Alaska State Plan
for the

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program

Office of the Governor
and
Department of Health and Social Services
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TANF STATE PLAN
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In May 1996, the Alaska State legislature created the Alaska Temporary Assistance Program (ATAP). Temporary Assistance (TA) replaced the welfare programs Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and Jobs, Opportunities and Basic Skills (JOBS). That same year, the federal government enacted the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act (PRWOA) of 1996. This act provides for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant. TA, implemented in 1997, is funded through a combination of state funds and TANF block grant.

The TANF State Plan is required in order for Alaska to receive federal block grant funds. The State Plan describes major program provisions and outlines eligibility criteria, participation requirements, and program benefits available to participants.

All needy Alaskan families with dependent children may apply to participate in ATAP; Alaska's name for the TANF Program. To qualify, families establish eligibility based on family composition and financial need. To continue participation in the program, parents or caretaker relatives included in the assistance unit must engage in work activities within 24 months of entering the program.

The TANF Program has requirements not found in earlier welfare programs. TANF is time limited and families may only receive a total of 60 months of cash benefits in their lifetime unless they qualify for an exemption. TA uses an individualized Work First approach to promote family self-sufficiency. Case coordination is provided for families with multiple and complex barriers to employment. Families build on their strengths and actively seek employment. A family completes an employability assessment. Families must participate in work activities, complete their Family Self-Sufficiency Plan, and cooperate with child support enforcement. Minor teen parents must live with a parent or in another approved living arrangement while they continue their education.

TA includes cash benefits to help pay for basic living expenses while a family makes progress toward economic independence through employment. Temporary Assistance may purchase or reimburse the costs of services determined necessary to support work activities such as childcare, transportation and job related training.

TA promotes strong partnerships with local governments, Native organizations, non-profit and profit organizations in an effort to promote jobs and identify effective community work experience.

The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services evaluates ATAP by using data-based performance measures of success. These measures include the number of adults employed within 90 days, the number of adults closed with earnings, the number who leave assistance with employment and do not return, and the number participating in a job development activity.

State of Alaska
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE
For
NEEDY FAMILIES
STATE PLAN

I. INTRODUCTION 1
1. GOALS 1
1.1 CENTRAL PRINCIPLES THAT GUIDE ALASKA TOWARD THIS GOAL 1
2. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT 2
2.1 WELFARE REFORM IMPLEMENTATION COMMUNITY FORUMS 2
2.2 RECIPIENT IMPLEMENTATION MEETINGS 3
2.3 LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND HEARINGS 3
2.4 ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION HEARINGS 3
2.5 TANF STATE PLAN PUBLIC PROCESS 3
2.6 WELFARE REFORM COMMUNITY MEETINGS 4
2.7 ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT 4

II. ALASKA TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE MAJOR PROVISIONS 5
3. ELIGIBLE FAMILIES 5
3.1 DEPENDENT CHILD 5
3.2 RESIDENCY 5
3.3 EQUITABLE ACCESS 6
3.4 NON-CITIZENS 6
3.5 60-MONTH TIME LIMIT 6
3.6 PROGRAM PARTICIPANT RIGHTS 7
4. ALASKA TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS 7
4.1 APPLICATION 7
4.2 FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY PLAN AND ASSESSMENT 8
4.3 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS 8
4.4 CHILD SUPPORT 9
4.5 MINOR PARENTS 9
4.6 PENALTIES AND SANCTIONS 9

III. WORK AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY 12
5. WORK SERVICES DELIVERY 12
5.1 CONTINUUM OF WORK SERVICES 12
6. WORK ACTIVITIES 14
7. WORK ACTIVITY EXEMPTIONS 14
7.1 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 15
7.2 CHILD CARE 15
8. SERVICES PROVIDED 16
9 PROGRAM ASSESSMENT 16
9.1 ADMINISTRATIVE DATA 16

9.2 PROGRAM EVALUATION 17
9.3 LONG-TERM RECIPIENT STUDY 17
9.4 CHALLENGES TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY STUDY 17
10. CURRENT WORKERS DISPLACEMENT PROTECTION 18
11. INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT WELFARE TO WORK 18
11.2 ALASKA JOB CENTER NETWORK 19
12. GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF PROGRAM 19

IV. ALASKA TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE BENEFITS 20
13. FAMILY NEED 20
13.1. RESOURCES 20
13.2 EARNED INCOME DEDUCTIONS 21
13.3 2020 CENSUS INCOME DISREGARD 21
13.4 PAYMENTS 21
14. CHILD CARE 22
15. SUPPORT SERVICES BENEFITS 23
16. SHELTER 23
17. BENEFIT DELIVERY 23
18. PRIVACY 24

V. PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY 25

VI. NATIVE FAMILY ASSISTANCE 26

VII. OTHER TANF FUNDED SERVICES 27
19. TRANSPORTATION 27
20. PREGNANCY PREVENTION 27
21. SERVICES FOR REFUGEE FAMILIES 28

VIII. ADMINISTRATION 29
22. ALASKA STATUTE 29
23. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION OF TANF 29
24. MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT 29
25. CERTIFICATIONS 32
26. FUNDING 34

APPENDICES

Need Standard Tables
Organizational Charts

I. INTRODUCTION

Alaska enacted a statute in 1996 that provides for a comprehensive family assistance program known as the Alaska Temporary Assistance Program (ATAP). ATAP replaced the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program. In the same year, the federal government enacted the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act (PRWOA) of 1996 that provides for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant. ATAP is funded through a combination of state funds and the federal TANF block grant.

This State Plan describes how Alaska's Department of Health and Social Services will operate ATAP and other TANF funded services. The Congressional intent of the TANF block grant was to increase the flexibility of states to fund a variety of services for needy families. Alaska has taken advantage of this opportunity to use TANF funds for services that promote parental responsibility, work, reduce out-of- wedlock pregnancies and encourage the formation of two-parent families.

1. GOALS

The overarching goal of the Alaska Temporary Assistance program is to move Alaskans from welfare into jobs so they can support their families and maintain a safety net for those truly in need.

1.1 CENTRAL PRINCIPLES THAT GUIDE ALASKA TOWARD THIS GOAL

Emphasize Work

Alaska places a strong emphasis on work and job readiness by adhering to the Work First philosophy that employment is both the goal and the expectation for TA clients. Alaska is committed to creating job opportunities for recipients in public and private sectors, and emphasizing work.

Promote Responsibility

Alaska encourages family self-sufficiency and stability through a number of initiatives promoting individual responsibility. This includes planning for self-support, actively pursuing child support, and prevention of unplanned and out-of-wedlock pregnancies.

