



NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES
(TANF) State Plan
Effective October 1, 2020*

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INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

This document is the State of New Hampshire's plan for providing financial assistance to families with children from funds provided under Title I of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-193) and amended by the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. The Act amended Section 402 of the Social Security Act to require that states submit a plan to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that outlines how the state will provide Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits.

Since the original state plan was adopted in October 1996, New Hampshire's TANF program has continued to evolve. An amendment submitted in March 2011 incorporated all changes made from October 1, 2006, to that date. That amended plan provided all changes necessary for New Hampshire to retain its status as an eligible state under the reauthorization of the TANF program provided by the Deficit Reduction Act. The State Plan continues to incorporate all changes made from the original State Plan to the current State Plan effective October 1, 2020. Any changes made during the 27 months of this current plan will be amended within 30 days of the change.

ORGANIZATION OF THE PLAN

The sections in this document correspond to the organization of the language in the Social Security Act ("the Act") that describes the requirements of TANF state plans, including general provisions, special provisions, and optional provisions relative to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA). Attachment A contains the state's executive certifications, Attachment B contains the text of the public notice advertising availability of the 2020 TANF plan, Attachment C explains uses of maintenance of effort funds and is updated each year as these uses change, Attachment D describes the State's procedure to determine when an individual has demonstrated an inability to obtain needed childcare including how the parent is informed about the procedure and their right to an appeal.

BACKGROUND

In New Hampshire, TANF provides temporary financial assistance to families who are low-income and have dependent children under age 18, or up to age 20, if they are enrolled full-time in high school or a high school equivalency program, these dependent children must also be facing economic instability while meeting at least one of the TANF deprivation requirements. The state maintains four different eligibility categories and one category of nutritional assistance. Each eligibility category provides the same level of financial assistance. Changes in a family's circumstances, such as the age of a child or the presence of a disability, move the recipient from one TANF category to another.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 42 USC 602 (a) (1) (A) (i) of the Act: 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.

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is the single State agency that administers the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. Under TANF, financial assistance benefits are provided to families who are in need with children. New Hampshire does not provide TANF benefits to pregnant women who do not have any other children. For eligible families, parents are provided with job preparation, work, and support services.

The program operates uniformly in all parts of the State. DHHS provides access to the supports of the TANF program through 13 District Offices located throughout the state, administered by the Bureau of Family Assistance (BFA).

The policies through which DHHS administers the TANF program can be found in the Family Assistance Manual on the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services website, which is located at [Family Assistance Manual \(nh.gov\)](https://www.nh.gov/family-assistance-manual).

All New Hampshire residents may apply for TANF financial assistance and can expect to be fairly determined for eligibility for services under the policies described above. All individuals who apply for assistance are advised of their rights and responsibilities as a part of the application protocol. It is the policy of DHHS not to discriminate against individuals because of their race, creed, color, sex, age, political affiliation or beliefs, religion, national origin, handicap, or disability. The application process, rights and responsibilities, and non-discrimination policy are further described in Section 100 of the Family Assistance Manual including the separation of duties policy.

New Hampshire residents have the choice to apply for services via the NH Easy application portal or by telephone application by calling the Customer Service Center. Clients may also choose to maintain their eligibility by establishing a NH Easy account on-line and conducting the eligibility operations through the account. TANF financial assistance applicants have access to applications for SNAP, Medicaid, and Child Care services through the same operation. New Hampshire residents may apply for TANF benefits through NH Easy at <https://nheasy.nh.gov>.

As mentioned above, New Hampshire accepts applications and redeterminations via electronic transmission and by telephone. The need to print and sign a paper application has been eliminated by adopting an electronic or telephonic signature process. Electronic signatures were accepted beginning September 23, 2009, via the on-line NH Easy system, and as of October 5, 2011 the telephonic signature process was approved to be acceptable for TANF applications and redeterminations.

New Hampshire uses document imaging, eliminating the need for the storage of paper records to verify eligibility. All verifications required to determine and maintain eligibility are scanned into a central database and delivered to individual electronic files, accessible from all District Offices by pertinent staff. Prior paper eligibility records were scanned and delivered to individual e-files for access and ongoing record keeping. The database is accessible through the New HEIGHTS eligibility system, and documents are sorted both by the case they belong to and by the worker assigned to that case. Workers have an electronic

dashboard that tracks the number of unprocessed documents in the database. The digitalization of District Office client files has allowed DHHS a new degree of administrative efficiency in managing the significant increase in caseloads and offering clients a new level of access to their file information regarding application and eligibility through a NH Easy online account where recipients can report changes and upload verifications directly to their case through their NH Easy account. If an applicant is having difficulty providing verifications, the Family Services Specialist can make a collateral contact for verification. If that is not possible, DHHS has the flexibility, as needed for alternatives, such as a signed declaration.

To be eligible for any of the financial programs offered under the TANF program, eligible families must have an eligible dependent child and the eligible dependent child must meet all of the following categorical criteria: live with a specified relative, be deprived of support or care of a parent, and meet the age requirement. More information regarding an eligible dependent child can be found in the FAM under:

[Section 207.03 - Eligible Dependent Child as requirement for TANF](#)

[Section 207.05 - Living with a Specified Relative](#)

[Section 207.07 - Dependent Children who are Student \(18 or 19 year olds\)](#)

[Section 207.09 - Deprivation of the Support or Care of a Parent](#)

[Section 207.11 - When a Dependent Child Reaches Maximum Age](#)

[Section 207.13 - Verifications needed for of an Eligible Dependent Child](#)

More information regarding Deprivation of an eligible Dependent Child can be found in

[Section 209.01 - Deprivation and Eligibility Requirements for TANF](#)

Per state rule He-W 601.04 (c), New Hampshire defines “family” as one or more children and adults who are related by blood, marriage, or adoption who reside in the same home. Household composition for TANF is comprised of all children who are blood, adoptive, or step-related siblings, provided they, live with a specified relative; are under the age of 18 or are under age 20 and are full-time students in a secondary school or its equivalent; meet all nonfinancial criteria for TANF; and are deprived of parental support or care due to the death, continued absence, or incapacity of a parent. All natural, adoptive, and step-related parents of the children, cohabitating adults who share a minor child, and the minor "common" child, are "counted" in the assistance group when there is no deprivation, but are not considered TANF recipients. If deprivation requirements are met by the cohabitating adult who shares a minor child with the TANF applicant, the cohabitating adult and shared minor child are considered "eligible" members in the TANF assistance group, as opposed to "counted." For more specific information regarding household composition it can be located in the FAM under Composition of Assistance:

[Section 211.01 - Who Must Be Members](#)

[Section 211.03 - Disqualified Individuals](#)

[Section 211.05 - Who Must be Separate](#)

[Section 211.09 - Who May Be Members](#)

[Section 211.11- Who is Not a Member](#)

Individuals applying for TANF cash assistance must meet the non-financial criteria by providing proof of identity, New Hampshire residence, U.S. citizenship or eligible qualified alien, and social security number of all members of the assistance group before able to receive benefits. Additional details are located under the following sections in the FAM:

[Section 301.07 - Verification of Identity](#)

[Section 303.01- Residence for Eligibility](#)

[Section 305.01- Definition of U.S Citizen](#)

[Section 305.09 - Determining Qualified Alien](#)

[Section 305.11 - Eligibility for Certain Qualified Aliens](#)

[Section 305.13 - Qualified Aliens Eligible Without Restriction](#)

[Section 305.17- Qualified Aliens with Restricted Eligibility Based on Date into the U.S](#)

[Section 309.01- SSN Eligibility and Applicant Notification Requirement](#)

Parents, whether in the cash Assistance Group (AG) or not, or caretaker relatives included in the cash AG must cooperate with efforts to obtain support, identify liable relatives, and establish the paternity of a child for whom assistance is requested. Caretaker relatives are required to cooperate with efforts to obtain child support unless they can provide a good cause reason for non-cooperation. Parents or caretaker relatives included in the cash AG who fail to cooperate with the Bureau of Child Support Services are subject to sanction.

Households applying for or receiving TANF financial assistance must apply for and fully pursue all potential sources of income or benefits available to any member of the assistance group.

