



# North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Social Services

325 North Salisbury Street

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Courier # 56-20-25

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor  
Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary

Sherry S. Bradsher, Director  
(919) 733-3055

December 22, 2011

## **Dear County Director of Social Services:**

**Attention:** Work First Program Administrators and Supervisors

**Subject:** TANF State Plan for FFY 2012-2015

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan for federal fiscal years (FFY) 2012-2015 is available for public comment beginning December 22, 2011. The 45-day public comment period will end February 5, 2012. It is important that each county department of social services maintain a copy of this plan, which has been attached for public viewing. Citizens can access the TANF State Plan at <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dss/pubnotice/index.htm> and email comments to [www.work.first@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:www.work.first@dhhs.nc.gov).

Changes to the TANF State plan consist of submitting the plan to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (ACF) every three years instead of every two years. Minor grammatical and language changes were made to the plan to ensure language uniformity.

Other significant changes include:

- Adding language regarding the healthy marriages initiative.
- Adding language to provide assistance to work eligible individuals to train for, seek and maintain employment in the eldercare workforce.
- Offering Benefit Diversion to applicants as an option for county department of social services
- Imposing time limits for child only cases where there is a parent in the home (excluding parents receiving Supplemental Security Income benefits).
- Offering job bonus to participants whose earned income terminates them from Work First Family Assistance. Job bonus is offered once in a lifetime for each Work First family who becomes employed.
- Expanding compliance requirements with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Title VI of the Social Security Act.

The Division encourages Electing counties to review the eligibility criteria for their county plan to ensure accurate representation of the policies proposed.

If there are any questions regarding the TANF State Plan for FFY 2012-2015, please forward to Kea Alexander via email at [kea.alexander@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:kea.alexander@dhhs.nc.gov) or (919) 334-1073.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dean Simpson".

Dean Simpson, Chief  
Economic and Family Services Section

DS/kha

Attachment (1)

cc: Sherry Bradsher  
Jack Rogers  
Kathy Sommese  
Hank Bowers  
Kevin Kelley  
Work First Program Consultants  
Local Business Liaisons

**EFS-WF-31-2011**