

**TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE
FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)
ANNUAL REPORT**

STATE OF ARKANSAS
FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2014

**Arkansas Department of Workforce Services
Artee Williams, Director**

December 2014

Table of Contents
Topic

Page
Number

Introduction and Purpose of the Annual Report..... 1

A. Work Activities..... 1

- Unsubsidized Employment
- Subsidized Employment
- Work Experience
- On-the-Job Training
- Job Search and Job Readiness
- Community Services Programs
- Vocational Education Training
- Job Skills
- Education Directly Related to Employment
- Satisfactory Attendance at Secondary School or Equivalency
- Providing Childcare Services for Participant Enrolled in Community Service Program

B. Services Available to Families Ineligible Due To Employment Hours..... 4

C. Penalty for Non-Compliance with a Work Activity..... 5

D. Child Care Disregards..... 6

E. Family Violence Option..... 6

F. Nonrecurring Short-term Benefits..... 6

G. Displacement Complaints..... 7

H. Third & Fourth TANF Purposes..... 8

I. Encourage the Formation and Maintenance of Two-Parent Families (45CFR 260.20(d))..... 9

J. Participation in Subsidized Employment..... 10

Annual Report on State Maintenance-of-Effort Programs (ACF-204)
Attachment I

Introduction and Purpose of Plan

The Arkansas Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) federal fiscal year 2014 annual report was prepared and is being submitted as required by federal regulation 45 CFR 265.9.

Arkansas' Temporary Assistance for Needy Families cash assistance program consists of our traditional Transitional Employment Assistance (TEA) facet, as well as our post-employment facet, called Arkansas Work Pays.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds from the U.S. Department Health and Human Services support both TEA and Work Pays in Arkansas, which help disadvantaged Arkansans transition from government assistance to self-sufficiency. Both TEA and Work Pays require active work participation or training to qualify for temporary assistance.

A. Work Activities Definitions

Able-bodied adult family members are required to participate in work activities, which are designed to lead to employment. The work activities and definition are as follows:

- 1. Unsubsidized Employment** – is defined as supervised full-time or part-time employment in the public or private sector with wages paid by the employer that are not supplemented by TANF or any other public program. The determination of whether or not employment is subsidized depends on whether the employer, rather than the participant, receives a direct subsidy. Self-employment and College Work Study are considered unsubsidized employment in Arkansas.

College Work Study

Work Study is defined as unsubsidized employment for students in financial need. Work Study placements are sites developed or contracted out by educational institutions where students who qualify for this benefit are employed in order to receive this financial aid. The wages is usually received as an hourly salary that cannot exceed the total Work Study award.

Self-Employment

Self-employment is defined as unsubsidized employment in which an individual generates income for themselves rather than for others.

- 2. Subsidized Employment** – consists of both Private and Public employment whereby the participant must receive the same wages, benefits, and working conditions as other employees who are performing comparable work. The employer must meet or exceed Federal Minimum Wage requirements.

Subsidized Private Sector Employment is defined as supervised employment in the private sector for which the employer receives a subsidy from TANF or other public funds to offset some or all of the wages and costs of employing a participant for an established trial period. It is agreed that at the end of the trial period, not to exceed six months, the employer is expected to retain the participant as a regular employee without receiving a subsidy.

Subsidized Public Sector Employment is defined as supervised employment in the public sector for which the employer receives a subsidy from TANF or other public funds to offset some or all of the wages and costs of employing a participant for an established trial period. It is agreed that at the end of the trial period, not to exceed six months, the employer is expected to retain the participant as a regular employee without receiving a subsidy.

- 3. Work Experience** - is defined as supervised unpaid work in a public-sector or private-sector setting that allows participants to develop employment/job skills and improve work habits through time-limited unsalaried job at a clearly defined, well-supervised site. The Work Experience definition includes Unpaid Internships. Unpaid Internships are short-term and usually part-time worksite learning assignments with a public or private organization that enhances the participant's employability through skill building. The participant does not receive a wage. Unpaid internships include external learning assignments that may be required by a program (i.e. Clinical Hours).
- 4. On-the-Job Training** - is defined as training in the public or private sector that is given to a paid employee while he or she is engaged in productive work and that provides knowledge and skills essential to the full and adequate performance of the job. On-the-job training differs from subsidized employment in that the OJT employer receives a subsidy to help with costs associated with *training*. "Supported work" for individuals with disabilities is considered OJT if onsite training is included.
- 5. Job search and job readiness assistance** - is defined as seeking or obtaining employment or the preparation for seeking or obtaining employment. Job search activities include making contact with potential employers, applying for vacancies, and interviewing for jobs. Job readiness activities include classes or workshops where participants can improve their employability skills. Participants

learn techniques such as resume writing, workplace etiquette, interviewing, and life skills.

