



2021 Annual Report on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and
State Maintenance of Effort Programs

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Reference Resources

Grievance/Compliant and Hearing Appeal Procedures:

WPDG 00-004, WFI/AWI and RWB Grievance, Complaint and Hearing/Appeal Procedures
<http://www.floridajobs.org/PDG/guidancepapers/004Griev Rev060807.pdf>

Governing Florida Statutes, Chapters 414, Family Self Sufficiency and 445, Workforce Innovation:

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes>

Attachment A: Annual Report on TANF Programs

INTRODUCTION

Florida administers its Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program as a partnership between three state agencies. The agencies are:

1. Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF),
2. Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), which includes the State Workforce Development Board (SWDB), CareerSource Florida, Inc. (CSF), and a network of Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs), and
3. Florida Department of Education (DOE)

The following narrative describes the roles of the partners and how they coordinate to deliver a statewide program that assists TANF recipients in making the transition from public assistance to self-sufficiency.

- **Eligibility Determination, Cash Assistance Payment, and Non-recurring Short-term Benefit Programs:** DCF is the recipient of the TANF block grant that is responsible for determining eligibility for TANF cash assistance and issuing the Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) payment to TANF-eligible families. In addition to determining program eligibility, DCF directly contracts with other public and private organizations to provide the TANF service-related (non-assistance) programs described in this report.
- **Planning, Policy and Strategic Direction:** Pursuant to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), the SWDB consists of a board of directors and chair appointed by the Governor. The SWDB is the state's chief workforce policy organization. The SWDB provides policy direction and oversight to Florida's 24 LWDBs. CSF is the administrative entity created by the Florida Legislature to provide support to the SWDB, implement the policy directives of the SWDB and administer SWDB programs as authorized by law. The state's broad workforce strategic vision and goals are expressed through the WIOA Unified State Plan.
- **Administration and Accountability:** DEO is the designated state agency responsible for overseeing the administration of the state's workforce system and is responsible for monitoring, training, and providing workforce guidance and technical assistance on the various federal workforce programs operated by the LWDBs. The Florida Legislature appropriates TANF funds to DEO and charges it with providing administrative and program guidance for the merged workforce and TANF/Welfare Transition (WT) support delivery system. DEO also serves as the administrative and fiscal entity for the SWDB and ensures the appropriate administration of workforce programs and funds, including the WT program.
- **LWDBs (Local Workforce Development Board) Local Control, Accountability and Delivery of Services:** Florida's 24 LWDBs are responsible for implementing the state's workforce programs, including WT, other TANF non-assistance programs and employment support services at local career centers. LWDBs develop innovative programs tailored to the specific economic and employment needs of the community. Primarily made up of local business representatives in each area, LWDBs focus on

planning, policy implementation, and fiscal and programmatic oversight of the local workforce system. LWDBs provide direct workforce services to TANF recipients through Florida's WT program.

Florida's TANF and Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Annual Report complies with the Administration for Children and Families' Program Instructions format and provides a description of the types of benefits and services provided during FFY 2021 to TANF families in need of assistance and/or specialized services as they make the transition to self-sufficiency.

NOTE: The Table of Contents includes the internet link to Chapters 414, F.S., and section 445 Florida Statute, the source documents for most of the programs and policies referenced in this report. Any sections that are direct citations from the statutes appear in *italicized font*.

1. **The State's definition of each work activity.**
The TANF regulations at 45 CFR 261.30 sets forth the 12 categories of work activities listed in Section 407(d) of the Social Security Act for purposes of determining the State's required minimum work participation rate(s). The TANF regulations at 45 CFR 261.2 provides the relevant definitions of the 12 work activities. Therefore, please indicate the activities that fall within each category or work activity.

Authorizing Statute: section 445.024, Florida Statutes Work requirements

These requirements ensure work eligible adults and minor heads of household are engaged in work in accordance with section 407 of the Social Security Act (SSA) as amended by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) and the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA). Unless a work eligible individual meets a specified exemption, Florida Statute requires immediate entry into work activities, subject to federal and state funding. If funding does not permit all participants to engage in work activities, section (4) of the statute provides guidelines for prioritization.

Participants must participate in work activities for not less than the minimum number of hours required under federal law in 42 USC s. 607(c), SSA, as amended by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA).

The state does not require a participant to work more than 40 hours per week.

DEO may develop activities under each of the following categories of work activities. The categories of work activities, based on federal law and regulations, are available for use individually or in combination, to satisfy the work requirement for a recipient of TCA.

