families Moving into the State part indicates whether the state intends to treat families moving into the state from another state differently than other families under the program, and if so, how the state intends to treat such families under the program.

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

TREATMENT OF NON-CITIZENS

Sec. 402(a)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act

(ii) – This Treatment of Non Citizens part indicates whether the state intends to provide assistance under the program to individuals who are not citizens of the United States, and if so, shall include an overview of such assistance.

Connecticut provides assistance to mandatory and optional qualified aliens, as defined in Title IV of P.L. 104 - 193. All eligibility requirements, level of benefits and other provisions that pertain to U.S. citizens also apply to these non-citizens.

Aliens determined eligible for assistance must pursue citizenship to the extent possible. This requirement does not apply to victims of domestic violence or persons with mental retardation.

OBJECTIVE CRITERIA

Sec. 402(a)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act

(iii) – This Objective Criteria part sets forth objective criteria for the delivery of the benefits and the determination of eligibility and for fair and equitable treatment, including an explanation of how the state will provide opportunities for recipients who have been adversely affected to be heard in a state administrative or appeal process.

Connecticut's Objective Criteria

The State of Connecticut has developed objective criteria for the delivery of benefits, the determination of eligibility, and for fair and equitable treatment. These criteria are described in official state policies and regulations. The policies and regulations have been legally adopted under applicable provisions of state law.

Connecticut's objective criteria for delivery of benefits and determination of eligibility for TFA include standards of promptness for the determination of eligibility, periodic reviews of eligibility, standards of verification, determination of good cause for not complying with employment services requirements, and treatment and limits on income and resources.

The standard of promptness is forty-five days from the date of application for inactive cases. If the family applies for an extension of benefits before the end of the twenty-one month time limit or extension, the standard of promptness is 30 days.

Periodic reviews of eligibility are every twelve months and in the twentieth month of the time limit.

Documents are the primary sources of verification. Affidavits are accepted when other sources of verification are not available. The preponderance of evidence is the department's standard of verification.

Good cause for non-compliance with and employment services activity is defined as circumstances beyond a person's control that reasonably prevent a person from participating in an activity.

Earned income of recipients is totally excluded up to the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Once earnings reach the FPL, the family becomes ineligible for assistance. Unearned income must be less than the department's standard of need for a family to be eligible for TFA.

The resource limit is $3,000. Families are allowed to own a vehicle with an equity value less than $9,500 or a vehicle used to transport a handicapped family member.

Benefits are paid through electronic benefits transfer into an account that may be accessed by the eligible family or through direct deposit to the recipient's own bank account. The department may limit a person's control over an account through restricted payment or by providing payment directly to a third party when it has been determined that the person has mismanaged his or her finances.

Connecticut's Appeals Process

Connecticut provides timely and adequate notice prior to taking an adverse action and provides opportunities for the recipients who have been adversely affected to be heard in a state administered appeals process. There are set time limits for requesting and holding hearings and issuing decisions. Hearings are presented before impartial hearing officers. Clients are allowed to present a case, bring witnesses, ask questions and cross-examine. If the client is unhappy with the decision, he or she may request reconsideration or appeal to the courts.

WORK OPTION

Sec. 402(a)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act

(iv) - Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Section, unless the chief executive officer of the state opts out of this provision by notifying the Secretary, a state shall, consistent with the exception provided in section 407(e)(2), require a parent or caretaker receiving assistance under the program who, after receiving such assistance for 2 months is not exempt from work requirements and is not engaged in work, as determined under section 407(c), to participate in community service employment, with minimum hours per week and tasks to be determined by the state.

On September 30, 1996, the Governor sent a letter to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to opt out of this provision. While the state may use community service as a work activity, requiring every parent or caretaker do it after two months of assistance is not consistent with the design of the Jobs First program.

EMPLOYMENT IN LONG-TERM CARE AND ELDER CARE

Sec. 402(a)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act

(v) - The document shall indicate whether the State intends to assist individuals to train for, seek, and maintain employment— (I) providing direct care in a long-term care facility (as such terms are defined under section 2011); or (II) in other occupations related to elder care 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.