Job readiness activities also include substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment (including mental health treatment needed to address domestic violence), or rehabilitation activities. Such treatment or therapy must be determined to be necessary and documented by a qualified medical or mental health professional or treatment provider.

- 6. Community Service** - is defined as projects that serve a useful community purpose and those that are designed to improve the employability of recipients. Participation in Community Service enables participants with limited or no experience to learn valuable work habits and socialization skills that employers require of their workers. Community Service activities are performed with a government entity (city, county or state), or community and charitable organizations.
- 7. Career and Technical Education** (not to exceed 12 months with respect to any individual) - is defined as organized educational programs that are directly related to the preparation of individuals for employment in current or emerging occupations requiring training. Career and Technical Education does include organized educational programs that lead to a baccalaureate or advanced degrees.

Career and Technical Education must be provided by education or training organizations such as: vocational-technical schools, community colleges, postsecondary institutions, proprietary schools, non-profit organizations, and secondary schools that offer vocational education.

Distance learning is allowed when provided by an accredited program recognized by the Arkansas Department of Education and/or Higher Education. Distance learning programs should have a mechanism for providing reports that document progress and time spent by an individual accessing the online distance-learning program. This documentation will be provided to the case manager no less than biweekly.

Career and Technical Education does include English as a Second Language (ESL) if they are a necessary and regular part of the work activity.

- 8. Job Skills Training** - Job skills training is defined as training or education for job skills required by an employer to provide an individual with the ability to obtain employment or to advance or adapt to the changing demands of the workplace.

Job skills training includes customized training that meets the needs of a specific employer, general training that prepares an individual for employment, and vocational education training that continues after the twelve-month time limit, if it fits in the definition of this activity. This definition includes all actual hours spent in class as well as supervised and unsupervised time spent performing other activities required for the approved training program.

- 9. Education Directly Related to Employment** - is defined as an educational program that is related to a specific occupation, job, or job offer. This includes courses designed to provide the knowledge and skills for specific occupations or work settings and includes English for Speakers of Other Languages and Basic Education. When it is a prerequisite for employment by an employer, this activity may include education leading to a GED or a high school equivalency diploma. Supervised and unsupervised time spent in study halls is included in the definition.
- 10. Satisfactory Attendance at Secondary School** - is defined as high school attendance or participation in a GED preparation class and may be assigned to participants who lack a high school diploma or a GED. As a condition of eligibility for TANF cash assistance, a teen parent who does not have a high school diploma or a GED will participate in this activity.
- 11. Providing Childcare Services** – is defined as a structured activity in which a participant provides unpaid childcare to enable another TANF participant to participate in a community service program. This definition does not include providing childcare to a TANF participant participating in any activity other than community service nor allows one parent in a two-parent family provide childcare for his or her own child while the other parent participates in community service.

B. Services Available to Families Ineligible Due To Employment

The following extended supportive services are available to families who lose eligibility for TEA cash assistance due to employment.

1. Extended Support Services (ESS) Child Care – ESS childcare services are available for up to a lifetime limit of two years (24 cumulative months). The first year (12 months) of ESS childcare will be at no cost to the participant. The second year (months 13-24) will be on a cost sharing basis that is based upon the Division of Childcare’s current fee scale. To receive ESS child care assistance at no cost during the first twelve months, at least one of the following conditions must be met:
 - earnings alone caused the family to be income ineligible for TEA, or
 - The participant is employed an average minimum of 20 hours per week.

To receive ESS child care assistance during the second year, a participant must be employed an average of 25 hours per week.