[Section 317.01 - Potential Sources of Income](#)

[Section 317.07 - Cooperation Requirements for Developing Potential Sources of Income](#)

Individuals who apply for TANF cannot be a fugitive felon or a violator of probation or parole.

[Section 319 - Fugitive Felons and Violators of Probation or Parole](#)

In addition to categorical and general requirements, an assistance group must meet financial eligibility requirements in order to receive assistance. Financial requirements are broken into two components:

- income, and
- resources

An assistance group which meets the income requirements is income-eligible. An assistance group which meets the resource requirements is resource-eligible. The assistance group is determined to be financially eligible if both income and resource requirements are met.

General income information can be found in the FAM under:

[Section 503 - Available Income,](#)

[Section 505 - Whose Income Counts?](#)

[Section 507 - Treatment of Income](#)

[Section 509 - Verification](#)

[Section 511- Common Types of Income](#)

[Section 513 - Less Common Types of Income](#)

General resource information can be found in the FAM under:

[Section 403 - Resource Limits](#)

[Section 405 - Whose Resources Count?](#)

[Section 409 - Common Types of Resources](#)

[Section 411 - Less Common Types of Resources](#)

[Section 413 - Verification of Resources](#)

[Section 415 - Transfer of Property](#)

The amount of financial assistance provided to the family is based on family size, the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) along with family income. The amount of financial assistance listed in the “Payment Standards” is set at 60% of the FPG by [RSA 167:77-g](#), to be updated each year.

Detailed information regarding standards and budgets can be found in the FAM under the following:

[Section 601- Income Limits, Payment Standards, and Allotments](#)

[Section 603 - Deductions and Disregards](#)

[Section 603.01- Earned Income Disregards](#)

[Section 603.03 - Employment Expenses Disregard](#)

[Section 603.05 - Child/Dependent Care Deduction](#)

[Section 603.09 - Other Allowable Deductions](#)

[Section 613 - Rounding Procedures](#)

[Section 615 - Benefits: Determination, Frequency, and Issuance](#)

[Section 607- Conversion to Monthly Amounts](#)

[Section 609 - Fluctuating Income](#)

[Section 609.01 - Averaging Fluctuating Income](#)

[Section 609.03 - Time Frames for Using Averaged Fluctuating Income](#)

[Section 611- Income Budgeting](#)

[Section 315.05 - Sanctions/Disqualification for Voluntary Quit](#)

Details pertaining to benefit application, the interview process as well as the reporting requirements for TANF assistance can be found in the FAM under:

[Section 109 - Application Process](#)

[Section 109.01- Filing an Application](#)

[Section 109.03 - Processing a Filed Application](#)

[Section 109.13 - Concurrent Receipt of Financial Assistance](#)

[Section 117- Application Processing Timeframes](#)

[Section 123 - Benefit Delivery Time Frame](#)

[Section 127- Interviews](#)

[Section 133 - Length of Eligibility](#)

[Section 135 - Providing Notices to Individuals](#)

[Section 141 - Advance Notice Period](#)

[Section 145.01- Reporting Requirements](#)

Financial assistance is determined for a specific period of time called the eligibility period. At the end of the eligibility period, benefits continue to be issued automatically until action is taken to terminate assistance. Eligibility for all individuals is redetermined at regularly scheduled intervals. Information regarding these redeterminations can be found in the FAM under:

[Section 161- Redetermination/Recertification](#)

[Section 161.01- Timely Notice](#)

[Section 161.03 - Required Verification for Redetermination/Recertification](#)

[Section 161.05 - Processing Redetermination/Recertifications](#)

[Section 161.07- Termination at Redetermination/Recertification](#)

TANF ASSISTANCE CATEGORIES

New Hampshire Employment Program (NHEP) is an employment support program that provides financial assistance to eligible families with able-bodied parents and assists those parents with upward economic mobility through the provision of employment support and training services. The goals of the NHEP is to put individuals and their families first while strengthening resources, and local access to support, giving them the chance to thrive and succeed at work and home.

Families With Older Children (FWOC) provides financial assistance to families that include a child who is 19 years old, up to age 20 who are still full-time students in high school, or at the equivalent level of vocational or technical training. These children meet the definition of a dependent child under the State of New Hampshire law, but not under federal regulations. The FWOC program has a mandatory work requirement for the able-bodied parents and provides the same employment and training supports as the New Hampshire Employment Program does.

The goal of the FWOC program is to allow teenagers who are low-income the opportunity to complete basic education with the benefit of their parent(s) having a financial safety net while working with the employment support program.

Interim Disabled Parent (IDP) provides financial assistance to families in which a parent is temporarily unable to participate in work programs due to their own medical condition or disability. The IDP program has a mandatory work requirement only for the able-bodied adults in the household and provides the same employment and training supports as the mandatory work program for able-bodied adults. The goals of the IDP program is to provide financial assistance that allows a family to care for children in their own home during times of short term physical and/or psychological disability while offering employment support services to the parent who is able to work.

Family Assistance Program (FAP) provides financial assistance for families in which the children do not receive the care of both parents due to continued absence or disability. The children may be cared for by the disabled parent(s) or by a caretaker relative, who is their legal guardian. The relative caretaker may or may not be included in the case for determining eligibility. FAP has no mandatory work requirements. In a relative caregiver case, if the relative chooses to be included in the assistance group for financial assistance, the case would be considered an NHEP case. The goal of the FAP is to eliminate or reduce the harmful effects of families and children who are low-income by providing financial assistance and medical assistance to families with children in this category.

***Note:** Individuals who are categorically eligible for any of the above TANF financial assistance programs are also eligible for the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as Food Stamps), and for Medical Assistance (Medicaid).*

TANF NUTRITIONAL ASSISTANCE

Nutritional Supplement for Working Families (NSWF) Effective October 1, 2011, New Hampshire established a new TANF nutritional program for families who are low-income and receiving SNAP benefits. NSWF provides a twice-monthly nutritional assistance stipend. This program helps the family purchase their food, leaving more income for shelter, transportation, child care, and other family necessities. The program design makes NSWF assistance available to single-parent families who are receiving SNAP benefits, have a child less than 18 years of age in the house, and are working at least 35 hours every week. This program is funded by state funds as a separate state program. The funds count towards the State's Maintenance of Effort (MOE) and the state in turn counts these families in their state work participation rate.

TANF NON ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Emergency Assistance is available to TANF-eligible individuals to obtain or retain safe and healthy housing, mortgage and utility arrearages, rent and utility deposits, and fuel deliveries. In addition, emergency assistance payments for family preservation are also made through DHHS' Division for Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF). DCYF is responsible for determining eligibility for and authorization of these EA payments when a child is experiencing an emergency due to child abuse, neglect, abandonment; the imminent risk of the child's removal from the home; or an urgent situation where continued presence in the home is not in the best interest of the child. More information regarding Emergency Assistance eligibility can be found in the family assistance manual under:

[Section 703.01 - Purpose](#)

[Section 703.05 - Emergency Assistance Eligibility Requirements](#)

TANF Information and Referral Service provides families who are eligible for SNAP benefits with information and referral to other available assistance.

Comprehensive Family Support Services (CFSS) assist pregnant and parenting women and other families with children up to the age of 21 years by promoting family wellness, decreasing family stressors and preventing child abuse and neglect. These community-based programs are designed to enable families to access the services they need and want in their own communities.

Section 402(a)(1)(A)(ii) of the Act: Require a parent or caretaker 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)

AND;

Section 402(a)(1)(A)(iii) of the Act: Ensure that parents and caretakers receiving assistance under the program engage in work activities in accordance with section 407.

Per New Hampshire [RSA 167:85](#), all parents and caretaker relatives applying for and receiving assistance under the program must attend and participate in required appointments, employment contract development, and employment-related activities for eligibility into, and while participating in, the program unless temporarily exempt from participation as authorized by [RSA 167:82, II](#). Individuals are enrolled into the program and scheduled for their first appointment with an employment counselor by the FSSs at intake and are required to engage in work and/or work activities immediately following and ongoing.