Set Limits

Alaska limits ATAP payments to 60 months for most families, and reduces benefits for two-parent families during the summer when work opportunities increase. The state disqualifies the entire assistance unit if a parent refuses or quits a job and penalizes the assistance unit if a parent fails, without good cause, to participate in work and other self-sufficiency activities or fails to cooperate with child support enforcement.

Maintain a Safety Net

Alaska maintains a safety net for needy children and encourages families to care for their children in their own home. The State recognizes that there are welfare recipients for whom employment is not a realistic objective. Case managers evaluate and work with these families to assist with family self-sufficiency without employment.

Supports Coordination of Agency Resources

Alaska supports efficient and effective use of state and community resources for families receiving services from multiple agencies. Coordination of social service efforts and providing for wrap-around services focused on family integrity, stability and self-sufficiency allows families experiencing multiple and profound challenges to make meaningful progress towards employment, self-sufficiency, and exiting the program.

2. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services is committed to public involvement in program design and implementation. The Department worked with internal staff, community groups and within various public arenas to inform Alaskans about changes to the welfare system and to listen to suggestions and concerns about welfare reform. Information gathered from the hundreds of people who were involved in these discussions was used to form overall policies and to prepare the welfare reform legislation that created ATAP. Since program implementation, continued public involvement has been promoted through information sharing and numerous opportunities for public comment.

2.1 WELFARE REFORM IMPLEMENTATION COMMUNITY FORUMS

During the initial design of ATAP, the Department conducted fourteen community meetings co-hosted by local governments and community organizations in over a dozen communities ranging in size from Anchorage, population 260,000, to Fort Yukon, population 600.

In addition, the Department sponsored four statewide community call-ins and a two-day statewide meeting held in Anchorage. The forums' purpose was to seek public opinion, to communicate to Alaskans information about dramatic changes in the public welfare system and to gather ideas about how to design a responsive social service system in each particular community.

2.2 RECIPIENT IMPLEMENTATION MEETINGS

Private organizations sponsored meetings between state government representatives and groups of recipients at shelters and at community service agencies.

2.3 LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND HEARINGS

Public hearings were held in the spring of 1996 related to passage of Alaska Senate Bill 98, Alaska's welfare reform law that created ATAP.

Amendments to ATAP statute were made by the Legislature in 2002, and hearings were held at that time on the provisions changed. In addition, legislative hearings are held each year since enactment to inform the public on the status of welfare reform and to discuss amendments to the statute.

2.4 ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION HEARINGS

Public hearings were held in November 1996 on the welfare reform regulations that implemented the first welfare changes on February 1, 1997. Public hearings were held again in May 1997 on the second and main body of ATAP regulations that took effect July 1, 1997. In August 2001, public hearings were held to review regulation changes that took effect October 1, 2001. Additional public hearings were held in the spring and fall of 2002 for regulation changes that were implemented in July and December 2002.

2.5 TANF STATE PLAN PUBLIC PROCESS

Alaskans were offered a 45-day public comment period prior to the original submission of this Plan. Individuals and organizations, including local governments and private sector organizations, were given an opportunity to provide comments through public meetings, teleconferences and to mail-in written responses. In November 1999, January 2002, December 2004, December 2007, December 2010, December 2013, and December 2016 the Plan was recertified, and the public was again given the opportunity to comment on amendments to the Plan.

2.6 WELFARE REFORM COMMUNITY MEETINGS

During January 2001, the Department held a series of statewide community meetings designed to inform the public on plans for the approaching 60-month limit on ATAP benefits. These meetings also provided an opportunity to hear from service providers and other community members on the impacts of welfare reform, community programs that have been successful in helping recipients move from welfare to work, and challenges experienced by both recipients and supporting agencies.

2.7 ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Department takes advantage of ongoing opportunities to inform and respond to the public through the news media, internet webpages, and participation in talk shows, public forums and meetings sponsored by other organizations. All specified avenues of communication provide the public with information and assist with obtaining public opinion and responses to welfare-to- work programs, such as ATAP.

II. ALASKA TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE MAJOR PROVISIONS

ATAP is available to needy Alaskan families with dependent children who are not eligible for assistance from a Native Family Assistance Program (NFAP). Participation in ATAP requires eligible families to fulfill program obligations such as establishing a Family Self-Sufficiency Plan (FSSP) and participation in agreed upon work activities.

3. ELIGIBLE FAMILIES

Families establish program eligibility based on family composition and a determination of financial need that considers the family's available income and assets. For the purpose of participating in ATAP, eligible families are:

- Families that include a caretaker relative of one or more related dependent children.
- Two-parent families in which both parents live in the same household.
- Families that include a needy dependent child and a non-needy caretaker relative.

A caretaker relative must be a parent, a woman in the last trimester of her pregnancy, or a relative to child within at least the fifth degree of kinship.

3.1 DEPENDENT CHILD

For purposes of eligibility, a dependent child is under 18 years of age. If a child is 18 years of age, he or she may continue to be considered a dependent child if they are a full-time student in a secondary school or in vocational or technical training. Eligibility ends the month of course completion, withdrawal from enrollment, or their 19th birthday, whichever occurs first.

3.2 RESIDENCY

To meet the residency requirement, a family must be living in Alaska with the intent to remain an Alaska resident. Alaska does not treat new residents of the state differently than other Alaskan families receiving ATAP.

3.3 EQUITABLE ACCESS

All families in the state will have equitable access to ATAP benefits; this includes Alaska Native families who are not served by a Native Family Assistance Program (NFAP).There are Public Assistance field offices in the majority of Alaska's urbanized areas and urban clusters as defined by the 2010 US Census. Public Assistance offices are open to the public in the following cities: Anchorage, Bethel, Fairbanks, Homer, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Nome, Sitka, and Wasilla. There is also an active fee agent network in over two hundred rural communities. Fee agents accept applications for all Alaska public assistance programs. Alaska also has an active contract for services with the interpreter service, Telelanguage. This 240 language interpreter service empowers Alaska residents to cross the language barrier and seek public assistance.

3.4 NON-CITIZENS

Alaska will provide Temporary Assistance coverage to otherwise eligible non-citizens classified as "qualified" aliens as defined in 8 U.S.C. 1641. Qualified aliens who arrived in the country prior to the August 22, 1996 enactment of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) may receive assistance immediately upon application for assistance. Qualified aliens who entered the country on or after August 22, 1996 are ineligible for Temporary Assistance for the first five years they reside in the country, unless they are determined to be exempt from the five-year waiting period because of their immigration status (such as a refugee or asylee). In determining eligibility for qualified aliens, a portion of the income and assets of the immigrant's sponsor are counted. Non-qualified aliens are not eligible for Alaska Temporary Assistance.