2. Employment Bonus – A cash payment in the amount of the last TEA payment is made to the family in the month following case closure. Only one bonus payment is made within a 12-month period.
3. Extended Support Service (ESS) Transportation – A cash payment of \$200 is made to the family one month following case closure to assist with meeting employment related transportation expenses.
4. Extended Support Service (ESS) Job Retention – During the 12 months following case closure, an individual may receive cash payments for the purpose of enabling him or her to maintain employment. There must be an immediate need, which if not resolved will result in the loss or termination of employment.
5. Transitional Medicaid – A family whose TEA Medicaid case closes due to employment may receive up to one year of extended Medicaid coverage.
6. Categorically Eligible Household for Food Stamps - A household remains categorically eligible for Food Stamps if all members receive (or are certified to receive) Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or at least one member receives (or is certified to receive) Transitional Employment Assistance (TEA) benefits: child care, TEA cash assistance, mentoring services, case management or extended case management services, employment bonus, transportation assistance or job retention payments.

C. Penalty for Non-Compliance with a Work Activity

Once an individual fails to comply with a work activity requirement, a good cause determination is made. If it is determined that good cause does not exist, a non-compliance sanction is imposed. The non-compliance sanction process is as follows:

Level I – Month One - If a client fails to comply, their family’s financial assistance may be suspended for one (1) month.

Level II - Months Two, Three, and Four of Non-Compliance – If the client fails to come into compliance during the month of suspended benefits, the family’s financial assistance may be reduced by up to twenty-five (25) percent of the full cash assistance payment for up to three (3) months.

Level III - Months Five and Six of Non-Compliance – If the client’s non-compliance continues after the fourth month, the family’s financial assistance may be suspended for two (2) months.

Level IV - Months Seven, Eight, and Nine of Non-Compliance – If the client fails to come into compliance during the second period of suspended benefits, the family’s financial assistance may be reduced by up to fifty (50) percent for the next three months, if noncompliance continues.

Level V - Subsequent Non-Compliance – The TEA cash assistance case shall be closed if the non-compliance continues after the end of this period.

The sanction is lifted upon compliance with the required activity.

D. Child Care Disregards

The state does not allow the option of a childcare disregard. Childcare is paid directly to the provider.

E. Family Violence Option

The state agency defers from work activity participation an individual who is unable to participate due directly to the effects of domestic violence. During the initial assessment, a screening tool is completed by the individual, which provides information to the TEA Case Manager that domestic violence may exist. The responses are discussed with the individual and a decision regarding deferral is made at that time. The TEA Case Managers have received training on how to identify possible domestic violence and have been provided procedures for referring to other agencies for services.

The state agency has partnered with local domestic violence agencies and shelters to establish local referral procedures, training, etc. in an effort to provide services to these individuals.

During federal fiscal year 2014, an average of 2.25 cases per month was deferred from work activity participation due to domestic violence.

F. Nonrecurring Short-term Benefits

1. Diversion Assistance – A diversion payment may be provided to an otherwise eligible TEA family in certain specified circumstances so that the family does not come on to regular TEA cash assistance. To qualify for diversion, the adult caretaker must meet the following conditions:

- a. Have a related minor child living in the home

- b. Be currently employed but having a problem that jeopardizes the employment; or
- c. Be promised a job but needs help in order to accept the job (e.g., needs car repairs, uniforms, etc.)
- d. Has never received a diversion payment;
- e. Agree to forego any TEA benefits for a period of 100 days.

The diversion payment will be the actual cost of what it would take to resolve the problem up to a maximum equal to three (3) months of what the monthly TEA cash assistance would have been for the family size.

Under Arkansas State Law, a diversion payment is considered a loan. If not repaid, it will count toward the adult's maximum time limit of twenty-four (24) months.

During the initial interview, the Case Manager assesses the problems and needed services including Food Stamps, Medicaid, Child Care, etc. If the individual is diverted from the TEA program, the caseworker continues to process any other pending application for services.

- 2. Relocation Assistance – Cash assistance to help a family who receives TEA cash assistance move from an area of limited job opportunities to a new locality within Arkansas for full-time employment is available on a limited basis. Before relocation assistance is provided, the person must have a bona fide offer of full-time employment in the new locality.

G. Displacement Complaints

An agreement is developed between the Department of Workforce Services and an OJT or subsidized employment employer. This agreement requires the employer to assure that regular employee positions will not be displaced or partially displaced, and normal work shift hours, wages, or employment benefits will not be reduced as a result of activities by TEA program participants.

The local office staff is responsible for discussing the assurances with the employer prior to finalizing the agreement. It is the employer's responsibility to make employees aware of the assurances.