The New Hampshire Employment Program (NHEP) design minimizes the stigma of public assistance that focuses on work as a positive way to eliminate poverty and strengthening families. The program focuses on upward economic mobility, increasing parent and child well-being. Employment is promoted by:

- Providing comprehensive vocational assessment, career planning, and barrier resolution referrals and supports for all mandatory and volunteer TANF cash recipients;
- Assisting participants to gain employment as rapidly as possible, given due consideration to individual circumstances, labor market conditions, the needs of the dependent children for continuing care and protection, and the ultimate goal of long-term economic independence;

- Supporting and coordinating with activities that promote self-sufficiency and strengthen family life;
- Providing a comprehensive support service package that includes: medical assistance, food stamps, child care, transportation, child support, and other support services necessary to promote economic independence;
- Promoting successful transition from public assistance through the provision of job readiness activities, training, and education activities concurrently with employment or seeking employment, family support skills, and follow-up services for problem resolution and job advancement;
- Developing partnerships with employers to create job opportunities and meet the needs of both employers and participants; and
- Providing a program where it is more advantageous to work than not to work by rewarding self-sufficiency.

An individual's work requirement status is reviewed at the time of application, redetermination, or when an individual reports a change to determine if the individual is an exempt or mandatory participant in the NHEP.

Allowable exemptions are described in Section [808.05](#) of the Family Assistance Manual. Certain individuals may be temporarily or permanently exempt from NHEP work requirements. TANF recipients who claim a Medical exemption based on a short-term health condition will need to have their exemption reviewed every 6 months, less if verification of health condition is less than 6 months. If the second exemption request is for an exemption for the same condition or if the authorized healthcare provider indicates that this condition will last at least 12 months, the individual must provide proof to the Family Service Specialist (FSS) within 30 days that the individual has applied for other benefits for which he or she is potentially eligible, such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Income (SSDI), Veteran's Administration (VA) benefits, Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled (APTD), or Aid to the Needy Blind (ANB).

Those engaged with NHEP are referred to an Employment Counselor Specialist (ECS). ECS staff are employed by the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services and Southern New Hampshire Services, a Community Action Agency. ECS staff work with participants to assess their skills and abilities and develop an individualized employment plan. It is through that employment plan that employment-related activities and support services are made available to participants, either through the New Hampshire Employment Program, or other community services. All mandatory individuals are required to participate in a work activity to meet participation requirements. Acceptable work activities may include any combination of the following:

- Unsubsidized employment
- Work Experience
- On-the-job training
- Job Search and Job Readiness
- Community Service
- Vocational Educational Training

- Job Skills Training Directly Related to Employment

English as a Second Language

- Single Course of Study
- Attendance at Secondary School
- Barrier Resolution/Family Intervention

For a description of each work activity, in-depth information regarding the New Hampshire Employment Program, and the support services that are offered, please refer to New Hampshire's most recent Work Verification Plan, submitted July 2016.

Employment Counselor Specialists provide online options for participants to engage in work activities virtually, such as online trainings, job search and work readiness to keep them engaged without needing to go to a training site.

When individuals are participating in approved employment-related activities, support services are available to help individuals pay for such expenses as transportation, car repairs, child care, and required equipment for the position, uniforms, tuition, books, fees, and supplies. Employment-related services are provided as described in [Section 808.41](#) of the Family Assistance Manual.

[Section 407\(e\)\(2\)](#) of the SSA indicates that a state may not reduce or terminate assistance under the state program funded under this part or any other state program funded with qualified state program funded with qualified state expenditures (as defined in section 409(a)(7)(B)(i)) based on a refusal of an individual to engage in work required in accordance with this section if the individual is a single custodial parent caring for a child who has not attained 6 years of age, and the individual proves that the individual has a demonstrated inability (as determined by the state) to obtain needed child care. The following definitions are applied to determine whether the parent has a demonstrated inability to obtain needed child care:

- "Appropriate child care" means the child care provider is: open for the hours and days the parent would need child care in order to comply with work requirements; able and willing to provide child care services including any of those required to address special needs of the children; either licensed or license-exempt for the appropriate age group in accordance with RSA 170E; and providing care that is representative of the quality of child care provided to other children in the community.
- "Reasonable distance" means the distance of the available child care provider from the individual's residence and then to his or her work activity is not substantially greater than the distance that others living in the same town or city would travel for child care services and then to their work activity.
- "Unsuitability of informal child care" means that the child care provider is license exempt and was not able to successfully pass the background check required in RSA 170E:7 related to the State central registry and criminal records check, or the child care provider was not able to meet the conditions specified in the employment-related child care program rules He-C 6914 and He-C6920.
- "Affordable child care arrangements" refers to equal access to child care that can be maintained without undue financial hardship to the family.

Good Cause for Non-Cooperation with NHEP is detailed under [Section 808.33](#) of the Family Assistance Manual.

Mandatory individuals who fail to meet participation requirements and who do not have a good cause reason for the failure are sanctioned. The sanction policy is listed in [Section 808.35](#) Compliance Requirements, [Section 808.31](#) Sanctions for Voluntary Quit, Or Failure/Refusal to Cooperate with NHEP Work Program Participation Requirements, and [Section 808.36](#) Actions Taken During A Sanction Period of the Family Assistance Manual.

Section 402(a)(1)(A)(iv) of the Act: 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.

Policy regarding confidentiality and disclosure of client information remains the same as the one in effect from September 30, 1996 [reference RSA 167:30] with the exception described in Section 408(a)(9)(B) of the Social Security Act, as amended, relative to providing information to law enforcement officials. Information concerning applicants and recipients is confidential. DHHS's confidentiality policy is described in Section 100 of the Family Assistance Manual. Use or disclosure of information in DHHS's files is limited to persons directly involved in administration or enforcement of the DHHS's programs, or as otherwise permitted by policy, or federal or state laws. Agencies and individuals who contract with DHHS to provide services to TANF clients must meet DHHS's confidentiality requirements, and sign a statement to that effect.

The State of New Hampshire has established certain protocols to provide a consistent response by the Department of Health and Human Services when employees become aware of a potential crime under RSA 631: Assault and Related Offenses and/or 632:-A Sexual Assault and Related Offenses.

Certain divisions within DHHS have the opportunity for interactions with children requiring DHHS to share necessary confidential client information with professional community members outside DHHS, in the interest of protecting children. The protocol described below assures that staff, upon knowing either of the following circumstances, shall immediately report such information to DCYF Central Intake:

1. A child under the age of sixteen (16) is pregnant or has given birth while under the age of sixteen (16) or,
2. A child under the age of eighteen (18) who has given birth or is pregnant as the result of force.

Consistent with current practice, once Central Intake receives this information, a notification will be provided to both local law enforcement and the appropriate county attorney's office. This process is in accordance with DHHS's goal to reduce further trauma for children and to assure prompt notification to appropriate law enforcement.

Section 402(a)(1)(A)(v) of the Act: 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)(B)).

The New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services (DPHS) Family Planning Program (FPP) collaborates with BFA to assist in the prevention of unintended pregnancies. In SFY 2019, nine (9)

subcontractors provided family planning services to NH residents who are low-income among 11 service sites across the state.

In FFY 19, the Family Planning Program, funded through a Title X grant from Office of Public Affairs (OPA), with additional TANF funds, provided clinical and educational services to 4,432 individuals. Among these, 2,257 (50%) of individuals have incomes below 100% of the federal poverty level, and 3,940 (89%) have incomes below 250% of the federal poverty level. Out of the 4,432 individuals, less than 1% of individuals have an unknown/unreported income status.

TANF funds are distributed to these sub-contractors to further support sexual and reproductive health services, by funding outreach and education activities outside the service site, to promote awareness of family planning and reproductive health services through partnerships with schools, support agencies, and other community-based venues.

NH TANF-Family Planning Collaborative Project program provides awareness of and access to family planning services for individuals who are low income through the expansion of Title X community education programs and outreach efforts; and increasing the use of the most effective methods of contraception to prevent unintended pregnancies, particularly among adolescents that are low-income as well as other individuals who may be vulnerable.

