

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Children and Family Services

Economic Stability

Vulnerable Communities and Peoples Initiative

(LAC 67:III.5553)

In accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act R.S. 49:953(A), the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) proposes to adopt LAC 67:III, Subpart 15 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Initiatives, Chapter 55 TANF Initiatives, Section 5553 Vulnerable Communities and Peoples Initiative.

Pursuant to Louisiana's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant, amendment of Section 5553 adopts provisions necessary to establish the Vulnerable Communities and Peoples Initiative to stabilize families and improve their economic opportunities.

This action was made effective by an Emergency Rule dated and effective August 1, 2020.

Title 67

SOCIAL SERVICES

Part III. Economic Stability

Subpart 15. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Initiatives

Chapter 55. TANF Initiatives

§5553. Vulnerable Communities and Peoples Initiative

A. Effective August 1, 2020, the department shall enter into an agreement with the Southern University Law Center to establish the Vulnerable Communities and Peoples Initiative to stabilize families and improve their economic opportunities by reducing and/or eliminating disparities.

B. Services include, but are not limited to, research and development, community networking and partnership referrals, employment assistance, and direct and indirect legal services.

C. These services meet TANF goal 3, to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and TANF goal 4, to encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families by identifying direct and indirect barriers to resources and providing a network of supportive services through governmental agencies and community partnerships, such as application assistance, legal services, and referrals.

D. Eligibility for services is limited to needy, low-income family members identified and served by the Southern University Law Center.

E. Services are considered non-assistance by the department.

F. Services are subject to the availability of funds as approved and designated by the secretary.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.; R.S. 46:231; and R.S. 36:474.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by Department of Children and Family Services, Economic Stability Section, LR 46:

Family Impact Statement

The proposed rule is not anticipated to have an adverse impact on family formation, stability, and autonomy as described in R.S. 49:972. This rule is anticipated to have a positive effect on the stability and functioning of the family by assisting the family by reducing and/or eliminating disparities.

Poverty Impact Statement

The proposed rule is not anticipated to have a significant negative impact on poverty as described in R.S. 49:973. This rule is anticipated to help alleviate poverty for those participating in the initiative.

Small Business Impact Statement

The proposed rule is not anticipated to have an adverse impact on small businesses as defined in the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

Provider Impact Statement

The proposed rule is not anticipated to have an impact on providers of services funded by the state as described in HCR 170 of the 2014 Regular Legislative Session.

Public Comments

All interested persons may submit written comments through, November 24, 2020 to Shavana Howard, Assistant Secretary of Family Support, Department of Children and Family Services, P.O. Box 94065, Baton Rouge, LA 70804.


Public Hearing

A virtual public hearing on the proposed rule will be held at 9:00 a.m. on November 24, 2020, by the Department of Children and Family Services. All interested persons will be afforded an opportunity to submit data, views, or arguments via PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android at

<https://stateofladcfs.zoom.us/j/96143125164?pwd=ZmM5MDAxcG9RQXFga255RnJFcFpudz09> using password 729784; or via telephone by dialing (713) 353-0212 and entering conference code 43C033. To find local AT&T numbers visit

<https://www.teleconference.att.com/servlet/glbAccess?process=1&accessNumber=USA7133530212&accessCode=430033>. Individuals with disabilities who require special services should contact the DCFS Appeals Unit at least seven working days in advance of the hearing. For assistance, call (225) 342-4120 (Voice and TDD)

Marketa Garner Walters
Secretary



**FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**

Person Preparing Statement:	<u>James Vidacovich</u>	Department:	<u>Children and Family Services</u>
Phone:	<u>(225) 342-0495</u>	Office:	<u>Economic Stability</u>
Return Address:	<u>627 N. 4th Street, P.O. Box 94065 Baton Rouge, LA 70804</u>	Rule Title:	<u>Vulnerable Communities and Peoples Initiative</u>
		Date Rule Takes Effect:	<u>February 1, 2021</u>

SUMMARY
(Use complete sentences)

In accordance with Section 953 of Title 49 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes, there is hereby submitted a fiscal and economic impact statement on the rule proposed for adoption, repeal or amendment. THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS SUMMARIZE ATTACHED WORKSHEETS, I THROUGH IV AND WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE LOUISIANA REGISTER WITH THE PROPOSED AGENCY RULE.

