

**NOTICE OF INTENT**  
**Department of Children and Family Services**  
**Economic Stability**  
**Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Grants**  
**(LAC 67:III.5599)**

In accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act R.S. 49:953(A), the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) proposes to adopt LAC 67:III, Subpart 15 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Initiatives, Chapter 55 TANF Initiatives, Section 5599 Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Grants.

Pursuant to Louisiana's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant, adoption of Section 5599 is necessary to govern the collection of eligible tuition expenditures for low income students that may be counted as Maintenance of Effort (MOE) for the TANF grant.

This proposed rule was made effective by an emergency rule dated and effective November 1, 2013.

**Title 67**

**SOCIAL SERVICES**

**Part III. Economic Stability and Self-Sufficiency**

**Subpart 15. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Initiatives**

**Chapter 55. TANF Initiatives**

**§5599. Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Grants**

A. The department through an agreement with the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) shall collect information on tuition assistance expenditures provided to eligible low income students who are pursuing postsecondary education for the purpose of claiming eligible expenditures that may count as Maintenance of Effort (MOE) effective TANF State Plan FY 2011 for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

(TANF) grant. The eligible tuition assistance expenditures that may be claimed as MOE are from the following programs:

1. Louisiana Go Grants - A need based student financial aid grant that supports nontraditional and low income students in their pursuit of postsecondary education. To receive the Go Grants, a student must be receiving a federal Pell grant and have remaining financial need, as determined in accordance with a formula established by the Louisiana Board of Regents. The formula for determining financial need is subject to change on a yearly basis in order to ensure that the greatest number of students will benefit from the funds appropriated for the program by the Louisiana Legislature.

2. Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) - A state scholarship program for Louisiana residents who attend Louisiana postsecondary institutions.

B. These services meet TANF goal three, to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies, by providing financial aid to eligible students who are pursuing postsecondary education. The services provide the students with the tools necessary to reduce risky behaviors and increase positive decision making.

C. Financial eligibility for these services attributable to TANF/Maintenance of Effort (MOE) funds is limited as follows:

1. Certification for TANF MOE for Go Grant expenditures will be those students who receive Pell Grants and have a remaining financial need and are defined as dependent by the U.S. Department of Education. The amount used for TANF maintenance of effort is not duplicated in determining match or maintenance of effort for any other program.

2. TANF eligibility for students receiving TOPS will be determined by receipt of a Go Grants. Certification for TANF MOE for TOPS expenditures will be for those students who

simultaneously receive TOPS and Go Grants and are defined as dependent by the U.S. Department of Education.

D. Services are considered non-assistance by the department.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.; P.L. 104-193, and R.S. 36:474.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Children and Family Services, Economic Stability Section, LR 39:

#### **Family Impact Statement**

1. What effect will this Rule have on the stability of the family? This rule will have no effect on the family's stability.
2. What effect will this have on the authority and rights of persons regarding the education and supervision of their children? This rule will have no effect on the authority and rights of persons regarding the education and supervision of their children.
3. What effect will this have on the functioning of the family? This rule will have no negative effect on the functioning of the family.
4. What effect will this have on family earnings and family budget? This rule will have no negative effect on family earnings or family budget.
5. What effect will this have on the behavior and personal responsibility of children? This rule will have no effect on the behavior and personal responsibility of children.
6. Is the family or local government able to perform the function as contained in this proposed rule? No, these functions are department functions.

#### **Poverty Impact Statement**

The proposed rulemaking will have no impact on poverty as described in R.S. 49:973.

### **Small Business Impact Statement**

The proposed rule will have no adverse impact on small businesses as defined in the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

#### **Public Comments**

All interested persons may submit written comments through January 23, 2014, to Lisa Andry, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Programs, Department of Children and Family Services, P.O. Box 94065, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70804-9065.

#### **Public Hearing**

A public hearing on the proposed Rule will be held on January 23, 2014 at the Department of Children and Family Services, Iberville Building, 627 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Seminar Room 1-127, Baton Rouge, Louisiana beginning at 9:00 a.m. All interested persons will be afforded an opportunity to submit data, views, or arguments, orally or in writing, at said hearing. Individuals with disabilities who require special services should contact the Bureau of Appeals at least seven working days in advance of the hearing. For assistance, call (225) 342-4120 (Voice and TDD).

Suzy Sonnier

Secretary