3.5 60-MONTH TIME LIMIT

Families are not eligible if the family includes an adult who has received 60 months of assistance from the Alaska Temporary Assistance program, a TANF-funded program in another state, or a Native TANF-funded program. After 60 months, a family may receive a benefits extension on the basis of hardship if the Department determines the family is unable to become self-supporting because of:

- Domestic violence,
- Physical or mental inability to perform gainful activity,
- Caring for a child or relative who is experiencing a disability, or
- Other hardship defined by the Department in regulation.

Time-limit exemptions may not exceed 20 percent of the ATAP caseload. Segregated state TANF funds will be used to provide assistance for families receiving time-limit exemptions beyond the 20 percent maximum allowed under federal law.

3.6 PROGRAM PARTICIPANT RIGHTS

All ATAP applicants and program participants have a legal right to a hearing. An opportunity for a hearing is granted to any client whose application for assistance is denied or whose benefits are altered or terminated. A hearing request can be made in writing either by the client or by an authorized representative acting on the client's behalf to any Division of Public Assistance (DPA) employee. If requested, the Division will assist the client in making a hearing request.

A hearing request must be made within 30 days from the date of the notice. The state regulation at 7 AAC 49.010 – 900 further defines the written notice requirements, selection of hearing location, and timelines for these actions. A client has 10 days to submit written opposition if they disagree with the proposed decision. The Commissioner or designee will review the proposed decision. Once the Commissioner's Office renders the final decision, it is binding upon the agency. The client can still appeal to the Superior Court.

4. ALASKA TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ATAP) REQUIREMENTS

Eligible families may participate in ATAP provided they fulfill specific obligations. These obligations include providing necessary information about themselves and their family through the program application process, planning for self-sufficiency, and participating in work activities. If they fulfill program requirements, they receive benefits to provide for their basic needs and to assist them in achieving self- sufficiency and exiting the program.

4.1 APPLICATION

Program applicants must complete an application form in writing. To be considered complete, the application must provide all requested information and be supported by documentation the Division determines necessary to establish eligibility. The Division will offer assistance to those applicants expressing difficulty with completing the application or obtaining required verification. Completed applications received by the Division will be processed within 30 days of receipt.

4.2 FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY PLAN AND ASSESSMENT

Every adult included in a needy family must complete a Family Self-Sufficiency Plan. The plan outlines the steps the family will take to increase their independence, identifies specific milestones to indicate progress, and indicates the services the Division will provide to assist the family toward their goals. The family works with a DPA employee or contractor to develop their own Family Self-Sufficiency Plan (FSSP).

As the first step in developing the plan, the Department will complete an assessment of the skills, work experience, and employability of each parent or caretaker relative who is age 18 or older, or who is not attending secondary school and is without a high school diploma or GED. The DPA employee or contractor completes this assessment within 30 days after a family's referral to Work Services Case Management.

4.3 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Participants must report to DPA specific changes in their household circumstances that may affect their program eligibility or payment amount. These reports must be made within 10 days of when the parent or caretaker relative knows of the change. There is a five day reporting requirement if a dependent child is expected to be absent from the home for more than a full calendar month.

If failure to report results in an overpayment, participants are responsible for repayment to the state. An intentional failure to report a change or a misrepresentation of household circumstances may result in fraud prosecution or an intentional program violation penalty.

Participants must also take part in periodic reviews of their family's situation. DPA re-determines eligibility and benefit amount based on the information provided during the reviews and any other changes that are reported between reviews. Benefits are calculated prospectively to better coordinate the benefits with the household's current circumstances, which allows the family to budget more effectively, and helps in their efforts toward self-sufficiency.

4.4 CHILD SUPPORT

Regular child support payments are essential to help most single-parent ATAP families attain and sustain self-sufficiency. Participants are required to cooperate with the Child Support Services Division (CSSD) in establishing paternity and establishing, modifying, or enforcing a child support order for a dependent child within the family. This requirement is waived if an applicant or recipient can establish good cause for not cooperating with Child Support Services. Good cause reasons must be approved by the Division. An applicant must assign to the state all rights to child support for months they receive ATAP benefits once the family is eligible for benefits.

4.5 MINOR PARENTS

Minor parents are individuals under the age of 18 who are not married or emancipated, and who have applied for ATAP on behalf of themselves and their dependent children. The program requires minor teen parents to follow specific requirements designed to help them be responsible parents and independent adults.

Minor parents must live in an adult-supervised setting. They may live with a parent or guardian, another adult relative, or in a setting such as a group home that has been approved by the Department. If a minor parent does not comply with this requirement, the entire family is ineligible.

Minor parents who do not have a high school diploma or General Education Development (GED) must maintain an adequate level of school attendance in a secondary school or other appropriate training program. An adequate level of school attendance is one that meets the program's graduation or certification requirements. If a minor parent does not comply with this requirement, the family's benefit is reduced.

4.6 PENALTIES AND SANCTIONS

An otherwise needy family may not participate in the ATAP if it is specifically excluded by law. A participating family may have benefits reduced for failure to fulfill program requirements.

Families are ineligible for TANF funded ATAP benefits when:

- The family includes an adult who fraudulently misrepresented their residence in order to receive TANF-funded benefits in more than one state. The family is ineligible for 10 years beginning at the date of conviction.
- The family includes an individual who is determined to be fleeing to avoid prosecution, custody, or confinement after conviction for a crime that is classified as a felony or a class A misdemeanor.
- A caretaker refuses or voluntarily separates from suitable employment without good cause. The family is ineligible for ATAP benefits for one month for the first offense, six months for the second offense and 12 months for any subsequent offenses.
- The family caretaker is an unmarried minor parent not living with a parent or in another approved, adult-supervised setting.
- The family includes an adult who intentionally transfers a resource to become eligible. The family may lose eligibility for up to 12 months, depending on the value of the transferred resource.

The Department applies sanctions and penalties regarding ATAP benefits to an adult member of the family when:

- An adult member of the family incurs an administrative fraud penalty. These penalties result in a six-month disqualification of the offender for the first offense, 12 months for the second, and permanent disqualification for any subsequent violation.
- The family caretaker is an unmarried minor parent not attending high school or other equivalent training program. The penalty removes the minor parent from the payment calculation which reduces the family's payment until they comply with educational attendance requirements.
- The family includes an adult who is not a UC citizen or qualified alien under 8 U.S.C. 1612-1614.