Additionally, with these funds, the sub-contractors provide targeted education to the youth to impact their knowledge, attitudes, and behavior, to prevent teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Teen program topics include Parent Child Communication, Family Involvement, Peer Education Training, Education on Contraception (including Abstinence Education), STI and HIV prevention and risk reduction, and promotion of overall sexual and reproductive health care. Through the TANF-Family Planning Collaborative Project, the FPP's sub-contractors provide outreach and education annually at approximately one hundred and fifty (150) events throughout the state.

Home Visiting New Hampshire (HVNH) is a voluntary, preventive program that provides health, education, and support to pregnant women who are low-income and their families. Data from the SFY shows that 83% of women enrolled in the HVNH/CFSS program received further evaluation/treatment for perinatal depression, following identification by a formal validated depression screening. TANF continued to support HVNH as a strategy of strategically designed, supportive services that promote healthy development and strong families. These young families participate in this comprehensive home visiting program beginning early in their pregnancy until their child's first birthday. The model employs the Parents as Teachers (PAT) or Growing Great Kids (GGK) curriculum, and includes a nurse home visit once during each trimester throughout the pregnancy, one post-natal visit, and three visits to the infant prior to his first birthday. The HVNH programs employ the GGK or the PAT curriculum. The program serves children and families up to age 18 years through a variety of family-centered activities such as creating a family goal plan with the family, supporting families in getting to their post-partum visit, and open discussions around family planning. HVNH home visiting services support families in increasing knowledge about the benefits of family planning and father engagement.

Section 402(a)(1)(A)(vi) of the Act: 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 New Hampshire Family Planning Program (NH FPP), a grantee of Title X funds through the Office of Population Affairs, is contracted with nine health centers that provide sexual and reproductive health services to men and women of reproductive age throughout the state of New Hampshire. The contracted agencies provide a broad range of services including contraceptives, pregnancy testing, pregnancy counseling and referrals, annual physical exams, education and counseling on family planning topics, screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, breast, and cervical cancer screenings, and confidential adolescent health services. Adolescent confidential services are provided for adolescents and young adults who are currently under their parents' insurance. This service allows for these clients to seek out sexual and reproductive health services without the fear or repercussions for doing so. During adolescent family planning visits, adolescents are counseled on the promotion of parental involvement, abstinence as an option, and ways to resist coercion. Adolescent coercion counseling includes an explanation of what sexual coercion is, reinforces the inappropriateness of and harm it causes, and the discussion on how to plan for ways to resist sexual coercion by others and avoid using sexual coercion on others.

Within the network of the NH FPP, many contracted agencies have dedicated walk-in teen health hours and Manchester Community Health Center/Child Health Services has a dedicated teen health clinic. Through the focus on adolescents, there is an initiative to reach not only young women but also young men through raising awareness and the promotion of available adolescent sexual and reproductive health services at contracted NH Family Planning health centers.

The NH FPP collaborates with local school and youth organization partners to implement Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP), a program that educates young people on abstinence and contraception to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS. The program is targeted for adolescents up to 19 years old and pregnant or parenting adolescents up to 21 years old. The evidence-based program models have proven to delay sexual activity, increase condom and contraceptive use for sexually active youth or reduce pregnancy among youth. The program also includes activities to prepare for adulthood, which include education on healthy relationships, adolescent development, and health life skills. The curriculums facilitated in the NH PREP program, FOCUS and Reducing the Risk (RTR). FOCUS is a program designated for young women while RTR is facilitated to young men. Both programs are available to high school-aged youth and are facilitated within two regions of the state, in Claremont at the TLC Resource Center and Manchester Community Health Center/Child Health Services in Manchester. These two regions were selected due to their high teen birth rate.

The two curricula used in PREP have demonstrated changes in attitude, knowledge and behaviors that contribute to reductions in unintended pregnancy and/ or sexually transmitted infections. The curricula have the potential to reduce incidences of statutory rape because each teaches students responsible decision-making relative to sexual activity. Participants routinely rehearse communication, refusal and negotiation skills, self-advocacy and problem solving approaches to sexual pressure. They are also taught to pre-contemplate responses to situations that might involve sexual risk such as being in the presence of alcohol and drugs, dating or being coerced by partners of a different age, etc.

The Family Planning Program also works with the state Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, which has a strong emphasis on prevention of dating violence and the development of consensual sexual relationships. Many of the NH FPP contracted agencies collaborate closely with Coalition member agencies to provide support to young women and men in making appropriate sexual decisions.

The NH FPP have been active in training providers who work with young people on sexual health issues in understanding state assault laws and the issue of sexual consent.

The NH FPP in collaboration with the Family Planning National Training Center provides training for family planning staff at contracted clinics that includes women and men family planning physical assessments and family planning counseling skills.

Section 402(a)(1)(A)(vii) of the Act: Implement policies and procedures as necessary to prevent access to assistance provided under the State program funded under this part through any electronic fund transaction in an automated teller machine or point-of-sale device located in a place described in section [408\(a\)\(12\)](#), including a plan to ensure that recipients of the assistance have adequate access to their cash assistance.

AND;

Section 402(a)(1)(A)(viii) of the Act: Ensure that recipients of assistance provided under the State program funded under this part have access to using or withdrawing assistance with minimal fees or charges, including an opportunity to access assistance with no fee or charges, and are provided information on applicable fees and surcharges that apply to electronic fund transactions involving the assistance, and that such information is made publicly available.

New Hampshire (NH) has implemented policies and practices to comply with the mandates of Section 4004 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (P.L. 112-96), and prevent assistance funded with TANF and TANF maintenance-of-effort funds from being used in any electronic benefit transfer transaction in any liquor store; any casino, gambling or gaming establishment; or any retail establishment which provides adult-oriented entertainment in which performers disrobe or perform in an unclothed state for entertainment.

NH passed legislation in June of 2013, effective January 1, 2014, that provided an addition to RSA 167:7 at RSA 167:7-b. RSA 167:7-b prohibits any person receiving public cash assistance from using electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards or cash obtained with EBT cards for the purpose of purchasing or participating in any activities in any location as listed in the law and above, which includes the three locations identified in P.L.112-96. The law imposes client penalties on cash and EBT use for TANF, Old Age Assistance (OAA), Aid to the Needy Blind (ANB), and Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled (APTD) programs as all four programs are administered through the same EBT contractor and cards. At the same time, the law directed the listed businesses to not knowingly accept direct cash assistance funds held on an EBT card or cash obtained with EBT cards using an ATM or POS device on business premises and provides the authority for DHHS to refer the business sites to their respective regulatory authorities.

NH amended administrative rules to direct the implementation of RSA 167:7-b at He- W 608.01 by removing (a) that required *no* restrictions and adding 608.02 which provides details of how and when the penalty is applied. It also added definitions regarding which businesses are restricted by the legislation. The rules at 608.02 (d-f) specify the conditions and penalty if the cardholder is not a beneficiary, as in child-only or protective payee cases. Additional language was also added to further specify how DHHS identifies prohibited adult entertainment, liquor stores, and gambling outlets.

DHHS developed an extensive communication plan to inform clients and businesses about the new EBT card/ cash restrictions and penalties. The communication plan includes one-time and ongoing strategies to alert clients and applicants, licensing authorities and businesses about the new restrictions, and strategies to alert and remind new and current applicants and eligible recipients about the proper uses of the EBT card and their cash assistance.

The communications above are included with the report on the implementation of P.L. 112-96 as attachments.

Those eligible and those applying for TANF cash are informed and/or reminded of the restrictions and penalties of using their EBT card during their interview and during their redetermination, this information can be found on the client's rights and responsibilities found on form 811S.

Supervisory Release (SR) 14-05 was issued on December 12, 2013, and became effective January 1, 2014. The SR outlines the policy prohibiting the use of the EBT card, or cash obtained with the EBT card, at the specified sites. You can find the SR here: https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/sr_html/html/sr_14-05_dated_01_14.htm

NH ensures that TANF cash assistance recipients have the ability to use and access their benefit with minimal or no fees or charges. Recipients have the choice of Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT), Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT), or vouchers to vendors such as landlords and utilities. NH does not issue checks for TANF cash assistance. If a client requests EFT, but the state cannot transfer the funds, the state will issue an EBT card. The rules governing the issuance of assistance payments are found at He-W 671.01, 671.02, and 671.03. When a client chooses EFT, they retain the ability to control the location and fees associated with their card use and cash access.