Connecticut intends to assist individuals to train for, seek, and maintain employment through training and job placement, to the extent possible within the Jobs First Employment Services (JFES) program, providing direct care, in a long-term care facility or in other occupations related to elder care determined appropriate by the State of Connecticut for which an unmet need for service personnel, is identified by the state.

In the Jobs First Employment Services program, the Workforce Investment Boards arrange for JFES participants to become certified nursing assistants and patient care technicians. It is the intent that some of the graduates of these programs will be employed in convalescent homes or become home health aids for the elderly. The Workforce Investment Boards are required to conduct an assessment of the needs of employers in their regions. Part of the annual plan is to address the employment needs of JFES participants and employers in general. Long-term care facilities and occupations related to elder care are included in the regional assessment.

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SECTION C

CERTIFICATIONS

STATE PLAN CERTIFICATIONS

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

The following certifications, in accordance with Sec. 402 (a) of the Social Security Act, are made by the Chief Executive officer of the State of Connecticut.

The Chief Executive Officer of the state is Governor Dannel P. Malloy.

CERTIFICATION THAT THE STATE WILL OPERATE A CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

The state will operate a child support enforcement program under the State Plan approved under part D.

CERTIFICATION THAT THE STATE WILL OPERATE A FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The state will operate a foster care and adoption assistance program under the State Plan approved under part E, and 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.

CERTIFICATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM

The Department of Social Services is the agency responsible for the administration and supervision of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.

The state consulted with and has given local governments and private sector organizations the opportunity to comment on the plan and the design of the services provided by the program described in this plan, so that services are provided in a manner appropriate to local populations. The department also gives notice and seeks comments from the public any time it amends its regulations.

Any one wishing to comment has had at least 45 days to submit comments on the substance of the plan and the design of such services.

CERTIFICATIONS

CERTIFICATION THAT THE STATE WILL PROVIDE INDIANS WITH EQUITABLE ACCESS TO ASSISTANCE

The state will provide each member of an Indian tribe, who is domiciled in the state and 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.

CERTIFICATION OF STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES TO ENSURE AGAINST PROGRAM FRAUD AND ABUSE

The state has established and is enforcing standards and procedures to insure against program fraud and abuse, including standards and procedures concerning nepotism, conflicts of interest among individuals responsible for the administration and supervision of the state program, kickbacks, and the use of political patronage.

OPTIONAL CERTIFICATION OF STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES TO ENSURE THAT THE STATE WILL SCREEN FOR AND IDENTIFY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Although standards and procedures have been developed to ensure that the state will screen for and identify domestic violence, Connecticut has decided not to include this optional certification at this time

Certified by the Governor of Connecticut

_____ _____

Dannel P. Malloy Date

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ADDENDUM A

ADDENDUM A
TEMPORARY FAMILY ASSISTANCE PAYMENT STANDARDS

1. The State of Connecticut is divided into three geographic regions on the basis of similarity in the cost of living.
2. Separate TFA payment levels are established for each region.
3. The regional breakdown of the state by cities and towns is as follows:

REGION A

Bethel	Greenwich	Norwalk	Stamford
Bridgewater	New Canaan	Redding	Washington
Brookfield	New Fairfield	Ridgefield	Weston
Danbury	New Milford	Roxbury	Westport
Darien	Newtown	Sherman	Wilton