- An adult member of the family refuses without good cause to comply with the Family Self-Sufficiency Plan, work activity or child support enforcement cooperation requirements. The maximum payment amount for that family's size is reduced by 40% for the first four months. After a home visit is attempted and a determination is made that the health, safety and well-being of the children in the family will not be significantly jeopardized by further reduction, the penalty amount may increase to 75% for the next four months. Thereafter the penalty may result in a full family sanction and the family will be ineligible for assistance. The penalty ends whenever the family demonstrates good cause or comes into compliance with requirements.
- Effective July 1st, 2016 Alaska has exercised its option established in Section 115(d)(1)(A) of PL 104-193. If the family includes an adult who committed a crime on or after August 22, 1996, which results in a federal or state felony conviction for possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance (not including alcohol or tobacco) they are ineligible for ATAP unless they are meeting one or more of the conditions listed below:
  1. Is satisfactorily serving or has successfully completed a period of probation or parole.
  2. Is in the process of serving or has successfully completed mandatory participation in a drug or alcohol treatment program.
  3. Has taken action toward rehabilitation, including participation in drug or alcohol treatment program.
  4. Is successfully complying with the requirements of the person's reentry plan.

III. WORK AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Alaska has implemented work and self-sufficiency programs that promote job creation, provide the client with job preparation and provide job support services designed to help clients gain and retain paid employment. Alaska regularly evaluates the effectiveness of these programs through data based performance measures of program results.

Alaska conforms to the work participation rates required by TANF rules. Child-only cases are not considered in participation rate calculation. Since federal fiscal year 2002, the participation rate for all families is 50%, and 90% for two-parent families.

5. WORK SERVICES DELIVERY

The Department uses an employment focused approach to providing services to connect ATAP families to work and the goal of self- sufficiency. Alaska assists TANF recipients to train for, seek, and maintain employment in high demand occupations. Alaska continues to encourage all interested and eligible TANF recipients to pursue work in these fields by working closely with their work services case managers and providing supportive services to pursue these opportunities on an individualized basis.

5.1 CONTINUUM OF WORK SERVICES

ATAP uses the Work First approach for all work services recipients to meet program goals of self-sufficiency for most families. Recipients immediately engage in a job or work activity. The philosophy holds that the best way to succeed in the job market is to join it and develop work habits and skills on the job. Work Services begins with applicant job search. It provides for a supported job search that includes an assessment and screening designed to connect people with the right job. For those unable to find a job, Work Services provides additional activities geared toward overcoming barriers to employment.

The Work Services approach is centered on the Employability Assessment (EA) and a Family Self-Sufficiency Plan (FSSP). All families with a needy adult must participate in self-sufficiency planning. The Plan sets out the steps necessary for the family to follow to achieve financial independence and identifies milestones and goals along the way.

The Department has recognized that some adults are not successful at going to work and increasing their self-sufficiency through labor market work search. To help these families the Department has adopted a holistic approach to supporting the whole family to help those with multiple life complexities be successful in employment and increasing their self-sufficiency.

ATAP families with a variety of circumstances and challenges may engage in a continuum of services for households that demonstrate:

- Co-enrollment with multiple Department and/or community agencies, including but not limited to Children's Services, Juvenile Justice and Behavioral Health,
- Multiple attempts to find employment through traditional work search activities without success in getting a job,
- Inability to maintain or advance in employment,
- Long term medical issues that have limited their participation in work and self-sufficiency activities,
- Disabled family members who rely on an adult in the home for their daily care, and
- Efforts being made to rejoin the workforce after a prolonged medical or mental health challenge.

Because of Alaska's geographic size and economic diversity, the Department supports the use of a variety of activities including community and business work experience as an acceptable primary work activity for individuals who need to improve their skills and employability.

The Department developed strong partnerships and contracted with local governments, Native organizations, non-profit and for-profit organizations. These community-based organizations and businesses are in the best position to deliver training, job preparation, job readiness, and education services as well as to develop job opportunities tailored to each region's economic characteristics. Local partnerships are especially important for effective community and business work experience activities that must be locally defined and monitored. In remove Alaska communities with limited employment opportunities, traditional and culturally appropriate subsistence activities are pursued. Subsistence activities are defined as the non-commercial, customary, and traditional harvest of wild, renewable resources for use as food, shelter, fuel, clothing, tools, or transportation. Subsistence activities must serve a useful public purpose and contribute to the common good of the community to be counted as a CWE.

6. *WORK ACTIVITIES*

ATAP refers mandatory caretaker relatives, to a Work Services provider promptly to develop a FSSP and rapid engagement in assigned work activities. Alaska opts to include successful work participants in a Tribal program when data is available. Work activities include:

- Unsubsidized employment, including self-employment,
- Subsidized public or private sector employment,
- Work search,
- Vocational Counseling,
- On-the-job-training,
- Job readiness activities,
- Vocational education and training,
- Approved community work experience,
- Approved business work experience,
- Job skills training directly related to employment,
- Education directly related to employment, and
- Culturally appropriate subsistence activities.

7. *WORK ACTIVITY EXEMPTIONS*

A parent or caretaker may be exempt from the requirement to participate in work activities because they are:

- Needed in the home to care for a disabled relative,
- Determined to have a medical condition that limits their ability to participate in work activities,
- A caretaker of a child age 12 months or younger, however this exemption has a cumulative 12-month lifetime limit,
- A victim of domestic violence, and
- Living in a community without available child care for a child under age six.

Individuals may be referred to other programs or agencies for special services such as vocational rehabilitation, counseling, substance abuse treatment, or other medical services as those needs are identified.

Alaska is not implementing the federal option that requires an exempt parent or caretaker to participate in community work experience activities after two years of benefit receipt. The state chose to opt out of this provision because mandatory participation after two years of assistance may interfere with time spent in activities that will assist the participant to gain

early paid employment.
Alaska needs flexibility in assigning program participants to work activities to ensure activities are appropriate to the work season, labor market, and available opportunities, especially in remote areas of Alaska.

7.1 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Alaska has implemented special provisions for victims of family violence in coordination with the State Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Further guidance regarding the application of this exemption is in the Alaska Temporary Assistance Manual. Alaska will:

- Screen individuals applying for and receiving ATAP for past or current domestic violence victimization,
- Refer domestic violence victims to specialized, community-based services including counseling and shelters,
- Prepare individual service strategies consistent with safety needs,
- Waive program requirements including work participation and child support cooperation,
- Waive program ineligibility due to exceeding benefit time limits when compliance with these requirements would risk the physical, mental or emotional well-being of the family, and
- Reassess the program waiver, at a minimum, every six months.