The EBT cards are useable at all Point of Service (POS) devices (as cashback) and at all ATM's that display the Quest logo. NH monitors the availability of the POS and ATM machines that deliver the EBT cash benefit by zip code, ensuring every client in NH has adequate access to a POS or ATM based on the number of cash withdrawals made at each outlet. The EBT Administrator for NH monitors the location and number of ATM's that accept EBT through quarterly Cash Access Reports that list ATM's by zip code, address, and whether there is a surcharge. The contractor uses this report to make a "NH Summary Report" that reviews the cash issued per zip code, and identifies the volume as high or low. The contractor is required to identify one ATM or POS per \$5,000 cash issuance. If the ratio is out of compliance, the contractor must recruit a new ATM or POS. NH currently has one rural zip code that does not meet these requirements. There is no location that would be suitable for an ATM or POS in this zip code. For these types of very rural districts, we encourage clients to choose the EFT option so they have the ability to write checks for their life essentials such as rent and utilities. The EBT Administrator also monitors EBT client access through a Point of Sale Report that lists all sites that offer cashback with purchase.

The EBT contract provides two free cash withdrawals per month at ATMs, and unlimited cashback with purchase at those POS locations that allow cashback with purchase. After the two free withdrawals, a cardholder is either charged the ATM surcharge if one is charged, or if one is not charged a 45 cent fee.

NH provides opportunities for cash assistance recipients to track the balance of their account. NH requires the EBT contract administrator to provide a cardholder portal that allows the EBT cardholder to monitor the balance of their bi-monthly benefit. The balance on receipts at POS devices also provides updated information about their cash assistance balance, and clients are advised to keep these receipts and note their balance.

NH provides information on EBT use, including information on how to access the cash assistance benefit without a fee, in:

- BFA Form 800A, "Programs and Services," this is an online form which applicants agree to review by signing the 800W and is also available during application in paper form if internet access is not available or the client prefers a hardcopy of the 800A

- DFA Form 77G, *How to Use Your EBT Card* brochure;
- a client flyer that is included in all EBT card mailings; and
- the cardholder ‘portal’ provided and maintained by the NH EBT contractor.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS

Section 402(a)(1)(B)(i) of the Act: The document shall indicate 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.

New Hampshire does not implement this option. Families moving into New Hampshire from another state are treated the same as families living in the state.

Section 402(a)(1)(B)(ii) of the Act: The document shall indicate 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.

New Hampshire provides assistance to qualified aliens, either with or without time-limit restrictions. A qualified alien is an individual who at the time of application is one of the following:

- Lawfully admitted permanent resident under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA);
- Asylee granted such status under section 208 of the INA;
- Refugee admitted to the U.S. under section 207 of the INA;
- Noncitizen whose deportation is being withheld under section 243(h) of the INA (Note: after April 1, 1997, withholding of deportation is under section 241(b)(3)); parolee paroled into the U.S. under section 212(d)(5) of the INA for a period of at least 1 year;
- Conditional entrant into the U.S. under section 203(a)(7) of the INA as in effect prior to April 1, 1980;
- Cuban or Haitian entrant under section 501(e) of the Refugee Education Assistance Act;
- Amerasian immigrant under section 584 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act of 1988 (usually the children of Vietnamese women and Americans present in Vietnam during the Vietnam War era);
- Noncitizen who is or has been a victim of family/domestic violence while residing in the U.S. by that person’s spouse, or by another member of the spouse’s family residing in the same household as the parent and the spouse acquiesced or consented to such battery or cruelty; or the noncitizen child of a parent subjected to family/domestic violence; or
- Veteran or active in military service, including noncitizens on active military duty in the Armed Forces of the U.S., honorably discharged veterans who have met the minimum active duty commitment (24 months or the time period for which they were called to active duty), and their spouses or unremarried surviving spouses (if the individual is deceased), unmarried dependent children under 18 years of age, and, for medical assistance only, Philippine nationals who served in the Philippine Commonwealth Army during WWII or as Philippine Scouts following WWII.

All other aliens are ineligible for assistance, with the following exceptions:

- Victims of Trafficking: Non-citizens who have been certified as a victim of trafficking by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), and who do not meet the definition of qualified alien, may still be eligible for up to 8 months of benefits and services under any State or Federal Program as if the individuals were admitted to the U.S. as refugees. See Section 305.13, Qualified Aliens Eligible Without Restriction, for a description of the eligibility status of refugees. Certified victims of trafficking must meet all other eligibility criteria for a program of assistance in order to receive benefits.
- Native Americans: Native Americans who are members of an Indian tribe as defined in section 4(e) of the Indian Self-determination and Education Assistance Act [25 USC 450(e)], or were born in Canada and are covered under the provisions of section 289 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 USC 1359) are eligible for medical assistance, regardless of qualified alien status. Canadian-born Indians must have at least 50% American Indian blood.

The following qualified aliens are eligible without restrictions:

- Noncitizens in military service,
- Refugees, from date of entry into the U.S. with such status;
- Asylees, from date of INS action to grant asylum;
- Cuban/Haitian Immigrants from date of entry into the U.S. with such status;
- Amerasian Immigrants;
- Noncitizens whose deportation is being withheld, from the date of INS action to withhold deportation;
- Iraq and Afghanistan who are determined to be special immigrants under section 1059 of the National Defense Authorization Act

All other qualified aliens are eligible only if they resided in the United States prior to August 22, 1996, or have resided in the United States lawfully for five years from their date of entry when such entry took place after August 22, 1996.

Section 402(a)(1)(B)(iii) of the Act: The document shall set forth objective criteria for the delivery of benefits and the determination of eligibility and for fair and equitable treatment, including an explanation of how the State will provide opportunities for recipients who have been adversely affected to be heard in a State administrative or appeal process.

With the exception of the TANF provisions, which supersede State provisions, DHHS will continue to use the objective criteria described in the Family Assistance Manual to determine eligibility. The eligibility criteria are applied equitably throughout the State. Individuals have a right to an administrative hearing, as outlined in Section 143 of the Family Assistance Manual. The individual rights and responsibilities are outlined in Section 101 of the Family Assistance Manual. DHHS's policy to not discriminate against individuals is described in Section 103 of the Family Assistance Manual.

The criteria for the delivery of benefits, such as benefit delivery time frames, application processing time frames, advance notice periods, redeterminations, and notices of decision are described in Section 100 of the Family Assistance Manual.

Section 402(a)(1)(B)(iv) of the Act: Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, 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.

The State opted out of the community service provision by submitting a letter dated August 7, 1997, from then Governor Jeanne Shaheen to then United States HHS Secretary Donna E. Shalala.

Section. 6701-6703 of (P.L. 111-148) Title VI, Subtitle H of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010: Elder Justice Act of 2009. Section 6703(a)(2) of PPACA amends section 402(a)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (42U.S.C 602(a)(1)(B)—

(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 1397j of this title); 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.

New Hampshire recognizes the need to train and eldercare workforce and currently has a workforce development project for TANF recipients, developed in 2006, called “HomeCare Works.” The HomeCare Works program partners with community providers of home-based care services to deliver quality care to support seniors and individuals with disabilities to continue to live independently in their own homes and community settings. This partnership between New Hampshire DHHS and community-based care providers throughout the state develops and delivers on-the-job training (OJT) and a system of supports for TANF recipients as an incentive for new individuals to join the ranks of home care workers and meet the needs of New Hampshire’s aging and disabled population. Training is according to curricula for home health care workers developed by the hiring agency. Stipends are available for both the employing agency providing the training and the TANF participant completing the training. The program includes linkages to further training resources and financial aid to establish healthcare-related career ladders and continued education.

The state of New Hampshire also offers the Nursing Assistant Reimbursement Program. This program is a longstanding federal workforce initiative intended to encourage nursing assistants to become employed within nursing homes. The Department of Health and Human Services manages this program, which reimburses individuals in full who complete a nursing assistant training program, approved by the NH Board of Nursing, and gain employment in a nursing home within one year of passing the competency exam. This program is financially supported through Medicaid funds.