Florida defines all work activities as those in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 and Final Regulations for the reauthorization of TANF.

a. Unsubsidized employment

Full or part-time employment in the public or private sector that is not subsidized by TANF or any other publicly funded program, which includes the following:

- Recipients whose employers claim a tax credit for hiring economically disadvantaged workers;
- Labor in exchange for services or other amounts (rent, utilities, etc.); and
- Self-employment.

b. Subsidized private sector employment

Work supplementation

In a work supplementation model, the Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB) diverts a participant's temporary cash assistance to the employer as a subsidy. The employer must pay the participant wages that equal or exceed the minimum wage.

Incentive payments

LWDBs may offer incentive payments to employers to offset all or some of the cost of employment in an effort to encourage employers to employ program participants.

Supported work

The LWDBs may offer a subsidy to employers to provide employment for individuals with disabilities as defined under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 705(35)) in an integrated setting for wages consistent with those paid to non-disabled workers in similar job functions. The workers with disabilities may receive individualized services such as transportation, family support, additional supervision and other services as required by the nature of their disability.

Work Study

LWDBs may offer a subsidy to employers who agree to provide work study employment opportunities to work-eligible participants who are enrolled in degree-seeking or vocational programs. The LWDB may offer the subsidy to offset all or some of the cost of employment to encourage employers to employ program participants who are working on the educational knowledge to move into a career field but need practical experience. Regional Workforce Boards may develop other models but prior to implementation, they must submit them to the WFI State Board to ensure they meet definition requirements.

c. Subsidized public sector employment

Work supplementation

In a work supplementation model, the LWDB diverts a participant's temporary cash assistance to the employer as a subsidy. The employer must pay the participant wages that equal or exceed the minimum wage.

Incentive payments

LWDBs may offer incentive payments to employers to offset all or some of the cost of employment in an effort to encourage employers to employ program participants.

Supported work

The LWDBs may offer a subsidy to employers to provide employment for individuals with disabilities as defined under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 705(35)) in an integrated setting for wages consistent with those paid to non-disabled workers in similar job functions. The workers with disabilities may receive individualized services such as transportation, family support, additional supervision and other services as required by the nature of their disability.

Work Study

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d. On-the-job training

On-the-Job Training (OJT) is paid employment provided by a public or private employer through a contractual arrangement in which the employer provides training and skills essential to perform the job, and the LWDB reimburses the employer for a portion of, or all the added costs associated with training. An OJT position is distinguished from subsidized employment because it focuses on training and intensive education opportunities coupled with employment opportunities. OJT includes an agreement between the LWDB and the employer and/or educational institution.

Supported Work

The LWDBs may offer a subsidy to employers to provide employment for individuals with disabilities as defined under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C 705(35)) in an integrated setting for wages consistent with those paid to non-disabled workers in similar job functions. The workers with disabilities may receive individualized services such as transportation, family support, additional supervision or other services as required by the nature of the disability.

e. Community service programs

Community Service Programs are structured programs in which TCA work-eligible recipients perform work for the direct benefit of the community under the auspices of not-for-profit or public organizations. The state limits community service programs to projects that serve a useful community purpose in fields such as health, social service, environmental protection, education, urban and rural redevelopment, welfare, recreation, public facilities, public safety, and childcare.

f. Work Experience

Work experience is structured and supervised work in exchange for benefits for individuals who lack preparation for or experience in the workforce. Work experience is placement of a participant at a worksite to gain experience at work to help the participant join the workforce. Work experience must provide an individual with an opportunity to gain general employability skills, job knowledge and work habits necessary to obtain and retain employment. Work experience may be at a for-profit or not-for-profit entity and must be developed by a contract with the worksite entity. Prior to placement, provider staff evaluate potential work experience providers to match the participant with a position related to the participant's employment goals and the needs of the worksite sponsor. The work experience contract must include performance benchmarks, goals, outcomes, and time limits to ensure participants are moving toward employment and self-sufficiency as well as the requirements for supervision and verification of participation hours.

g. Job search and job readiness assistance

Job Search and Job Readiness (JS/JR) activities are those that include the act of seeking or obtaining employment, as well as instruction on how to seek employment.

Providers may offer information and build skills during formal, planned workshops and classes or through less structured individualized activities.

JS/JR may include the following activities directly related to preparing for or finding employment:

- a) orientation to the world of work
- b) budgeting
- c) life skills
- d) interpersonal skills
- e) decision making skills
- f) time management
- g) basic job seeking skills
- h) job retention skills
- i) instruction in completing an application
- j) interviewing skills
- k) resume development
- l) appropriate dress
- m) career planning
- n) the completion of job applications
- o) the submission of resumes
- p) employment interviews
- q) orientation/group interviews.

