

TANF Reauthorization Recommendations

Relating to Child Welfare

- **Focus on Poverty Reduction and Child Well-Being**
 - Include reduction of child poverty as a purpose of TANF.
 - Include a focus on the economic well-being of children.
- **Provide Adequate Funding**
 - Maintain current TANF and MOE funding levels, with inflation adjustment.
 - Implement safeguards against supplantation.
 - Improve financial reporting by states.
- **Make Time Limits More Flexible**
 - Do not run the federal time clock when an adult in the family is employed and the family is receiving supplementary cash assistance.
 - Do not apply federal time limits to families in which it is not reasonable to expect the adult to be employed; e.g. kinship caregivers.
 - Eliminate the 20% cap on exceptions to federal time limits and allow states to specify the circumstances under which families can receive benefits after 60 months.
- **Make Work Requirements More Flexible**
 - Permit states to design individual barrier removal plans and count satisfactory participation in those plans toward participation rates.
 - Permit states to exempt kinship caregivers from work requirements
 - Implement procedures that ensure kinship care families receive needed services even when exempt from the work requirements.
- **Develop Safeguards To Prevent Inappropriate Sanctions**
 - Ensure that prior to the imposition of a sanction, the family is provided information and assistance about how to come into compliance.
 - Ensure that after a sanction is imposed the family is contacted periodically and provided information and assistance about how to come into compliance.
 - Ensure that sanctions end after a reasonable period of compliance.
- **Require Additional Information in State Plans**
 - Include description of how kinship care families will be served
 - Include description of how “dual system” families will be served.
 - Include description of how TANF agency will work with other agencies to address families’ barriers to employment.
 - Include description of what activities count towards participation.

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