POLICY CHANGES and CLARIFICATIONS

Policy Changes and Clarifications

Since the TANF State Plan, effective October 1, 2017 the following policy changes and clarifications were made:

<u>Former Policy</u>	<u>New Policy</u>	<u>SR & Effective Date</u>
<p>Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) are dedicated savings accounts set up and managed by a New Hampshire Community Loan Fund (NHCLF), a community agency not related to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Eligible low-income working individuals can deposit earned income into an IDA, and the funds are matched or enhanced by the managing agency. The accumulated funds may only be used for the following qualified purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchasing a first home; • Financing post-secondary education; or • Financing a new business. <p>Each dollar that a NH participant deposits into his or her IDA savings account will be matched 3:1, up to the maximum savings of \$2,000.</p>	<p>Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) are dedicated savings accounts set up and managed by a New Hampshire Community Loan Fund (NHCLF), a community agency not related to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Eligible low-income working individuals can deposit earned income into an IDA, and the funds are matched or enhanced by the managing agency. The accumulated funds may only be used for the following qualified purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchasing a first home; or • Financing post-secondary education. <p>Each dollar that a NH participant deposits into his or her IDA savings account, up to \$500, will be matched 8:1, up to the maximum savings of \$4,500.</p>	<p>DFA SR- 17-06 March 2017</p>
<p><u>Former Policy</u></p> <p>Money in crowdfunding accounts was not specifically addressed.</p>	<p><u>New Policy</u></p> <p>The process of requesting and receiving money from friends, family, or the general public via a website, such as GoFundMe, Kickstarter, or Indiegogo, is known as crowdfunding. Crowdfunding campaigns vary, with common uses including helping individuals with medical or housing costs and financing businesses, art projects, travel, or other ventures. Money in crowdfunding accounts is a countable resource as soon as the money is available to the household.</p>	<p><u>SR & Effective Date</u></p> <p>DFA SR- 17-26 October 2017</p>

<p align="center"><u>Existing Policy</u></p> <p>Unless the participant reapplying in sanction status has attended an orientation within the last 30 days, he or she will be required to attend an orientation as a condition of eligibility.</p>	<p align="center"><u>Clarified Policy</u></p> <p>If the TANF financial assistance case closes during a sanction period and the individual reapplies for financial assistance within 30 days of closure from Work Programs, no orientation is (again) required.</p>	<p align="center"><u>SR & Effective Date</u></p> <p>DFA SR- 17-31 September 2017</p>
<p align="center"><u>Existing Policy</u></p> <p><u>Military pay:</u> Any income received as military salary, including basic pay, special pay, bonus pay, combat pay, incentive pay, or any other pay is counted as earned income.</p> <p><u>Military allowances:</u> Income or benefits received by qualifying military members and their families, such as the Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance (FSSA) or the Family Separation Allowance (family allowances), living allowances, moving allowances, travel allowances, death allowances, in-kind military benefits, or any other allowances is treated as unearned income.</p>	<p align="center"><u>Clarified Policy</u></p> <p>Income received by a member of the military who is currently absent from the household. Treatment: Only the amount that is actually available to the household is counted as Unearned Income.</p> <p>Combat Pay Exclusion – any increase to the active duty military member’s income that he/she receives as a result of service in direct support of a combat zone is excluded. If the individual is in the Guard/Reserve, all income while serving in direct support of a combat zone is excluded.</p>	<p align="center"><u>SR & Effective Date</u></p> <p>BFA 18-03 June 29, 2018</p>
<p align="center"><u>Former Policy</u></p> <p>Parents, whether in the cash Assistance Group (AG) or not, or caretaker relatives included in the cash AG must cooperate with efforts to obtain support, identify liable relatives, and establish the paternity of a child for whom assistance is requested.</p> <p>Exception: Caretaker relatives not included in the cash AG do not have to comply with the cooperation requirements.</p>	<p align="center"><u>New Policy</u></p> <p>Parents, whether in the cash Assistance Group (AG) or not, or caretaker relatives included in the cash AG must cooperate with efforts to obtain child support, identify liable relatives, and establish the paternity of a child for whom assistance is requested. Caretaker relatives must comply with child support requirements unless they can provide a good cause reason for non-cooperation.</p> <p>Parents or caretaker relatives included in the cash AG who fail to cooperate with DCSS are subject to sanctions.</p> <p>When caretaker relatives that are not included</p>	<p align="center"><u>SR & Effective Date</u></p> <p>SR 18-29 February 26,2018</p>

	<p>in the cash AG refuse to cooperate without good cause, financial assistance will be denied or terminated for the child(ren) for failure to comply with developing potential sources of income.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Former Policy</u></p> <p>Form 720 could be completed/signed by a currently licensed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physician • Physician Assistant (PA) • Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) • Psychologist (board certified) <p>Forms 752 and 752HH could be completed/signed by a currently licensed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physician • PA • APRN • Psychologist (board certified) • Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM; for pregnancy-related incapacity only) • Independent Clinical Social Worker • Clinical Mental Health Counselor 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>New Policy</u></p> <p>Forms 720, 752, and 752HH may be completed/signed by a currently licensed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physician • PA • APRN (CNMs are a type of APRN; CNMs are no longer listed separately) • Alcohol and Drug Counselor (Master LADC only) • Psychologist (board certified) • Pastoral Psychotherapist • Independent Clinical Social Worker • Clinical Mental Health Counselor <p>Marriage and Family Therapist</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SR & Effective Date</u></p> <p>BFA SR 19-28 June 3,2019</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Former Policy</u></p> <p>Money in an ABLE account was not specifically addressed.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>New Policy</u></p> <p>ABLE accounts should be excluded as both income and as a resource in determining TANF eligibility. Distribution from ABLE accounts are not counted as income or as a resource as long as they are used for a QDE for the individual.</p> <p>Individuals can contribute their own resources (including resources that would otherwise be countable) to their own ABLE account. Doing so would reduce their countable resources for determining eligibility.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SR & Effective Date</u></p> <p>Directors Memo February 25,2020</p>

	<p>If an individual is contributing their own income to their ABLE account that does not make the income excluded and the income would count for determining eligibility.</p> <p>Third party contributions to an ABLE account as well as disbursements from an individual’s Special Needs Trust or Pooled Trust to an individual’s ABLE account are not counted as income or as a resource to that individual.</p>	
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Cliff Effect Initiative

The HB4 working group began meeting in November 2019 in an effort to develop recommendations to address the cliff effect. The first step towards the development of recommendations was to conduct a comprehensive economic analysis. The analysis was led by New Hampshire Employment Security (NHES) in partnership with the Department. This analysis began in December 2019 and was underway when the COVID-19 pandemic came upon New Hampshire. Instead of pausing the work or cutting it short, the work was expanded to include areas significantly impacted by the pandemic, such as unemployment and the availability of child care across the state. While this extended the timeline for the work, it provided valuable, additional data to be used towards the development of this plan in an effort to strengthen New Hampshire’s families, economy, and communities.

Econsult presented the [analysis](#) on March 22, 2021. From this, five workgroups were established: Food and Income Security, Transportation, Workforce, Housing, and Child Care. These groups were co-led by a Whole Families Chapter member and a Department program person; their charge was to review and analyze the recommendations and present their findings. The groups presented to the HB 4 Working Group on June 21 and 29, 2021.