It will not include looking for childcare, housing, or other non-work activities.

h. Vocational educational training

This activity is education and training that prepares the individual for employment in current or emerging occupations through organized and state approved training in Florida's vocational technical area centers, community colleges offering certificate, AA/AS, and other advanced degree programs and proprietary schools. With careful planning, the provider and participant may be able to combine vocational education and training with other work activities in ways that lead to a baccalaureate or other advanced degree. Florida does not allow standalone basic skills or English language proficiency classes to be offered as vocational education; however, vocational education curriculum structure does provide for those skills to be embedded in the programs if they are required for the success of the student.

i. Job skills training directly related to employment

This work activity is education or training 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. It includes customized training to meet the needs of a specific employer, or it can be general training that prepares an individual for employment. This activity may include literacy and language instruction, when such instruction is explicitly focused on skills needed for employment or combined in a unified

whole with the job training. Post-secondary education that leads to a bachelor's or advanced degree may count as job skills training, if it is directly related to employment. In addition to actual classroom hours, countable hours may include supervised time spent in curriculum-required labs and clinical settings, supervised study halls as well as up to one hour of unsupervised homework time for each hour of class time. Total homework time counted for participation cannot exceed the hours required or advised by the educational program/instructor.

j. Education directly related to employment

This is an educational activity for participants, regardless of age, who have not received a high school diploma or GED and need further education related to a job in a specific occupation, job, or job offer. However, on a case-by-case basis, LWDBs may enroll individuals with high school credentials from other countries into this activity if assessment indicates the person cannot function at U.S. high school level.

It may include classes to obtain a GED, supervised homework and study activities and testing to acquire GED certification where required as a prerequisite for employment. It may also include the following activities: Adult Basic Education (ABE); English as a Second Language (ESL); and literacy skills.

k. Satisfactory attendance at a secondary school or in a course of study leading to a graduate equivalency diploma

Florida restricts this educational work activity to participants without a high school diploma or GED. However, on a case-by-case basis, LWDBs may enroll individuals with high school credentials from other countries into this activity if assessment indicates the person cannot function at U.S. high school level. The individual must regularly attend classes that are a part of a secondary diploma or an equivalent course of study. This may include other literacy education if related to securing a diploma or a GED. Any hours counted toward completing an adult basic education program must be directly related to obtaining a high school diploma or GED. Hours counted under this activity may include, in addition to supervised homework time, one hour of unsupervised homework time for each hour of classroom time if its need is documented by the instructor, website instructions or institution's description of the curriculum.

l. Providing childcare services

Providing childcare services to an individual who is participating in a community service program means providing childcare to enable another TANF recipient to participate in a community service program. This does not include providing childcare to enable a TANF recipient to participate in any of the other eleven allowable work activities and the childcare provider may not be paid for the activity. In a two-parent family, one parent cannot count as participating by providing childcare for his or her own child while the other parent participates in community service unless allowable by federal law or guidance.

TCA recipients must comply with work activity requirements unless they meet one or more of the exemptions below:

- a. An individual who receives benefits under the SSI or the SSDI program*
- b. An adult who is not defined as a work-eligible individual under federal law*
- c. A single parent of a child younger than three months of age, except the parent may be required to attend parenting classes or other activities to prepare for the responsibility of raising a child*
- d. Individuals exempt from the time limit pursuant to s. 414.105, F.S.*

Numbers (Adults) Served in Work Activities By Month		
Month	One Parent	Two Parent
Oct-20	1,132	195
Nov-20	1,029	154
Dec-20	920	121
Jan-21	820	112
Feb-21	756	107
Mar-21	829	121
Apr-21	751	108
May-21	700	110
Jun-21	1,035	243
Jul-21	1,102	222
Aug-21	1,348	326
Sep-21	1,324	333
Average	979	179
Unduplicated adults in work activities by year	4,433	933

Total number served in work activities for FFY 2021: <u>5,366</u>
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2. ***A description of the transitional services provided to families no longer receiving assistance due to employment. Indicate the kinds of help provided to working families that received, but no longer receive, "assistance" as defined in 45 CFR 260.31.***

Transitional Benefits and Services: Multiple sections of Chapter 445 Florida Statute, provide evidence that Florida places great emphasis on transitional benefits and recognizes them as the cornerstone of the state's efforts to support families as they move toward self-sufficiency through a continuum of activities, comprised of initial training and employment, job retention and job advancement.

Transitional services do not constitute an entitlement and are subject to the availability of funding.