REGION B

Andover	East Haven	Marlborough	Simsbury
Ashford	East Lyme	Meriden	Somers
Avon	Easton	Middlefield	Southington
Berlin	East Windsor	Middletown	South Windsor
Bethany	Ellington	Milford	Sprague
Bloomfield	Enfield	Monroe	Stafford
Bolton	Essex	Montville	Sterling
Bozrah	Fairfield	New Britain	Stonington
Branford	Farmington	New Haven	Stratford
Bridgeport	Franklyn	Newington	Suffield
Bristol	Glastonbury	New London	Thompson
Brooklyn	Granby	North Branford	Tolland
Burlington	Griswold	North Haven	Trumbull
Canterbury	Groton	North Stonington	Union
Canton	Guilford	Norwich	Vernon
Chaplin	Haddam	Old Lyme	Voluntown
Chester	Hamden	Old Saybrook	Wallingford
Clinton	Hampton	Orange	Waterford
Colchester	Hartford	Plainfield	Westbrook
Columbia	Hebron	Plainville	West Hartford
Coventry	Killingly	Plymouth	West Haven
Cromwell	Killingworth	Pomfret	Wethersfield
Deep River	Lebanon	Portland	Willington
Durham	Ledyard	Preston	Windsor
Eastford	Lisbon	Putnam	Windsor Locks
East Granby	Lyme	Rocky Hill	Woodbridge
East Haddam	Madison	Salem	Woodstock
East Hampton	Manchester	Scotland	
East Hartford	Mansfield	Shelton	

ADDENDUM A

TEMPORARY FAMILY ASSISTANCE PAYMENT STANDARDS

REGION C

Ansonia	Goshen	Norfolk	Torrington
Barkhamsted	Hartland	North Canaan	Warren
Beacon Falls	Harwinton	Oxford	Waterbury
Bethlehem	Kent	Prospect	Watertown
Canaan	Litchfield	Salisbury	Winchester
Cheshire	Middlebury	Seymour	Wolcott
Colebrook	Morris	Sharon	Woodbury
Cornwall	Naugatuck	Southbury	
Derby	New Hartford	Thomaston	

TEMPORARY FAMILY ASSISTANCE PAYMENT STANDARDS
REVISED FOR JULY 1, 2013

FAMILY SIZE	REGION A	REGION B	REGION C
1	$436	$ 361	$361
2	555	480	480
3	688	588	580
4	803	691	674
5	905	791	767
6	1,013	895	872
7	1,126	1,011	979
8	1,238	1,117	1,084

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ADDENDUM B

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ADDENDUM B

Notice for Public Review and Comment

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)

STATE PLAN FFY 2012 - 2014

The State of Connecticut Department of Social Services has revised the State Plan for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program to plan for federal fiscal years 2012 through 2014. Connecticut has made revisions as a result of decisions regarding program implementation and to maintain compliance with the Social Security Act and compliance with federal regulations pertaining to TANF.

The Department of Social Services is the agency responsible for the administration and supervision of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.

The TANF Plan 2012-2014, revised October 20, 2011, includes a summary of the changes starting on page 5 and is available for review by visiting the Department of Social Services website http://www.ct.gov/dss/.

Any one wishing to comment on the substance of the plan and the design of such services shall have from October 21, 2011 to December 8, 2011, allowing at least 45 days to submit comments.

Any one wishing to comment or who has questions or concerns with these amendments, may contact Julie Bisi of the Family Services Division of the Bureau of Assistance Programs at 860-424-5877 or julie.bisi@ct.gov on or before December 8, 2011. If sending comments by USPS, send to Department of Social Services, Family Services Division, 25 Sigourney Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106, Attn: Julie Bisi

The state is hereby consulting with local governments, tribal nations and private sector organizations and giving the opportunity to comment on the plan and the design of the services provided by the program described in this plan, so that services are provided in a manner appropriate to local populations. The department also hereby gives notice and seeks comments from the public at this time and any time it amends its regulations.

Published for Public Comment on October 21, 2011.

STATE PLAN CERTIFICATIONS

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CERTIFICATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM

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The state consulted with and has given local governments and private sector organizations the opportunity to comment on the plan and the design of the services provided by the program described in this plan, so that services are provided in a manner appropriate to local populations. The department also gives notice and seeks comments from the public any time it amends its regulations.

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Certified by the Governor of Connecticut

Dannel P. Malloy

Dec 23 2011
Date