What follows are the TANF recommendations that the HB4 working group and DHHS senior management decided to move forward with:

- 75% TANF earned income disregard for any participant that starts a new Full Time position. For those working in jobs on the high demand list (generated by the New Hampshire Workforce Innovation Opportunities Act board), implement a 100% disregard during the two-year pilot. Estimated pilot implementation date of September 2022. This encourages participants to work, take promotions, increase work hours, and take higher paying jobs while keeping more income for their household. This will help mitigate the challenge of an individual facing a choice of work advancement that will result in a net loss for the household or forgoing the advancement opportunity to keep their benefits. The current rule regarding earned income disregard is being amended to include 75% ongoing beyond the pilot with a projected approval date of September 2022.
- Adjust TANF child care deduction age bands from age 0-2 for under school age to 0-6 & school age from age 2+ to age 6+. This will assist with the benefits cliff as it will enable families with children under age 6, who tend to incur higher child care costs, to receive a higher deduction in

- their TANF budget which results in a higher TANF grant. The current rule is being amended with a projected approval date of September 2022.
- Increase resource limit for TANF recipients from \$2,000 to \$5,000. This will allow families the ability to save additional funds that can be utilized for higher priced items such as a down payment on a new apartment or a car. The current rule is being amended with a projected approval date of September 2022.
 - TANF Post Support Program. This will provide a safety net and reduce recidivism during the first year post discharge from TANF. The post TANF support program will utilize TANF funding. The purpose is to provide guidance and counseling to assist with job retention, support if job is lost to help locate a new job to prevent TANF recidivism and assist with upward mobility within the existing company and/or through job change with another company. In addition, ETS services that could result in job loss and recidivism will be provided to assist participants with maintaining their employment. For example, car repairs. Implementation date scheduled October 1, 2022.
 - TANF Automobile Savings Program – Match for Down Payment. The DHHS is partnering with the Take the Wheel Program and Grappone Auto Dealerships in order to assist TANF recipients to obtain reliable transportation. It has a rigorous financial literacy process for which recipients must complete that will result in regaining appropriate credit scores. Depending on the individual situation of the TANF Participant, it could take 3 months to a year to complete the program and be eligible for a vehicle loan. The TANF recipient must be employed. Once completing the financial literacy process and is approved by the Bank to receive a loan, the staff at Grappone work with the participant to identify a vehicle that will meet their needs and work with the bank to establish a loan amount that fits within the participants budget. Vehicles chosen will be new or certified used. NH DHHS NHEP program will match up to a \$1,000 down payment with the participant. The match is a one-time payment linked directly to the participant's contribution and is considered a non-recurrent short-term (NRST) benefit under purpose 2 as it is available only once per lifetime to eligible TANF recipients in need of a reliable vehicle to mitigate transportation barriers inhibiting job preparation as well as sustainable work engagement and growth. NH is raising the resource limit for TANF recipients in order to assist them with gaining necessary matching funds and banking funds to enable them to pay for maintenance. Partnership with WIOA adult program will also cover the cost of the first year of insurance on the vehicle. Implemented in March 2022.

ATTACHMENT A
EXECUTIVE CERTIFICATIONS
January 2023

In administering and operating a program, which provides Temporary Assistance for Needy Families under Title IV-A of the Social Security Act, the State of New Hampshire certifies the following:

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

The State operates a child support enforcement program described in the State Plan under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act.

FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The State operates a foster care and adoption assistance program described in the State Plan under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act. Children receiving foster care and adoption assistance under Title IV-E receive Medicaid under Title XIX as described in the State Plan for Title XIX.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM

The TANF assistance program described in this State plan is administered and supervised by the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Family Assistance.

Local governments and private sector organizations were involved in developing the State's TANF program, and had an opportunity to comment as follows:

- Five informational sessions in different locations were held around the state during October 1995. Each session had two parts--an afternoon session for interested organizations and agencies, and an evening session for the general public;
- A 30-day comment period for the New Hampshire waiver was provided in October 1995; furthermore, a 45 day comment period is required at every renewal;
- Comments and public hearings on HB 32, enabling state legislation for welfare reform, were held in October 1995;
- Ongoing meetings were held between DHHS staff and the New Hampshire Municipal Association to provide information and solicit comments relative to the effect of the New Hampshire Employment Program and PRWORA legislation on New Hampshire towns and cities;
- Ongoing meetings were held with representatives from New Hampshire Legal Assistance and the New Hampshire Women's Lobby; and
- Presentations were made throughout 1996 to such organizations as New Hampshire Housing Authority, Head Start, and Single Parent Program Directors.

Since New Hampshire's original TANF State Plan was developed, only changes that were mandated by federal or state law, or those which have been implemented through the rulemaking process mandated by the Administrative Procedure Act are included in this plan. The rulemaking process provides two

opportunities for the public to comment on each proposed rule, first at a public hearing run by DHHS, and second at a public meeting held by the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules.

The Family Assistance Advisory Council was established in 1996 to review and provide input to the original rules for TANF. This group continues to meet on a regular basis, providing review and input into proposed policy changes and Division initiatives.

In November 2020, a press release was published notifying the public of a TANF State Plan renewal, and directing the public to the NH DHHS website location for a review of the plan. An email address was included in the release for public comment. The plan was also reviewed by the Family Assistance Advisory Council mentioned above.

EQUITABLE ACCESS TO ASSISTANCE FOR INDIAN TRIBES

The State provides 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 the TANF assistance program described in the Plan, funded under this part attributable to funds provided by the federal government.

PROGRAM FRAUD AND ABUSE

The state continues to establish and enforce standards and procedures to prevent fraud and abuse under the fraud and abuse program in effect since September 30, 1996. State law in RSA 21-I:42-58 sets forth the 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. This law is implemented and enforced by the rules of the state personnel system.

AVAILABILITY OF STATE PLAN

A copy of the public notice, which appeared in the Concord Monitor to advertise the availability of the 2020 TANF State Plan, is included as Attachment B. The updated plan remains available on the Internet at the Department of Health and Human Services website:

<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dfa/publications.htm>

STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES TO ENSURE THAT THE STATE WILL SCREEN FOR AND IDENTIFY SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, AND STALKING

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services implemented the Family Violence Option (FVO) in February 2000. The FVO provides an individualized assessment, referrals, and service planning for victims of sexual harassment or survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking who are requesting an extension to the 60-month lifetime limit, and/or for excused participation from mandatory work program participation requirements. Clients must participate in an FVO assessment as specified in 45

CFR 260.50-58. Staff from the Bureau of Employment Supports (BES) trained in domestic violence issues conduct assessments and provide waivers for excused participation from mandatory work participation requirements, which can be granted for up to six months.

BES continues to work closely with the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence agency to develop the FVO policy and procedures. The agencies also share training resources to educate each other's staff members. Training includes the nature and dynamics of sexual harassment and domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking; State standards and procedures relating to the prevention of, and assistance for, individuals who are victims of sexual harassment or survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking; and methods of ascertaining and ensuring the confidentiality of personal information and documentation related to applicants for assistance and their children who have provided notice about their experiences of sexual harassment, domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. BES provides information about the options available to current and potential beneficiaries.

Current policy allows TANF clients to claim good cause for non-cooperation with Child Support due to emotional/physical harm to the child or parent. With the adoption of the FVO in 2000, the definition was expanded to also include domestic violence.

Another change in policy resulting from the state's adoption of the FVO relates to "acceptable" documentation for a claim of domestic violence. If an individual lacks the required documentation for an FVO or non-cooperation with child support request, (restraining order, medical records, legal documents, statements from agency professionals, etc.), a signed sworn statement from the individual claiming the existence of the domestic violence may be accepted as documentation for all claims of domestic violence.

For the federal fiscal year 2019, BES has granted 224 FVO for excused participation from mandatory work participation requirements. Of those 224 waivers, 12 were for a Hardship Extension, without a request for waived participation.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT DEFINED

The term "sexual harassment" means hostile, intimidating, or oppressive behavior based on sex that creates an offensive work environment.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEFINED

The term "family/domestic violence" has the same meaning as "battered or subjected to extreme cruelty," and is defined as having been subjected to any of the following:

- physical acts that resulted in or threatened to result in physical injury to the individual;
- sexual abuse;
- sexual activity involving a dependent child;
- being forced as the caretaker relative of a dependent child to engage in nonconsensual sexual acts or activities;
- threats of, or attempts at, physical or sexual abuse;
- mental abuse; or
- neglect or deprivation of medical care.

SEXUAL ASSAULT DEFINED

The term “sexual assault” means any nonconsensual sexual act proscribed by Federal, tribal, or State law, including when the victim lacks capacity to consent.

STALKING DEFINED

The term “stalking” means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to:

- fear for their safety or the safety of others; or
- suffer substantial emotional distress.



Executive Certification Signature

3-5-23

Date

**ATTACHMENT B
PUBLIC NOTICE**

Pursuant to Section 5501 of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 and sections 402(a) and 403(a)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act, the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services has submitted to the Federal Government its State Plan for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program. This submission will serve the purpose of renewing New Hampshire's status as an eligible state qualifying for TANF funding.