Authorizing Statute: section 445.028, Florida Statutes Transitional Benefits and Services

In cooperation with DEO, the Department of Children and Families shall develop procedures to ensure that families leaving the Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) Program receive transitional benefits and services that will assist the family in moving toward self-sufficiency. At a minimum, such procedures must include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) Each recipient of TCA determined ineligible for TCA for a reason other than a work activity sanction shall be contacted by the workforce system case manager and provided information about the availability of transitional benefits and services. Such contact shall be attempted prior to closure of the case management file.

(2) Each recipient of TCA determined ineligible for TCA due to noncompliance with the work activity requirements shall be contacted and provided information in accordance with s. 414.065(1).

(3) DEO, in consultation with the SWDB, shall develop informational material, including posters and brochures, to better inform families about the availability of transitional benefits and services.

(4) DEO, in cooperation with DCF, shall to the extent permitted by federal law, develop procedures to maximize the utilization of transitional Medicaid by families who leave TCA.

Unless otherwise noted, the family remains eligible for the transitional services for the maximum time allowed in statute as long as family income remains at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

Authorizing Statute: section 445.029, Florida Statutes Transitional Medical Services

Program providers inform families losing eligibility for TCA due to earned income about continued eligibility for receipt of Medicaid for the immediate succeeding 12-month period. A family loses eligibility for Medicaid for any month the family does not include a dependent minor child, or, if during the last six months, the family's average gross monthly income exceeds 185 percent of the federal poverty level.

Florida does not use TANF funds to pay for transitional medical services.

Authorizing Statute: section 445.030, Florida Statutes Transitional Education and Training

Former recipients of TCA who are working or actively seeking employment are eligible to receive employment-related education, training and related support services, such as childcare and transportation, for up to two years after the family is no longer receiving assistance to continue training or to upgrade skills in accordance with s. 445.030, F.S. If funds are insufficient to provide the services, the SWDB may limit or prioritize transitional education and training.

Authorizing Statute: section 445.031, Florida Statutes Transitional Transportation

To assist former recipients of TCA in maintaining and sustaining employment or educational opportunities, transportation assistance may be provided, for up to two years after the participant exits the program, if funds are available. This does not constitute an entitlement to transitional transportation. LWDBs may limit or otherwise prioritize transportation services, contingent upon the availability of funds.

Transitional transportation assistance may be in the form of bus tokens or passes, transit vouchers, car repairs, and gasoline. LWDBs may advance payments or reimburse against receipts or invoices. LWDBs may provide vehicle operation and repair expenses necessary to make a vehicle functional, registration fees, driver license fees, and liability insurance for up to six months.

Authorizing Statute: section 445.025(1)(a), Florida Statutes Transportation

Transportation expenses may be provided to any participant when the assistance is needed to comply with work activity requirements or employment requirements, including transportation to and from a child-care provider. Payment may be made in cash or tokens in advance or through reimbursement paid against receipts or invoices. LWDBs may provide payment for vehicle operational and repair expenses, including repair expenditures necessary to make a vehicle functional, vehicle registration fees, driver license fees and liability insurance for the vehicle for a period of up to six months. Request for vehicle repairs must be accompanied by an estimate of the cost prepared by a repair facility registered in accordance with section 559.904, Florida Statute.

Authorizing Reference: Florida Administrative Code, 65A-4.218 Transitional Child Care

Former welfare transition program participants and individuals redirected through up-front diversion may receive transitional child-care for up to two years to assist them in obtaining employment, continuing to be employed, and improving their employment prospects.

The LWDB provider authorizes child-care for the hours of employment and reasonable time to travel to and from the childcare facility and the place of work activity/employment. Each family must contribute to the cost of child-care through a parent co-payment, using the fee schedule established by the local School Readiness Programs or Early Learning Coalitions.

3. **A description of how a State will reduce the amount of assistance payable to a family when an individual refuses to engage in work without good cause pursuant to 45 CFR 261.14 of this chapter.**

Authorizing Statute: section 414.065, Florida Statutes Noncompliance with Work Requirements

The failure or refusal of the individual to become fully engaged in work or alternative plan activities may result in time limited benefits ending before the family becomes economically self-sufficient. As a means of deterring such an outcome, Florida imposes strong penalties when individuals fail to meet program requirements without good cause. The penalties result in the loss of TCA benefits and food assistance for the family in accordance with section 414.065, Florida Statute.

a. TCA penalties include:

1. First noncompliance: TCA is terminated for the entire family for a minimum of ten days or until the individual complies. The individual may comply at any time and have the penalty lifted after serving the minimum ten-day penalty period.
2. Second noncompliance: TCA is terminated for the entire family for one month or until the individual complies, whichever is later. The noncompliant individual must comply to have the penalty lifted after serving the minimum one-month penalty period. TCA may be continued through a protective payee for the children under age 16.
3. Third noncompliance: TCA is terminated for the entire family for three months or until the individual complies, whichever is later. The noncompliant individual must comply to have the penalty lifted after serving the minimum three-month penalty period. TCA may be continued through a protective payee for children under age 16.

b. Food assistance penalties include:

1. Food assistance exempt: If the participant is exempt from work requirements for food assistance purposes, there will be no food assistance penalty applied. The food assistance budget will remain the same as it was before the TCA was removed from the individual's budget because of the penalty. This applies regardless of the noncompliance level.
2. Food assistance non-exempt: Food assistance penalties are applied in accordance with the Food Assistance Program policy. If the noncompliant individual is the head of household, the entire household is disqualified from receipt of food assistance; a non-head of household only has the individual's needs removed from the grant. The individual's income and assets count in full toward the rest of the household.

If a participant fully complies with work activity requirements for at least six months and does not earn new penalties, all prior TCA penalties are forgiven. If the individual becomes noncompliant again, the individual is subject to a first TCA noncompliance penalty. The same noncompliance

penalties are applied to any individual who is unable to work and does not comply with an alternative plan. The forgiveness does not apply to the food assistance program.

Florida counts any month a work eligible individual receives a TCA payment (including payments to a Protective Payee) a month on assistance for calculating time limits. Program personnel inform non-compliant participants during counseling that continuation of TCA through a Protective Payee counts toward the family's cumulative time limit. Months an individual receives no payment do not count as a month on assistance, even if the total absence of payment is due to a penalty for noncompliance. Prorated benefits due to a sanction are counted as a time limited month.

4. The average monthly number of payments for childcare services made by the State through the use of disregards, by the following types of childcare providers

Florida does not use disregards for childcare and does not allow a deduction for childcare payments.

Authorizing Statute: section 414.095, Florida Statutes Determining eligibility for Temporary Cash Assistance

(12) Calculation of Levels of Temporary Cash Assistance--

(b) A deduction may not be allowed for childcare payments.

5. If the State has adopted the Family Violence Option and wants Federal recognition of its good cause domestic violence waivers under 45 CFR 260.50-58, then provide (a) a description of the strategies and procedures in place to ensure that victims of domestic violence receive appropriate alternative services and (b) an aggregate figure for the total number of good cause domestic waivers granted.

The total number of federally recognized good cause domestic violence waivers granted equals the number actually granted during the fiscal year of this report plus any granted in a prior fiscal year that are still in effect during the fiscal year of this report

Strategies and Procedures

Domestic Violence (Family Violence): LWDBs must follow DEO's final guidance and procedures on domestic violence. Local procedures must be consistent with the most updated Welfare Transition Domestic Violence Final Guidance/Administrative Policy published on DEO's [website](http://www.floridajobs.org/local-workforce-development-board-resources/policy-and-guidance/guidance-papers). The LWDB, in accordance with DEO's final guidance and section 414.095(9)(g), Florida Statutes, describes Family Violence Option strategies, including how to make appropriate referrals for public and private services available in the community. The strategies must include ancillary services/activities not common to regular program provisions but included as alternatives. The complete Welfare Transition Domestic Violence Guidance Paper and workforce strategies are available at:

<http://www.floridajobs.org/local-workforce-development-board-resources/policy-and-guidance/guidance-papers>

Background and Underlying Federal and State Policy: Section 402(a)(7) of the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 provided states the option of developing a state program to address issues of domestic violence for TANF program recipients. Florida has elected this option.

Section 414.0252(4), Florida Statutes defines domestic violence as: *"any assault, aggravated assault, battery, aggravated battery, sexual assault, sexual battery, stalking, aggravated stalking, kidnapping, false imprisonment, or any criminal offense that results in the physical injury or death of one family or household member by another."*

Florida adopted the federal Family Violence Option in recognition that past and present incidences of domestic violence may affect an individual's ability to comply with assigned work activities. Implementation details that describe the provision of support services to reduce the incidence and effects of domestic violence on individuals and families receiving TCA/TANF can be found in the most updated Welfare Transition Domestic Violence Administrative Policy published on DEO's website at:

<http://www.floridajobs.org/local-workforce-development-board-resources/policy-and-guidance/guidance-papers>

The strategic planning elements must include criteria for allocating workforce resources to LWDBs.