7.2 CHILD CARE

A parent or caretaker relative of a child under age six is exempt from the requirement to participate in work activities if he or she demonstrates an inability to find needed child care because:

- Appropriate child care within a reasonable distance from the home or activity site is unavailable,
- Affordable child care is unavailable, or
- Suitable informal child care is unavailable.

Child care is available when a child care provider is located in the community where the parent lives or participates in their work activities and the provider's hours of operation meet the parent's needs.

Child care is appropriate when the child care provider:

- Has the ability to provide safe and competent care for children of the same age and development level as the participant's children,
- Is willing to care for the child(ren), and
- Is located within 30 minutes travel time by public or private transportation from the parent's home or activity site.

Child care is affordable when the family has access to a child care program to help pay the cost.

Informal child care is care provided by a relative or friend who is not a licensed child care provider.

8. SERVICES PROVIDED

Services provided to ATAP participants may include:

- On-the-job training and subsidized employment,
- Short-term job training,
- Counseling and skill building,
- Help with child care expenses,
- Referrals for paid employment,
- Referrals for community and business work experience,
- Structured job search with Job Clubs and workshops,
- Customized employment, and
- Transitional services including child care assistance, Medicaid, and post-employment support.

9 PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

The Department uses a variety of methods to assess and evaluate how well we meet our goal of moving Alaskans into jobs so they can support their families.

9.1 ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

Work Services: The Department uses specific data based performance measures to determine program effectiveness. These measures include an on-going assessment of program success using the federally mandated work participation rates.

Other measures include:

- Percent of adults employed within 90 days,
- Percent of cases that close with earnings,
- Percent of cases that close and do not reopen, and
- Percent of cases participating in a job development activity.

ATAP data is gathered by the Eligibility Information System (EIS) used by the Division. Ongoing system enhancements are made to evaluate the effectiveness of program policies and to monitor the attainment of regional goals. The Department uses longitudinal data based on evaluation of individual family progress towards safety, stability and self- sufficiency to measure program efficiency.

Over time the total number of families making progress towards family health, stability and ability to work is used to determine if program strategies and services are successful in moving parents towards self-sufficiency and employment.

9.2 PROGRAM EVALUATION

During 1999 and 2000, the Department collaborated with the University of Alaska Anchorage to conduct a welfare "leavers study," *Reaching for Independence: A Study of Families That Have Left the Alaska Temporary Assistance Program.* The main objective of this project was to determine the characteristics and status of families that left the Alaska Temporary Assistance Program as well as those who left and later returned. Additionally, the study helped to clarify the nature of barriers experienced by recipients in finding or keeping employment. Results of this study have been used to assess the effectiveness of the Department's efforts to move welfare recipients into jobs and have informed efforts to improve service delivery.

9.3 LONG-TERM RECIPIENT STUDY

The Department collaborated again with the University of Alaska Anchorage in 2001-2002 to conduct a study of long-term recipients of Temporary Assistance, *Facing the Final Countdown: A Study of Long-Term Alaska Temporary Assistance Program Recipients*. The purpose of this study was to discover the factors associated with long-term reliance on Temporary Assistance and the degree to which those factors were addressed by the program. The Department has used the results to continue to develop effective policy and service responses.

9.4 CHALLENGES TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY STUDY

The Department collaborated with the University of Alaska Anchorage, Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies in 2011-2012 for a new study on the barriers that impact Temporary Assistance parents' ability to go to work. *Evaluating the Challenges to Self-sufficiency Faced by TANF Clients in Alaska* studied current Temporary Assistance families with long-term reliance on

assistance and those families with a parent unable to participate full time in work and other activities. The study found that there were three primary challenges to self-sufficiency – health and medical problems, personal qualities, and community characteristics. Especially prevalent were depression, injury, disability, domestic violence, and a variety of mental health issues.

The Division has acted on study findings by evaluating all families on assistance and identifying those experiencing multiple and profound challenges. All families who need more intensive help, partner plan coordination, and a continuum of service to make progress towards becoming employed now receive the level of services they need regardless of where they live and who their local Work Services provider may be.

10. CURRENT WORKERS DISPLACEMENT PROTECTION

Currently employed workers are protected from displacement by state labor laws and Department policies. Workers covered by a collective bargaining agreement use agreement procedures to address complaints about ATAP participants and job displacement. Otherwise, the Department conducts a hearing to determine the validity of the complaint. If valid, the Temporary Assistance participant's placement is terminated.

11. INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT WELFARE TO WORK

11.1 ALASKA WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

The Alaska Workforce Investment Board (AWIB) is focused on developing a workforce system that is useful, accessible, and understandable to businesses looking for qualified workers, unemployed Alaskans looking for jobs, and incumbent workers wanting to upgrade their skills in a changing work environment. The board provides policy oversight of state and federally funded job training and vocational education programs. Board members, a majority of whom are business and industry leaders, look at employment trends and emerging occupations to ensure training is customized and Alaskans are prepared for high demand, good wage jobs. The AWIB helps meet the workforce development needs of economically disadvantaged citizens and Alaskans with disabilities by ensuring access to quality job training and employment services statewide.

11.2 ALASKA JOB CENTER NETWORK

Alaska has developed one-stop job centers in various communities. These offices provide job seekers, including Temporary Assistance recipients, with professional and convenient resources to help them find work. Key agencies include the Divisions of Public Assistance, Employment Security and Vocational Rehabilitation, other Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) agencies and local non-profit organizations. Alaska's TANF program is looking forward to further developing this relationship as WIOA provisions are implemented to serve the needs of individuals with barriers to employment.

12. GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF PROGRAM

Diverse economic conditions within Alaska dictate that programs are locally administered to the greatest extent possible. State government recognizes that local knowledge and resources must be used to place clients into jobs or other meaningful work activities. The state collaborates and contracts with community agencies for delivery of some services and purchases others through service agreements. Partnerships between the Division of Public Assistance field staff and community agencies are forged at the local level. Strong partnerships with Native organizations are an essential means of service delivery throughout Alaska.

IV. ALASKA TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE (ATAP) BENEFITS

Financial eligibility for ATAP is based primarily on family resources and income. Other family economic considerations include childcare, shelter costs, and the number of dependent children living in the home. Temporary Assistance payments are intended to help with basic living expenses and are calculated on a monthly basis. Eligibility is reviewed periodically and redeterminations are made whenever a change in family circumstances is reported.