The Arkansas Department of Workforce Services has responsibility for handling any displacement complaints in accordance with Arkansas State Law, Act 1058 of 1997.

H. Third & Fourth TANF Purposes

- **Plan to Reduce Unwed Births and Teen Pregnancy (45CFR260.20(c) &(d))**

Unmarried birth prevention should be viewed as a process, not a program, involving multiple strategies and multiple agencies in a sustained effort. The rise in unwed births is an urgent social problem that resists easy solutions. Arkansas utilizes a multifaceted approach to address this very serious issue.

They are:

- Abstinence programs using TANF funding
- Improved access to family planning services statewide
- Community-based efforts in targeted counties
- Two state-level steering committees to coordinate the efforts

The numerical goals established for the above plan are as follows:

1. In FY07, reduce the pregnancy rate for Arkansas teenagers aged 15 through 17 years to no more than 42.0 per 1,000 females (1996 provisional baseline = 59.6/1,000.) 2004 pregnancy rate to teen 15-17 is 36.1/1,000 (Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health statistics) this measure has been accomplished and will continue to be monitored.
2. In FY07, reduce the proportion of Arkansas adolescents 17 years and younger who have engaged in sexual intercourse to 51% (2005 YRBS baseline = 54.0%; 2003 YRBS baseline = 51.9% (Unweighted); 2003 YRBS baseline = 51.9% (Unweighted); 2001 YRBS baseline = 55.5%; 1999 YRBS baseline = 56%; 1997 YRBS baseline = 60%; 1995 YRBS baseline = 62 %.)
3. In FY07, reduce the rate of reported STDs among Arkansas youth 15-19 years old to 1,700 per 100,000 (1996 baseline-1, 615/100,000.) The 2004 incidence rate is 2,182 per 100,000.
4. In FY07, reduce the rate of births to Arkansas teenagers 15 through 17 years old to no more than 34.0 per 1,000 females (1996 provisional baseline – 49.1/1,000.) 2002 Final data: Birth rates to 15-17 years: 31.4/1,000. 2003 final data: Birth rate to 15-17: 30.5/1,000. 2004 provisional data: Birth rates to 15-17: 30.4/1,000. This measure has been accomplished and will continue to be monitored.

5. In FY07, reduce the rate of births to Arkansas 10 through 14 years old to no more than 1.25 per 1,000 females (1996 provisional baseline = 1.79/1,000.) 2002 Final data: 1.1/1,000. 2003 final data: 1.2/1,000. 2004 provisional data: 1.2/1,000. This measure has been accomplished and will continue to be monitored.
6. By FY06, reduce the proportion of Arkansas youth reporting first sexual intercourse to have occurred at less than 13 years of age, to 8% (2005 YRBS baseline = 9.2%; 2003 YRBS baseline = 9.0% (Unweighted due to high non-response rate on survey), 2001 YRBS baseline = 9.8%; 1999 YRBS baseline = 11%; 1997 YRBS baseline = 12%; 1995 YRBS baseline = 14%.)

I. Encourage the Formation and Maintenance of Two-Parent Families (45CFR 260.20(d))

During the Program Year, Arkansas utilized TANF funding for the Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood Initiatives. Each of these initiatives was designed to encourage the formation and maintenance of Two-Parent Families.

Healthy Marriage Initiative

As part of the legislatively-mandated Community Investment Initiative, the Department of Workforce Services (DWS) utilized Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program funds to award Professional Service Contracts to Private or Community Organizations, including Faith-Based organizations (FBCO), to deliver services to improve marriage and relationship skills among youth and engaged and married couples.

These Healthy Marriage Initiatives assist families, couples, and individuals in need of assistance with marriage enhancement and relationship education, parenting education, and economic stability services participated in the program. In general, these funds assisted in the efforts to improve marriages and relationship skills among married and engaged couples.

Fatherhood Initiative

As part of the legislatively-mandated Community Investment Initiative, the Department of Workforce Services (DWS) utilized Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program funds to award Professional Service Contracts to Private or Community Organizations, including Faith-Based organizations (FBCO), to deliver services to deliver services to better prepare Arkansans for fatherhood and strong family relationships.

These Responsible Fatherhood Initiatives assist non-custodial fathers in need of assistance with fatherhood enhancement and relationship education, parenting education, and economic stability services participated in the program. In general, these funds were used to assist in the efforts to improve the financial and emotional connections of non-custodial parents to their children through fatherhood programs.

