

**DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY**

**Department of Children and Family Services**

**Economic Stability**

**Vulnerable Communities and Peoples Initiative**

**(LAC 67:III.5553)**

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Economic Stability, has exercised the emergency provision of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B) 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. This declaration is necessary to extend the original Emergency Rule since it is effective for a maximum of 120 days and will expire before the Final Rule takes effect. This Emergency Rule extension is effective on November 28, 2020, and shall remain in effect for a period of 120 days.

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.

The department considers emergency action necessary to facilitate the expenditure of TANF funds. The authorization to promulgate emergency rules to facilitate the expenditure of TANF funds is contained in Act 1 of the 2020 First Extraordinary Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

**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:



Marketa Garner Walters

Secretary

NOV 4, 2020