13. FAMILY NEED

The Department determines which individuals in the household are members of the Alaska Temporary Assistance economic unit. The Department establishes:

- With whom the dependent child lives,
- Who, of the individuals living with the dependent child, is responsible for the child and if their income and resources are available to the child,
- If the child is financially needy, and
- If any of the individuals in the household are legally or financially responsible for the dependent child's caretaker relative.

Financial need is determined to exist if the family resources and income are below the need standards set by the Department in regulation. There are four sets of need standards used to determine if a family is eligible to receive ATAP based on the composition of the family unit.

The tables used to apply these standards are attached to this plan as an appendix. These standards are adjusted each year by a percentage increase equal to the cost of living percentage increase in Social Security Insurance benefits.

13.1. RESOURCES

ATAP rules allow families to keep up to $2,000 in assets, or $3,000 if the assistance unit includes an individual who is 60 years of age or older. Program rules will exclude the value of a vehicle that is necessary for family transportation, to participate in work or an approved work activity, as a family's home, or to transport a disabled family member. The equity value of any non-exempt vehicles will be counted as part of the resource limit.

13.2 *EARNED INCOME DEDUCTIONS*

As an incentive to employment, ATAP allows an earned income deduction when determining a participant's payment amount. The earned income deductions are designed to encourage work and to ease the transition from assistance to paid employment. The following deductions are allowed when determining net income eligibility for individuals who have received ATAP in at least one of the previous four months:

Month of Earnings	Amount of Deductions
1 through 12 months of earned income receipt	$150 + 33% of remaining earned income
13 through 24 months of earnings	$150 + 25% of remaining earned income
25 through 36 months of earnings	$150 + 20% of remaining earned income
37 through 48 months of earnings	$150 + 15% of remaining earned income
49 through 60 months of earnings	$150 + 10% of remaining earned income
Over 60 months of earnings	$150 + 0%

13.3 *2020 CENSUS INCOME DISREGARD*

In an effort to assist the federal government with obtaining the most accurate data for Alaska, the state has elected to disregard an ATAP recipient's income earned through temporary employment from the 2020 census. Not only will Alaska as a whole benefit from the income disregard, so too will ATAP recipients.

This opportunity allows for ATAP recipients to learn and practice important job skills, meet their weekly work hour requirement, and earn additional income to assist with attaining the goal of becoming self-sufficient.

13.4 *PAYMENTS*

The maximum levels of ATAP payments for basic living expenses are set in law:

- $514 a month for a family consisting of a pregnant woman in her third trimester of pregnancy and no other dependent children.
- $452 a month for a dependent child living with a non-needy caretaker relative, plus $102 for each additional child.
- $821 for a dependent child living with one needy parent or caretaker relative, plus $102 for each additional child.

- $821 per month, for a dependent child living with two parents both of whom are able to perform gainful activity, plus $102 for each additional child. During the months of July, August and September, this amount is reduced by 50 percent.
- $923 per month for a dependent child living with two parents, one of whom is physically or mentally unable to perform gainful activity, plus $102 for each additional child.

14. CHILD CARE

Alaska developed a child care program entitled Parents Achieving Self-sufficiency (PASS) to ensure seamless child care services for families as they work to achieve economic self-sufficiency. Child care costs associated with work, approved education and training, community service or other paid and non-paid work activities are paid for through the PASS program.

PASS is a three-tiered program that provides seamless child care subsidies as recipients move from Temporary Assistance toward self-sufficiency. To participate in any PASS program, a parent must be working, attending school or training program, or participating in activities assigned on their FSSP.

PASS I is funded through TANF and is available for Temporary Assistance families engaged in work, job readiness or activities necessary to achieve self-sufficiency. PASS II is funded by TANF and the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) and is available for up to twelve months for transitional purposes for those employed Temporary Assistance families whose case closes.
The PASS III program is funded by CCDF and provides subsidized child care for qualifying low-income families. PASS II and PASS III families must be engaged in work, education, or training activities and require a family contribution toward the cost of child care based on a sliding fee scale depending on a family's gross income and family size.

Provider recruitment and referrals for child care are accomplished primarily through Alaska's statewide Resource and Referral Network. Alaska requires that all child care providers who participate in the PASS program be state or Municipality of Anchorage licensed, state approved, or certified by the United States Department of Defense or United States Coast Guard. Tribally Approved or Tribally Certified providers with standards that meet or exceed the State of Alaska's standards are also eligible to participate in the PASS program.

15. *SUPPORT SERVICES BENEFITS*

The Division contracts services necessary to support work activities and to promote self-sufficiency for ATAP participants and recipients transitioning into the workforce.

These services include, but are not limited to:

- Transportation,
- Job related training,
- Tools and equipment,
- Employment related clothing,
- Minor auto repair/car insurance,
- Pre-employment interview expenses,
- Start-up expenses, and
- Social Security application assistance.

16. *SHELTER*

A portion of the ATAP payment is intended to cover shelter costs. Families with shelter costs below the shelter allowance will receive a smaller benefit payment than a family with shelter costs equal to or higher than the shelter allowance. Payments for families with low or no shelter costs will be reduced by up to 30 percent.

17. *BENEFIT DELIVERY*

ATAP benefits will be paid in the form of cash warrants, wage subsidies, vouchers, and/or third party vendor payments. The Department has implemented electronic benefit transfer (EBT) as a form of issuing ATAP and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for recipients.

ATAP recipients have surcharge-free access to their cash benefits via point of sale (POS) devices at Food and Nutrition Service approved retailers throughout Alaska. Additionally, recipients are able to pay a minimal fee of $0.32 to make a withdrawal at any Automated Teller Machine (ATM). All recipients are educated on how to cancel a potential transaction that would charge an excessive surcharge and how to locate another ATM or POS device with a no surcharge.

The State of Alaska has restricted access of TANF benefits from EBT cards (via ATMs or POS devices) at any liquor store, bar, gambling establishment, or adult entertainment establishment. The Department of Health and Social Services partners with the Department of Commerce, Community and

Economic Development to identify businesses in Alaska where TANF funds cannot be spent.

The State of Alaska collaborated with JP Morgan Chase to notify ATAP recipients and relevant businesses throughout Alaska, of federal statute P.L. 112-96, and their expectations for compliance.

The State of Alaska monitors EBT ATM transactions on a monthly basis at applicable businesses throughout Alaska.

Additionally, applicants and recipients are made aware of this restriction by language included on our application for services, eligibility review forms, notices of action, proliferating signs for district offices, and posting information on the Division of Public Assistance website. Alaska has updated its manuals for the ATAP and Administrative Procedures regarding PL 112-96 for all field staff.