I. ESTIMATED IMPLEMENTATION COSTS (SAVINGS) TO STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)

In FY 21, this measure is anticipated to increase the expenses of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) by \$150,974 and annualized in future fiscal years at \$359,781. These costs are associated with publication of the rule (\$1,065) and a professional services contract with the Southern University Law Center (SULC) (\$149,909). Costs associated with these services are funded with 100% Federal Funds.

DCFS proposes to adopt LAC 67:III, Subpart 15 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Initiatives, Chapter 55 TANF Initiatives, Section 5553 Vulnerable Communities and Peoples Initiative to stabilize families and improve their economic opportunities by reducing and/or eliminating disparities. DCFS will enter into a contract with SULC to participate in community networking activities and provide partnership referrals, employment assistance, and legal services to low income families.

These services meet TANF goal 3, to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and TANF goal 4, to encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families by identifying direct and indirect barriers to resources and providing a network of supportive services through governmental agencies and community partnerships, such as application assistance, legal services, and referrals.

II. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)

The proposed rule change will not affect revenue collections for state or local governmental units.

III. ESTIMATED COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS, SMALL BUSINESSES, OR NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS (Summary)

Implementation of this proposed rule is not anticipated to have a cost or direct economic benefit to small businesses or non-governmental groups. This rule is anticipated to help alleviate poverty for those participating in the initiative.

IV. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT (Summary)

Implementation of this proposed rule is not expected to have an effect on competition and employment.

Shavana Howard Digitally signed by Shavana Howard
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ou=Division of Family Support, email=Shavana.Howard@DCFS@LA.OV, c=US
Date: 2020.10.05 20:09:24 -05'00'

Signature of Agency Head or Designee Date

Shavana Howard, Assistant Secretary of Family Support

Typed Name and Title of Agency Head or Designee

Eric Horent Digitally signed by Eric Horent
DN: cn=Eric Horent, o=DCFS, ou,
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Date: 2020.10.08 10:21:28 -05'00'

DCFS Undersecretary

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICER
OR DESIGNEE

DATE OF SIGNATURE

**FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**

The following information is required in order to assist the Legislative Fiscal Office in its review of the fiscal and economic impact statement and to assist the appropriate legislative oversight subcommittee in its deliberation on the proposed rule.

- A. Provide a brief summary of the content of the rule (if proposed for adoption, or repeal) or a brief summary of the change in the rule (if proposed for amendment). Attach a copy of the notice of intent and a copy of the rule proposed for initial adoption or repeal (or, in the case of a rule change, copies of both the current and proposed rules with amended portions indicated).

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) proposes to adopt LAC 67:III, Subpart 15 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Initiatives, Chapter 55 TANF Initiatives, Section 5553 Vulnerable Communities & Peoples Initiative to stabilize families and improve their economic opportunities by reducing and/or eliminating disparities.

- B. Summarize the circumstances, which require this action. If the Action is required by federal regulation, attach a copy of the applicable regulation.

Action is required in this matter to facilitate the expenditure of TANF funds.

- C. Compliance with Act 11 of the 1986 First Extraordinary Session

- (1) Will the proposed rule change result in any increase in the expenditure of funds? If so, specify amount and source of funding.

Yes. In FY 21, this measure is anticipated to increase the expenses of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) by \$149,909 and annualized in future fiscal years at \$359,781. The source of funding is the Louisiana TANF Block Grant. TANF funds are 100% Federal funds and have no direct cost or savings to the State. The only other cost associated with this rule is the cost of publishing rulemaking which is estimated to be approximately \$1,065 (Federal - TANF) in State Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

- (2) If the answer to (1) above is yes, has the Legislature specifically appropriated the funds necessary for the associated expenditure increase?

(a) _____ Yes. If yes, attach documentation.