- Section 414.065(4)(b), Florida Statutes states that a participant who is unable to comply with work requirements because such compliance would make it probable that he/she would be unable to escape from domestic violence, or due to mental or physical impairment related to past incidents of domestic violence, may be excused from work requirements. Individuals must comply with an alternative requirement plan.
- Section 414.065(4)(c), Florida Statutes excuses individuals who are noncompliant with work requirements due to the need for treatment or remediation of past effects of domestic violence. Individuals must comply with an alternative requirement plan.
- Section 414.095(9)(g), Florida Statutes informs domestic violence victims of their right to receive information about counseling and support services available to them and their right to have any information related to their case protected as confidential.
- Section 414.095(14)(d), Florida Statutes allows the LWDB provider to assign good cause for noncompliance to domestic violence victims. The participant does not have to comply with TANF Child Support Enforcement (CSE) disclosure requirements (e.g., provide the name of the child's other parent so child support can be assigned and collected) if disclosure would put the victim at risk.
- Section 414.105(2), Florida Statutes allows a domestic violence victim to be considered for a hardship extension of the TCA time limit.
- Section 414.157, Florida Statutes provides for diversion services including a one-time payment of up to \$1,000 for domestic violence victims.
- Section 445.021, Florida Statutes provides funds for relocation if domestic violence interferes with the ability of a parent to become self-sufficient.

When a family applies for TCA, DCF refers the applicant to the workforce system to complete the work registration process developed by the LWDB. Florida operates an online process that allows applicants to complete up-front work registration requirements. Under provisions of section 414.095, Florida Statute, LWDBs must engage the applicant in work activities and inform the individual about the Welfare Transition Program (WTP). Through the registration process, applicants are reviewed for potential relocation assistance as a diversion and are provided services to comply with program requirements. During the “up-front orientation process”, the LWDB screens the applicant, requires them to attend an overview of the WTP and receive information regarding domestic violence services. If during the orientation, the LWDB determines the applicant is or has been a victim of domestic violence, the LWDB informs the applicant of services available and/or refers the applicant to community resources that specialize in serving victims of domestic violence.

If the LWDB does not have a domestic violence specialist on staff and needs information on community resources available, the LWDB should contact the **Florida Domestic Violence Hotline (FDVH) at 800-500-1119 or TTY at (800) 621-4202. Additional information can be found on the Department of Children and Families website at:**
<https://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/domestic-violence/>

Total Number of Good Cause Domestic Violence Waivers Granted

As described in the previous sections, Florida does not grant “waivers”; instead, WTP providers may defer participants from the work activity requirements for good cause for a period of time. The LWDB provider must work with the participant to develop an alternative work requirement plan. A participant’s failure to comply with the alternate plan carries the same penalties for the participant as failure to comply with a work activity plan.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEFERRALS	
By Month Reported*	
MONTH	CASES
Oct 20	56
Nov 20	52
Dec 20	52
Jan 21	50
Feb 21	51
Mar 21	50
Apr 21	49
May 21	48
Jun 21	52
Jul 21	7
Aug 21	16
Sep 21	17
TOTAL	500
Unduplicated Participants	80

*based on open status of deferrals for Domestic Violence

6. **A description of any nonrecurrent, short-term benefits (as defined in 45 CFR 260.31(b)(1)) provided, including:**
- (i) The eligibility criteria associated with such benefits, including any restrictions on the amount, duration, or frequency of payments;**
 - (ii) Any policies that limit such payments to families that are eligible for TANF assistance or that have the effect of delaying or suspending a family's eligibility for assistance; and**
 - (iii) Any procedures or activities developed under the TANF program to ensure that individuals diverted from assistance receive information about, referrals to, or access to other program benefits (such as Medicaid and food stamps) that might help them make the transition from welfare to work.**

Introduction

Florida has established multiple non-recurrent, short-term benefit programs, several of which are termed “diversion programs”. The two types of diversions described in this section are financial diversion and non-assistance short-term service diversion.

Florida uses the financial diversion programs to redirect individuals who would otherwise be applicants for TCA, from the caseload by providing a lump-sum financial assistance payment and/or services to improve or relieve the immediate problem that may have caused the need for TCA.

While not precluded from providing emergency funds, the non-assistance, short-term service diversion programs generally provide no financial assistance, but rather offer needed services to vulnerable families who are not usually applicants for TCA. Eligible families must have income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level, and the services they receive are to resolve or mitigate a crisis and strengthen the family to prevent future need for TCA.