18. PRIVACY

The Division of Public Assistance (DPA) has adopted and will enforce regulations governing the custody, use, and preservation of records including the names and addresses of recipients of any public assistance program. Except for purposes directly connected with the administration of public assistance programs, or in connection with a Legislator's official business, no one may disclose, receive or use names, or any information about people who participate in public assistance programs directly or indirectly. Confidentiality rules allow release of a recipient's address to a law enforcement officer who requests the information and identifies the recipient as a fugitive felon or parole violator. However, only an office manager or an employee of similar or higher rank is authorized to provide this information to law enforcement.

V. PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Alaska's TANF programs promote parental responsibility. ATAP incorporates child support, minor parent program requirements, and program non-compliance penalties as previously described. Other efforts to promote parental responsibility are described under Other TANF Funded Services. In addition, as a companion to ATAP, Alaska enacted in 1996 and reauthorized in 2001 child support provisions intended to strengthen families and promote parental responsibilities. These provisions include:

- Parents of unmarried minor parents may be ordered by a court to pay child support for their grandchild until the minor parent becomes an adult.
- The interest rate on child support arrearages is reduced from 12% to 6 % to encourage delinquent obligors to comply.
- Occupational and drivers licenses of obligors who are three or more months in arrears on their child support payments are withheld unless the obligors make arrangements with the CSSD.
- Alaska's participation in the National Registry of Child Support Cases and a National Directory of new hires to support the interstate enforcement of child support.

VI. NATIVE FAMILY ASSISTANCE

Native American Tribes may administer family assistance programs under their own TANF block grants. Federal law specifically names the twelve regional Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act non-profit organizations and the Metlakatla Indian Community as eligible federal block grant recipients in Alaska. These organizations can receive block grants under the Tribal Family Assistance Program upon approval of a plan submitted to the Secretary of the US Department of Health and Human Services.

There are currently seven Alaska Native organizations operating TANF-funded Native Family Assistance programs in Alaska: Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) in interior Alaska, Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA) in the Bristol Bay region, Cook Inlet Tribal Corporation, Inc. (CITCI) in the Municipality of Anchorage and Mat-Su Valley, the Association of Village Council Presidents in western Alaska (AVCP), the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (CCTHITA) in southeast Alaska, Kodiak Area Native Association (KANA) in the Kodiak area, and Maniilaq Inc. in the Northwest Arctic region.

Legislation passed in Alaska in 2000 and reauthorized in 2005 gave the state of Alaska the authority to award grants to certain Alaska Native organizations who develop and operate their own TANF programs. Native organizations use the state grant to augment their federal TANF block grant to deliver services and activities that promote self-sufficiency and enhance the lives of families in their services areas.

The Native regional non-profit organizations are community-based with close ties to local economies. These organizations are able to deliver locally based and culturally relevant programs. The state also contracts and grants with Native organizations to provide for the delivery of Native Employment Work (NEW) Services in those areas not served by Native Family Assistance Programs.

The Department provides state funds to certain Alaska Native Tribes that have a plan approved by the federal Department of Health and Human Services and have signed a grant agreement with Alaska DHSS.

More information on Native Family Assistance Programs in Alaska may be viewed at:

http://dpaweb.hss.state.ak.us/manuals/NFAP/NFAP_Guide.htm.

VII. OTHER TANF FUNDED SERVICES

The Department uses segregated federal TANF funds for other programs for needy families. These programs provide services that promote one or more of the four purposes of TANF block grants. These programs are designed to: provide assistance to allow children to be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives, promote job preparation and work, prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies, and encourage the formation and maintenance of two parent families.

19. TRANSPORTATION

The Department supports the promotion and development of transportation alternatives for ATAP participants who are making the transition to work and self-sufficiency. This support is provided through our participation in collaborative planning, and by using segregated federal TANF funds to support a public transportation systems capacity to serve ATAP participants in communities where lack of transportation options impacts participants' ability to obtain and maintain employment. Most of the funds are used to match federal grants received by community organizations providing transit and paratransit services. Some funds are used to arrange transportation for individual ATAP recipients. The Department is working collaboratively with the Alaska Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Alaska Department of Labor (DOL) in these efforts. In addition, ATAP encourages local transportation initiatives developed by communities and directed toward addressing their unique transportation obstacles.

20. PREGNANCY PREVENTION

The Department, with the Division of Public Health acting as the lead agency, invests segregated federal TANF funds in an array of services focused on reducing out-of-wedlock and teen pregnancies. The goal is to reduce the number of these pregnancies as a means to improve the family's opportunities to achieve self-sufficiency.

To achieve this goal, the Department has focused on unwed and unintended pregnancies and has set an immediate goal of reducing the incidence of births to females between the ages of 15-17 to 8 per 1,000 statewide.

The Department collaborates with community partners to provide education, especially to teens, on the problems and risks associated with out-of-wedlock and teen parent pregnancies. In areas of the state with high teen and out-of-wedlock pregnancies and high numbers of unintended pregnancies, efforts are focused on improving access to family planning services and long-term contraceptives for at-risk teens and women.

In conjunction with pregnancy prevention efforts, the Department provides education to the public on statutory rape and basic training to community partners on identifying and reporting incidences of statutory rape.

Alaska, using non-TANF funding, supports programs designed to reach Alaska services systems, families and individuals statewide to promote healthy relationships, children and families. DHSS, the Office of the Governor and other state agencies target children and adults of all genders, and workers dedicated to supporting the health, safety and education of Alaskans. The wide range of activities encompasses work to support reduction of teen and out-of-wedlock pregnancy through reducing statutory rape, sexual assault and domestic violence. Efforts promote respect, healthy relationships and safety of all Alaskans.

21. SERVICES FOR REFUGEE FAMILIES

Refugee families new to Alaska often encounter multiple barriers to employment and self-sufficiency including language, culture, health, transportation and basic navigation of Alaska social and health services. In order to support refugee families receiving ATAP benefits, DPA collaborates with Catholic Social Services, the only Office of Refugee Assistance funded program in Alaska.

Refugee families new to Alaska who receive ATAP are referred to Catholic Social Services for work preparation and placement, English as a second language (ESL) classes and life skills education tailored to their needs. This reduces the number of agencies and programs families must access to receive the support they need to successfully plan for and achieve self-sufficiency through employment, and ensures that work services which are relevant and effective are provided to this unique population.