J. Participation in Subsidized Employment (45CFR 261.30 (b)(c))

For federal fiscal year 2014, an average of 2.00 individuals per month participated in subsidized employment.

II. Annual Report on State Maintenance-of-Effort Programs: ACF-204

State – Arkansas Fiscal Year – 2014

Date Submitted – 12/01/14

Provide the following information for **EACH PROGRAM** for which the State claims MOE expenditures

1. Name of Benefit or Service Program:

Child Care Assistance

2. Description of the Major Program Benefits, Services, and Activities:

Child Care Assistance

3. Purpose(s) of Benefit or Service Program:

Childcare assistance is provided to a family if needed, so that the family member(s) can participate in a TANF work activity.

4. Program Type. (Check One)

 X This Program is operated under the TANF Program.

 This program is a separate State Program.

5. Description of Work Activities in the SSP-MOE program (i.e., Completed only if this program is a separate State program):

N/A

6. Total State Expenditures for the Program for the Fiscal Year: \$361,408

7. Total State Expenditures Claimed as MOE under the Program for the Fiscal Year: \$361,408

8. Total Number of Families Served under the Program with MOE funds:

6,704

This last figure represents (check one):

X The average monthly total for the fiscal year.

 The total served over the fiscal year.

9. Eligibility Criteria for Receiving MOE funded-Benefits or Services under the Program:

The individual must need childcare in order to participate in a TANF work activity.

10. Prior Program Authorization: Was this program authorized and allowable under the prior law (i.e., as defined at 45 CFR 260.30)? (Check one)

Yes X No

11. Total Program Expenditures in FY 1995.

(Note: provide only if the response to question 10 is No.)

This certifies that all families for which the State claims MOE expenditures for the fiscal year meet the State’s criteria for “eligible families.”

Signature: _____

Name: Artee Williams

Title: Director, Arkansas Department of Workforce Services

II. Annual Report on State Maintenance-of-Effort Programs: ACF-204

State – Arkansas

Fiscal Year – 2014

Date Submitted – 12/01/14

Provide the following information for **EACH PROGRAM** for which the State claims MOE expenditures.

1. Name of Benefit or Service Program:

Extended Transportation Assistance

2. Description of the Major Program Benefits, Services, and Activities:

Cash payments to help newly employed persons meet their work-related transportation costs.

3. Purpose(s) of Benefit or Service Program:

To provide families whose TANF cash assistance case closes due to employment, transportation assistance in the two months following case closure.

4. Program Type. (Check One)

This Program is operated under the TANF program.

This Program is a separate State program.

5. Description of Work Activities in the SSP-MOE program (i.e., Completed only if this program is a separate State program):

6. Total State Expenditures for the Program for the Fiscal Year: \$523,200

7. Total State Expenditures Claimed as MOE under the Program for the Fiscal Year:

\$523,200

7. Total Number of Families Served under the Program with MOE Funds:

2,524

This last figure represents (check one):

_____ The average monthly total for the fiscal year.

___X___ The total served over the fiscal year.

1. Eligibility Criteria for Receiving MOE-funded Benefits or Services under the Program:

The family's cash assistance case is closed due to employment. Such families are deemed financially eligible for Extended Support services if they were eligible for TANF cash assistance in the month prior to case closure due to employment.

2. Prior Program Authorization: Was this program authorized and allowable under prior law (i.e., as defined at 45CFR 260.30)? (Check one)

Yes _____ No X_____

3. Total Program Expenditures in FY 1995. None

(NOTE: provide only if the response on to question 10 is no.)

This certifies that all families for which the State claims MOE expenditures for the fiscal year meet the State's criteria for "eligible families."

Signature: _____

Name: Artee Williams

Title: Director, Arkansas Department of Workforce Services

II. Annual Report on State Maintenance-of-Effort Programs: ACF-204

State – Arkansas

Fiscal Year – 2014

Date submitted – 12/01/14

Provide the following information for **EACH PROGRAM** for which the State claims MOE expenditures

1. Name of Benefit or Service Program:

Prevention of Out-of-Wedlock Pregnancies

2. Description of the Major Benefits, Services, and Activities:

The School Readiness Program provides comprehensive child care services to pre-school children ages 3-5 at state licensed child care centers and at schools governed by local health and safety laws throughout the state to families with incomes below the 75% state median income level.