FINANCIAL DIVERSION PROGRAMS:

1. Up-front Diversion Program

Authorizing Statute: section 445.017, Florida Statutes **Diversion**

Program Description

- **Program Purpose:** This program provides a one-time, up-front cash payment (sometimes in combination with services) to applicants who do not need or want ongoing TCA, but who, due to an unexpected circumstance or an emergency, require some immediate assistance to secure or retain employment or childcare. This program is related to TANF Purpose One and Purpose Two.
- **Eligibility Criteria:** Eligibility criteria are the same for on-going TCA. The program partners determine eligibility and the amount of payment.

- Restrictions on the amount, duration or frequency of payments: The up-front diversion payment is a one-time payment of up to \$1,000 per family. Each family that receives up-front diversion must sign an agreement restricting it from applying for TCA for three months, unless the family demonstrates an emergency to the local board.
- Major Activities: Activities include screening applicants to respond to emergency needs, providing job search and job development along with services such as child-care or transportation, and offering a one-time payment of up to \$1,000 per family.
- Number Served: **3** families received diversion payments during the reporting period
- Referral mechanism to other programs that could help the recipient make the transition from public assistance to work: LWDBs screen each family on a case-by-case basis for barriers to obtaining or retaining employment. The program makes referrals, as necessary, to other programs, including food assistance, Medicaid, mental health and substance abuse

2. Relocation Assistance Program

Authorizing Statute: section 445.021, Florida Statutes **Relocation Assistance Program**

Program Description

- Program Purpose: This program provides financial and support resources to enable a family to move from its present location to one with more opportunity for job placement, education, family support, etc. An on-going TCA recipient or an applicant eligible for TCA may request and be granted relocation assistance. This program is related to TANF Purpose One and Purpose Two
- Eligibility Criteria: Eligibility criteria are the same for on-going TCA
- Restrictions on the amount, duration or frequency of payments: Except for a domestic violence victim, a recipient may not make application for TCA for six months unless the family demonstrates an emergency to the LWDB
- Major Activities: Major activities involve verifying eligibility, developing a plan for relocation that states the purpose for relocation, verifying that the receiving area has resources available to help the relocated family succeed and monitoring the relocation
- Number Served: **14** families received relocation funding during the reporting period
- Referral mechanism to other programs that could help the recipient make the transition from public assistance to work: The LWDBs screen each family on a case-by-case basis for barriers to obtaining or retaining employment. They make referrals, as necessary, to other programs, including food assistance, Medicaid, mental health and substance abuse

3. Cash Assistance Severance Benefit

Authorizing Statute: section 445.026, Florida Statutes Cash Assistance Severance Benefit

Program Description

- Program Purpose: Severance provides a choice for families working part-time (or full-time) but at a salary insufficient to make them ineligible for the TCA benefit. TCA recipients who receive any amount of TCA during a month are using a month toward their lifetime eligibility limit. This program allows the family to stop receiving cash assistance, conserve months of eligibility and receive a lump sum payment to use for family necessities or for maintaining employment. This program is related to TANF Purpose Two
- Eligibility Criteria: Severance is available only to eligible, on-going TCA families who are working and receiving earnings
- Restrictions on the amount, duration or frequency of payments: The program restricts the one-time payment amount to \$1,000 and the family may not reapply for cash assistance for six months unless it demonstrates an emergency to the LWDB
- Major Activities: Primary activities involve verifying employment and salary, certifying and approving an emergency if the family reapplies within six months and prorating the required recoupment over eight months if the family begins receiving TCA
- Number Served: **20** families received a severance payment during the reporting period
- Referral mechanism to other programs that could help the recipient make the transition from public assistance to work: LWDBs screen each family on a case-by-case basis for barriers to obtaining or retaining employment. Staff make referrals, as necessary, to other programs, including food assistance, Medicaid, mental health and substance abuse

SERVICE NON-ASSISTANCE DIVERSION PROGRAMS:

1. Domestic Violence Diversion Program

Authorizing Statute: section 414.157, Florida Statutes Diversion Program for Victims of Domestic Violence

Program Description

- Program Purpose: Through the state's certified domestic violence centers, this program provides emergency shelter and related services to TANF-eligible victims of domestic violence. This program relates to TANF Purpose One and Purpose Two
- Eligibility Criteria: For an applicant to be eligible for TANF funding, the applicant must be a U.S. citizen or a qualified noncitizen, a pregnant woman, a parent with one or more minor children or a caretaker with one or more minor children. The applicant must indicate that personal resources available at the time of service are at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level
- Restrictions on the amount, duration or frequency of payments: To extend services to larger numbers of victims, the Domestic Violence Diversion Program does not provide payments to recipients. The program focuses instead on providing access to professional counselors who can offer a variety of services
- Major Activities: The program provides the statutorily mandated services of emergency shelter, 24-hour hotline, information and referral, case management, child assessment, counseling, community education and professional training for law enforcement, social workers, and other professionals who work with domestic violence victims. The program considers other services on a case-by-case basis
- Number Served: Domestic Violence Diversion Program provided emergency shelter to **10,848** individuals and **34,518** outreach services to individuals during the reporting period
- Referral mechanism to other programs that could help the recipient make the transition from public assistance to work: Providing information, referral and case management are an integral part of the program. Based on need, advocate staff assist participants in applying for other state and/or local benefits and services