VIII. ADMINISTRATION

22. ALASKA STATUTE

State statute requires the Department to:

- Provide assistance with basic living expenses and self-sufficiency services to needy children and their families.
- Determine program standards that provide clients with incentives to work, participate in financial planning, and opportunities to develop self-sufficiency.
- Prepare a state plan to submit to the federal government to assure that federal money is available to the state for operation of ATAP.
- Administer the program to assure consistency with federal requirements.
- Report to the federal government and state legislature information required to comply with any provisions the federal government determines necessary to ensure correct and verifiable information on the program.
- Conduct studies and research in order to evaluate and monitor the effectiveness of the state program.
- Adopt regulations and take actions necessary to implement, interpret, and administer ATAP.

23. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION OF TANF

The Department of Health and Social Services administers ATAP through the Division of Public Assistance (DPA). The organizational structure of the Department and the Division with primary responsibility for the administration of TANF is attached as an appendix.

24. MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT

The Department funds a number of activities in order for Alaska to meet TANF Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirements. For the purposes of claiming MOE, Alaska's definition of a child is any individual under the age of 19.

A. The following programs are state funded providing assistance to households with an eligible child who are within the federal poverty limitations for Alaska:
   - Monthly cash assistance payments and child support pass through payments.
   - Child care provided to ATAP families who are participating in work, education, training or other activity included in the Family Self-Sufficiency Plan.

- Native Family Assistance Program (NFAP) Grants to eligible Tribal Organizations that administer their own federal TANF or NEW Program to support basic assistance payments and other allowable expenditures eligible as MOE for Alaska's Department of Health and Social Services.
- A percentage of the costs of the Department's administration of activities as described in this plan.
- Alaska's Child Support Services Division partners with Tribal TANF programs and provides countable monthly pass-through payments and additional MOE expenditures.
- Parents Achieving Self Sufficiency (PASS) II and III child care subsidies paid to child care providers and parents as determined eligible by the Division of Public Assistance or its grantees.
    - Parent(s) in the family must be participating in an eligible activity of working, attending school or a job training program, and meet non-financial and financial eligibility criteria, and
    - Families must not exceed income limits which are set at 85% of adjusted 2016 median income for Alaska: $5,156 for a household of 3, $6,107 for a household of 4, etc.

B. The following programs are state and privately funded providing assistance to households with an eligible child who are within the federal poverty limitations for Alaska:
    - Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC): Empowering Choice Housing Program (ECHP) – Temporary housing for families fleeing domestic violence and sexual assault.
    - Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska: Mentoring Program and Administrative Costs – Mentors for at risk youth and costs associated with running the program.
    - Camp Fire Alaska: School Program – Before and after school programs providing children with the social, emotional, physical, and academic skills needed to become a successful adults.
    - Camp Fire Alaska: Summer Camp Program – summer day camp scholarships provided to youth ages 5-17.
    - Alaska Food Banks - Food assistance provided to families through the distributions of local food pantries.
    - Alaska Housing Finance Corporations (AHFC): Family Self Sufficiency Program classes at Anchorage Family Investment Center – Employability and financial security training.
    - Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC): Resident Services Summer Camp Scholarships – summer camp for youth ages 6-17 who are already in AHFC's housing program.
    - Boys & Girls Clubs Alaska (BCG Alaska) – Provides programs and activities, in a drug-free environment, with positive adult role models.

- Office of Children Services (OCS): Emergency Relief Support – Temporary cash payments designed to support families while awaiting federal foster care licensure, TANF benefit approval, or Tribal TANF benefit approval.
- Office of Children Services (OCS): Foster Care Special Needs – Short term assistance providing services and supports not included in OCS out-of-home care payment.
- United Way of Anchorage: Alaska 2-1-1 – Call center throughout the state of Alaska connecting individuals and families with community resources and providing real-time information on health and human service needs.
- United Way of Anchorage (UWA) – Provides grants to support basic services, lifelong learning and community engagement, connects Alaskans to critical services like job skills training, educational opportunities, child care, housing, and health and emergency services.

CERTIFICATIONS

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

This program is known as the Alaska Temporary Assistance Program or ATAP.

In administering and operating a program which provides Temporary Assistance for Needy Families with minor children under title IV-A of the Social Security Act, the Governor of Alaska, Governor Michael J. Dunleavy, hereby certifies that:

- The Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Assistance, is the agency responsible for administering the ATAP program in Alaska.

- Local governments and private sector organizations have been consulted regarding the plan and design of welfare services in Alaska so that services are provided in a manner appropriate to local populations; and these organizations have been provided a 45 day comment period.

- Alaska will operate a Child Support Enforcement program under the State Plan approved under part D.

- Alaska will operate a Foster Care and Adoption Assistance program in accordance with part E, and will take all necessary actions to ensure that children receiving assistance are eligible for medical assistance under title XIX of the Social Security Act.

- Alaska will provide each member of an Indian Tribe who is domiciled in the state and is not eligible for assistance under a Tribal Family Assistance plan approved under Section 412 of the Social Security Act, with equitable access to assistance under the state program funded under this part attributable to funds provided by the federal government.

- Alaska has established and enforces standards and procedures to ensure against program fraud and abuse, including standards and procedures concerning nepotism, conflicts of interest among individuals responsible for the administration and supervision of the state program, kickbacks, and the use of political patronage.

- The State Plan is available to the public.

- Alaska will screen for and identify individuals receiving assistance under this part with a history of domestic violence while maintaining the confidentiality of such individuals and refer such individuals to counseling and supportive services. Furthermore, the state will waive, pursuant to a determination of good cause, other program requirements such as time limits for individuals receiving assistance, residency requirements, child support cooperation requirements, and family cap provisions, in cases where compliance with such requirements would make it more difficult for individuals receiving assistance under this part to escape domestic violence or unfairly penalize such individuals who are or have been victimized by such violence, or individuals who are at risk of further domestic violence.

CERTIFIED BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

Michael J. Dunleavy, Governor

12/11/19
Date

FUNDING

Section 403(a)(I)(A) provides that each eligible state shall be entitled to receive for each of the fiscal years 1996 through 2020, a grant in an amount equal to the state family assistance grant as defined in section 403(a)(I)(B).

I. Payments to Agency Administering the TANF Program

Payments for the TANF program will be made to the organization managing the AFDC/JOBS programs as of August 22, 1996. This organization is the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Assistance.

II. State Payments for TANF Program

Section 405 requires that grants be paid to states in quarterly installments, based on state estimates. The state's estimate for each quarter of the fiscal year by percentage is:

1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
$9,152,539.87 MOE	$9,152,539.87 MOE	$9,152,539.87 MOE	$9,152,539.87 MOE
$11,151,844.00 TANF	$11, 151,844.00 TANF	$11,151,844.00 TANF	$11,151,844.00 TANF
25%	25%	25%	25%