3. Purpose(s) of Benefit or Service Program

School Readiness helps end the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work and marriage as it allows TANF and former TANF eligible parents to work, participate in job training/counseling or activities to address substance abuse/mental health problems. It also provides educational opportunity to children to help them become ready for school. This opportunity in turn prevents and reduces the incidence of out-of-wedlock births.

4. Program Type. (Check One)

This Program is operated under the TANF program.

This Program is operated under a separate State program.

5. Description of Work Activities in the SSP-MOE program (i.e., Completed only of this program is a separate State program):

N/A

6. Total State Expenditures for the Program for the Fiscal Year: \$90,420,300

7. Total State Expenditures Claimed as MOE under the Program for the Fiscal Year: \$90,420,300

8. Total Number of Families Served under the Program with MOE Funds:
11,871

This last figure represents (check one):

X The average month total for the fiscal year.

_____ The total served over the fiscal year.

9. Eligibility Criteria for Receiving MOE-funded Benefits or Services under the Program:

Economically disadvantaged families with pre-school aged children.

10. Prior Program Authorization: Was this program authorized and allowable under prior law (i.e., as defined at 45CFR 260.30)? (Check one)

Yes X No _____

11. Total Program Expenditures for FY 1995 _____

(Note: Provide only if the response on to question 10 is No.)

****Note: TANF funds were used to pay for these services during the fiscal year.**

This certifies that all families for which the State claims MOE expenditures for the fiscal year meet the State's criteria for "eligible families."

Signature: _____

Name: Artee Williams

Title: Director, Arkansas Department of Workforce Services

II. Annual Report on State Maintenance-of-Effort Programs: ACF-204

State – Arkansas

Fiscal Year – 2014

Date Submitted – 12/01/14

Provide the following information for **EACH PROGRAM** for which the State claims MOE expenditures

1. Name of Benefit or Service Program

Transitional Employment Assistance

2. Description of the Major Program Benefits, Services, and Activities:

Cash Assistance and Employment Related Supportive Services

3. Purpose(s) of Benefit or Service Program:

To provide assistance to needy families with related children under age 18 and who meet the eligibility requirements.

4. Program Type (check one)

This Program is operated under the TANF program.

This Program is a separate State program.

5. Description of Work Activities in the SSP-MOE program (i.e., Completed only if this program is a separate State program):

6. Total State Expenditures for the Program for the Fiscal Year: \$ 1,720,116

7. Total State Expenditures Claimed as MOE under the Program for the Fiscal Year:

\$1,720,116

8. Total Number of Families Served under the Program with MOE funds:

9,951

This last figure represents (check one):

_____ The average monthly total for the fiscal year.

 X The total served over the fiscal year

9. Eligibility Criteria for Receiving MOE funded Benefits or Services under the Program:

The family must meet the requirements as outlined in Arkansas' TANF State Plan.

10. Prior Program Authorization: Was this program authorized and allowable under prior law (i.e., as defined at 45 CFR 260.30.)? (Check one)

Yes X No _____

11. Total Program Expenditures in FY 1995:
(NOTE: provide only if the response to question 10 is No.)

This certifies that all families for which the State claims MOE expenditures for the fiscal year meet the State's criteria for "eligible families."

Signature: _____

Name: Artee Williams

Title: Director, Arkansas Department of Workforce Services

ARKANSAS

**STATE PLAN FOR TITLE IV-A OF THE
SOCIAL SECURITY ACT:
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES**

TRANSITIONAL EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

In accordance with the Arkansas State Plan for Title IV-A of the Social Security Act, the State assures that the Foster Care and Adoption Assistance Program is operated in accordance with Part E of the Social Security Act that encourages parental responsibility and promotes family unity.

The Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division of Children and Family Services will provide services to a needy family who has insufficient resources immediately available to alleviate an emergency situation. For purposes of this addendum, an emergency situation will be defined as a family member at risk of maltreatment.

For families who are experiencing an emergency situation, the Division will provide a maltreatment assessment of the family needs. This assessment will not affect the eligibility or the benefits that are due a family under the TEA program.

In addition, the State uses TANF funds for emergency assistance activities that were previously authorized as of September 30, 1995 under the AFDC Emergency Assistance State Plan.