

Guidelines for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families/Domestic Violence (TANF/DV) Funds

PURPOSE OF THIS FUNDING:

To provide domestic violence services to Work First eligible clients. These funds shall be used to provide domestic violence counseling, support, and other direct services to clients. Each county department of social services and the local domestic violence shelter program serving the county shall jointly develop a plan for utilizing these funds.

REFERRAL:

The local domestic violence (DV) agency can refer potentially eligible clients to the local DSS for further assistance. The domestic violence agency may have assessed for eligibility and services needed. If such assessment has occurred, then it is recommended that the DV agency provide the client with documentation indicating that an assessment has been completed and indicating services needed. The local DSS will complete the further eligibility screening for TANF/DV eligibility.

DSS will refer any Work First eligible applicant who indicates domestic violence during screening to the local DV agency for a domestic violence assessment. The domestic violence assessment will be the basis for any TANF/DV services provided. Recommendations will be made after the assessment as to appropriate services.

ELIGIBILITY:

DSS eligibility staff will screen clients and will determine eligibility for TANF/DV funds based on either of these criteria:

1. Families eligible or receiving Work First Family Assistance.
2. Families with incomes under 200% of the federal poverty guidelines, provided there is a child in the household who is under age 18 and meets the kinship and citizenship requirements.

TANF/DV APPROVED COSTS: The following list is not exclusive. Any appropriate expenditure that DSS and the DV agency agree on that will promote safety for a client and children and economic stability can be allowed as long as it is a direct victim service and falls with TANF guidelines.

Transportation: The approved state rate per mile is allowed for use of a personal vehicle. Reasonable actual costs for bus passes, cabs, auto repairs, car insurance, etc. as approved by the local department of social services and the domestic violence agency are allowed.

Individual and Family Adjustment Services: The established rate of up to \$ 75.00 per hour is approved for Individual and Family Adjustment Services for professional counseling. The approved rate of up to \$45.00 per hour is for para-professional counseling. Counseling whether professional or para-professional includes but is not limited to therapeutic counseling, crisis counseling, court advocacy, individual assessments, support group, batterers intervention, and parenting class. Costs for individual counseling or batterers intervention class for offending parents can be paid with TANF/DV funds. Payments for group sessions will be the amount that is typically charged per client.

Housing: Housing assistance includes rent, utilities, deposits, moving truck rental, and other relocation costs. Reasonable actual cost for these services as approved by the local department of social services and the domestic violence agency is allowed.

Educational or Job Training Activities: Reasonable actual costs are allowed for these services as approved by the local department of social services and the domestic violence agency and can include tuition, books, transportation, day care, etc.

Attorney Fees: \$125.00 per hour is the established rate for attorney fees. The fees can be used for any civil action that will enable a victim to be safe and/or economically independent.

Shelter Costs for Domestic Violence Victims and Their Dependents: The established rate of up to \$50.00 per person per night is approved for shelter costs. This can only be charged if the shelter is not already funded from another source. The local shelter will be asked to provide a per night cost for reimbursement.

Other possible expenditures include but are not limited to: Past due bills that interfere with the client getting safe housing, day care expense, uniforms, steel-toed boots, etc. NOTE: Medical expenses and prescriptions are not allowable costs for TANF funds. State or local funds may be used for medical expenses or prescriptions.

CPS Cases: Assistance for the non offending parent can be provided for safety and economic stability. It is important to note that assistance cannot be provided to the non offending parent if the children are in the legal custody of the county. Also, assistance cannot be provided if a kinship provider is currently receiving child only TANF benefits by maintaining physical custody of the non-offending parent's children. One example of this would be if a grandparent (safety resource) was caring for the non offending parent's children while the parent had an open CPS In-Home Services Case. The grandparent seeks and receives TANF assistance to help with the cost of caring for the children. The CPS

worker, TANF worker, and family members could all collaborate together in eventually working toward a plan of discontinuing TANF to the grandparent and toward supporting a safe and economic stable reunified family.

No services will be provided utilizing the TANF Domestic Violence funding that meets the federal definition of “assistance” defined as **services that have cash value (cash like) and are intended to meet basic ongoing needs**. Services are not considered assistance if they are:

Nonrecurring, short term benefits designed to deal with a specific episode of need

Not intended to meet recurring or ongoing needs

Not extending beyond 4 months

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