(b) X NO. If no, provide justification as to why this rule change should be published at this time

Although the proposed revisions will result in an increase in the expenditure of federal funds for programmatic costs, these costs will be funded using the department's annual operating budget appropriated by the Legislature for the TANF program. The administrative cost of publishing rulemaking is routinely included in the department's annual operating budget appropriated by the Legislature.

**FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT
WORKSHEET**

I. A. COSTS OR SAVINGS TO STATE AGENCIES RESULTING FROM THE ACTION PROPOSED

1. What is the anticipated increase (decrease) in costs to implement the proposed action?

COSTS	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$0
Operating Expenses	\$1,065 (rulemaking)	\$0	\$0
Professional Services	\$149,909	\$359,781	\$359,781
Other Charges	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0
Major Repair & Constr.	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$150,974	\$359,781	\$359,781
Positions (#)			

2. Provide a narrative explanation of the costs or savings shown in "A.1.", including the increase or reduction in workload or additional paperwork (number of new forms, additional documentation, etc.) anticipated as a result of the implementation of the proposed action. Describe all data, assumptions, and methods used in calculating these costs.

In FY 21, this measure is anticipated to increase the expenses of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) by \$149,909 and annualized in future fiscal years at \$359,781. The source of funding is the Louisiana TANF Block Grant. TANF funds are 100% Federal funds and have no direct cost or savings to the State.

The only other cost associated with this rule is the cost of publishing rulemaking which is estimated to be approximately \$1065 (Federal - TANF) in State Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

3. Sources of funding for implementing the proposed rule or rule change.

SOURCE	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23
State General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agency Self-Generated	\$0	\$0	\$0
Dedicated	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$150,974	\$359,781	\$359,781
Other (Specify)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$150,974	\$359,781	\$359,781

4. Does your agency currently have sufficient funds to implement the proposed action? If not, how and when do you anticipate obtaining such funds?

Yes. The increase in the expenditure of federal TANF funds for programmatic costs will be funded using the department's annual operating budget appropriated by the Legislature for the TANF program. The administrative cost of publishing rulemaking is routinely included in the department's annual operating budget appropriated by the Legislature.

B. COST OR SAVINGS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS RESULTING FROM THE ACTION PROPOSED.

1. Provide an estimate of the anticipated impact of the proposed action on local governmental units, including adjustments in workload and paperwork requirements. Describe all data, assumptions and methods used in calculating this impact.

There are no estimated costs or savings to local governmental units resulting from this rule.

2. Indicate the sources of funding of the local governmental unit, which will be affected by these costs or savings.

There will be no impact on local governmental units.

**FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT
WORKSHEET**

II. EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS

A. What increase (decrease) in revenues can be anticipated from the proposed action?

Revenue Increase/Decrease	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23
State General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agency Self-Generated	\$0	\$0	\$0
Dedicated Funds *	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0

*Specify the particular fund being impacted.

B. Provide a narrative explanation of each increase or decrease in revenues shown in "A." Describe all data, assumptions, and methods used in calculating these increases or decreases.

Implementation of this rule will have no effect on state or local revenue collections.

III. COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS, SMALL BUSINESSES, OR NONGOVERNMENTAL GROUPS

A. What persons, small businesses, or non-governmental groups would be directly affected by the proposed action? For each, provide an estimate and a narrative description of any effect on costs, including workload adjustments and additional paperwork (number of new forms, additional documentation, etc.), they may have to incur as a result of the proposed action.

Implementation of this proposed rule is not anticipated to have a cost or direct economic benefit to small businesses or non-governmental groups. This rule is anticipated to help alleviate poverty for those participating in the initiative.

B. Also provide an estimate and a narrative description of any impact on receipts and/or income resulting from this rule or rule change to these groups.

This rule will not have a significant impact on receipts and/or income.

IV. EFFECTS ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT

Identify and provide estimates of the impact of the proposed action on competition and employment in the public and private sectors. Include a summary of any data, assumptions and methods used in making these estimates.

This rule will not have a significant impact on competition for employment in the public and private sectors.