New Hampshire's original TANF State Plan was effective October 1, 1996. This new plan incorporates all changes since the October 2017 State Plan. All changes incorporated into the current State Plan were either mandated by federal or state law or adopted as rules pursuant to RSA 541-A. This renewal plan that will span October 1, 2020, thru December 31, 2023 was posted for 45 days for comment.

New Hampshire engages in an ongoing review process with stakeholders and the city and town welfare offices when proposing changes to the administration of the TANF program, generally through the Family Assistance Advisory Council (FAAC). This Council includes representation from low-income housing providers and advocates, food pantries and soup kitchens, child and family service providers, child care and Head Start, and legal assistance. This renewal plan for October 1, 2020, thru December 31, 2023, was submitted to the FAAC in November 2020. In addition, proposed rules follow a public comment requirement process, and provide a second comment period before adoption before the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules. All rule changes during the previous three years to the October 1, 2020 plan followed this process.

A paid press release alerting the public to this October 1, 2020 renewal for the TANF plan was published in the *Concord Monitor* in November 2020.

Interested persons may obtain a copy of the TANF State Plan at <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dfa/publications.htm> and offer comments or concerns to the Bureau of Family Assistance at any time.

ATTACHMENT C
MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT (FFY 2021)

- I. In New Hampshire, Maintenance of Effort (MOE) funds using the basic definition of a Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) client as defined in the State Plan include the following:
- TANF financial assistance grants for families who meet income eligibility standards at or below 100% of the payment standard (New Hampshire Employment Program, Family Assistance Program, Interim Disabled Parents Program, and Families with Older Children);
 - Nutritional Supplement for Working Families for families meeting income eligibility standards at or below 185% of FPG;
 - Employment and Training Support Services, including transportation, tuition, books, supplies, fees, car repairs, employment obstacles, job readiness training, life skills training, adult basic education, and counseling for participants of the New Hampshire Employment Program;
 - Administration costs associated with case management, information and referral, counseling, and related operational expense in the TANF program, eligibility administration, and service delivery;
 - Systems costs associated with TANF eligibility determination and maintenance, New HEIGHTS and Bridges.
- II. The following basic assistance programs are administered by Belknap-Merrimack CAP. Eligible families must have at least one child under the age of 18, and have income less than 185% of FPG:
- Electric Assistance Program provides income-eligible households with a discount off their electrical bill. The program is funded by ratepayer donations. The Community Action Program Belknap - Merrimack Counties is a non-profit organization that administers this program within their catchment area.
 - Residential Gas Assistance Program provides a gas discount to families who are low income in need of gas for cooking or heating fuel. The program is funded by ratepayer donations. The Community Action Program of Belknap-Merrimack Counties is a non-profit organization that administers this program within their catchment area.
 - Low Income Home Energy Retro Fit Program (Effective 10/1/20) provides a no cost home evaluation and installation of energy efficiency and weatherization measures in households of low-income electric utility customers. All installed measures must meet cost-benefit testing criteria. The Community Action Program of Belknap-Merrimack Counties is a non-profit organization that administers this program within their catchment area.
- III. The following program employs MOE funds for services provided by Child Protective Service Workers at the Division of Child and Family Services and the Bureau of Family Assistance:
- DCYF/child welfare and Bureau of Family Assistance/TANF provides case management, eligibility, crisis intervention, connection to community based services. This includes funds for staff, including supervisors and managers. This program employs MOE funds for families with at least one child less than 18 years of age, and who meet income eligibility requirements under 185% of FPG.
- IV. The following program employs MOE funds for families with at least one child less than 18 years of age, and who meet income eligibility requirements under 185% of FPG:

- The Division of Children, Youth and Families provides a short-term, non-recurring benefit that is made as a community-based service to non-delinquent children and their families in situations involving credible reports of child abuse, neglect and abandonment, where there is imminent risk of child’s removal from the home. These services include counseling, crisis intervention, and permanent housing emergency assistance.
- V. The following program employs MOE funds through the Child Care Development Fund via the Department of Health and Human Services Child Development Bureau to families whose income does not exceed 250% FPG:
- Payments for child care services for families who are receiving TANF, transitioning off of TANF, or at risk of becoming dependent on TANF, and are working, going to school or looking for work.
- VI. The following community programs are administered by New Hampshire non-profits, and are reported as TANF Maintenance of Effort. These programs meet TANF purposes one and two by ensuring children can be cared for in their own homes by helping sustain families who are low-income and meet the State’s criteria for eligible families (Per state rule He-W 601.04 (c), New Hampshire defines “family” as one or more children and adults who are related by blood, marriage, or adoption who reside in the same home):
- Christmas for Kids provides funds for families whose income does not exceed 133% of FPG to provide Christmas presents and other holiday necessities to underprivileged children.
- VII. The following programs employ MOE funds through partnership with community-based programs to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies to families meeting income eligibility standards at or below 185% of FPG:
- Before and After School Program (The Granite YMCA) provides safe, supervised environments where academic skills and positive values are encouraged, and opportunities for life-long personal growth. Families of all income levels may attend; the claimed MOE reflects the number of children enrolled in the program that meet the income eligibility standards at or below 185% of FPG.
 - Day Camp (The Granite YMCA) provides day camp programs and over-night youth camp programs to the youth of greater Manchester, through safe, supervised environments where academic and athletic skills are encouraged. Families of all income levels may attend the Day Camp, the claimed MOE reflects the number of children enrolled in the program that meet the income eligibility standards at or below 185% of FPG.
 - Teen Information for Parenting Success (Upper Room) (Effective 10/1/20) provides support groups, case management, parent education and child enrichment.
 - Camp Spaulding (Waypoint) provides disadvantaged youth the opportunity to experience the positive benefits of a summer camp. All families are welcome, but families up to \$60,000/year in income are charged based on a sliding scale. Families above that level are charged the full cost of the camp. 90% of the participating families were eligible for the federal summer food program.

VIII. The following programs employ MOE funds through partnership with community-based programs to encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families to families meeting income eligibility standards at or below 185% of FPG:

- Community Outreach Programs (The Granite YMCA): The YOU Outreach program provides a variety of prevention services including the STAY and STRIVE programs that work with middle school students at risk of dropping out of school and students that have been suspended/expelled from school. The START program provides 1st-7th graders after school services, offering a safe learning environment that focuses on stabilizing the home environment for families of these at-risk students. The program is targeted to families whose income and increases their chances of maintaining their employment and a stable home life by addressing family stressors.
- Waypoint provides therapeutic counseling for children, youth and adults, couples and families to address child behaviors, problems in school, step-family adjustment, family violence, relationship conflicts, emotional complaints, stress, self-defeating behaviors, loss and trauma and other individual and family problems.
- The Preschool Child Care Program (The Granite YMCA) offers preschool and kindergarten programs for children age 8 months-5 years of age, 7 AM-6 PM, helping parents to meet their financial obligations to maintain their family stability.
- The Mayhew Program challenges and helps at-risk NH boys from single parent families who are low income to believe in themselves, work well with others, and find their best self in preparation for adulthood. The program provides a summer program, year round mentoring, and an opportunity to earn funds towards post-secondary education.
- Family Wellness (Upper Room) (Effective 10/1/20) provides home visiting, parent education, parent support as well as kinship support.
- Hope on Haven Hill provides a nurturing therapeutic home environment for pregnant women with substance use disorder who are seeking recovery. Hope on Haven Hill provides a safe home with comprehensive addiction treatment services, family therapy, parenting classes, advancement in education and life coaching that supports families in their recovery from addiction giving them life skills that will promote independence and sustained sobriety.
- Greater Seacoast Community Health provides Parenting classes and parent support groups, with free child care to make it easier for families to attend. Play/education groups for parents with their babies, toddlers and preschoolers Individualized family support, including care coordination and home visiting, targeted at families with special needs such as being at risk for child abuse and neglect, having a chronically ill child, or having other risk factors. Greater Seacoast Community Health serves children and youth 0-19 years of age and their families.