2. Homelessness Prevention Grant Program

Program Description

- Program Purpose: The purpose of this grant program is to prevent family displacement, breakdown or hardship due to homelessness, or its immediate threat. This program is related to TANF Purpose One
- Eligibility Criteria:
 - Family must have at least one child under the age of 18 or under age 19 and a full-time student in a secondary school or its equivalent;
 - At least one child must be a U.S. citizen or qualified noncitizen;
 - Family must be living in Florida or be working or looking for work in Florida;
 - Family must provide proof of their housing emergency;

- Assistance is limited to up to four months; and
- Family income is at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level
- Restrictions on the amount, duration or frequency of payments: The program provides for a payment of past due rent, mortgage and utility bills for up to four months per family who are homeless or are about to become homeless because of unemployment, loss of income, personal or family crisis, or the shortage of low-income housing facilities
- Major Activities: The program provides statutorily mandated assistance to needy families in the form of a non-assistance payment to meet emergency housing needs, so children are maintained in their own homes
- Number Served: **613** families received services during the reporting period (**2,071** individuals were served as part of these families)
- Referral mechanisms to other programs that could help the recipient make the transition from public assistance to work: The program makes referrals, as necessary, to other programs, including food assistance, Medicaid, mental health and substance abuse

3. **Non-Custodial Parent Employment Program (NCPEP)**

Authorizing Statute: section 414.065(5), Florida Statutes

Program Description

- Program Purpose: The purpose of the non-custodial parent employment program is to provide eligible non-custodial parents non-assistance services in an effort to end or prevent the dependence of needy parents on government benefits. The program offers eligible non-custodial parents employment services to obtain and retain employment so they may contribute to the financial well-being of the related child's family through child support. This program relates to TANF Purpose Two.
- Eligibility Criteria: The contracted provider serves non-custodial parents of children who receive TCA or are qualified as TANF-eligible (family income level at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level). The non-custodial parent must be either unemployed or under-employed and have difficulty paying or is unable to pay child support. The non-custodial parent may be ordered by the courts to seek employment or may enroll in the program on a voluntary basis. The Florida Legislature made the program available to non-custodial parents in Hillsborough, Pinellas, Miami-Dade and Pasco counties.
- Restriction on amount, duration or frequency of services or payments: None
- Major Activities: Activities include, but are not limited to:

- Outreach to non-custodial parents who are under court order and non-custodial parents who can be or have been taken to court but have not yet been ordered into the program
 - Orientation to the program to inform participants of program opportunities and responsibilities
 - Informing participants of the relationship fostered between the program and the Department of Revenue
 - Case management
 - Assessment
 - Parenting education
 - Employment plan development
 - Employment and job skills training, if needed
 - Employment placement
 - Employment retention services
- Number Served: The NCPEP served a total of **866** participants during the report period
 - Referral Mechanisms to Other Programs to Assist Transition from public assistance to Work: N/A

7. ***A description of the grievance procedures the State has established and is maintaining to resolve displacement complaints, pursuant to section 407(f)(3) of the Social Security Act. This description must include the name of the State agency with the lead responsibility for administering this provision and explanations of how the State has notified the public about these procedures and how an individual can register a complaint.***

The following information describes the Grievance/Complaint process established for TCA recipients and WTP participants by the Florida Legislature, DCF and DEO.

Participant Appeal and Grievance Rights:

A general statement in statutes about participant rights serves as notice that individuals in the TANF-funded work program have the same protections as all other workers.

Protections for Participants

Authorizing Statute: section 445.024(6), Florida Statutes

Each participant is subject to the same health, safety, and nondiscrimination standards established under federal, state, or local laws that otherwise apply to other individuals engaged in similar activities who are not participants in the welfare transition program.

The two primary partners in Florida's TANF delivery system have specific roles.

DCF Role: According to section 409.285 Florida Statute, an individual may appeal an action or lack of action which results in the disapproval of eligibility, or that modifies or cancels his or her TCA. The appeal process is part of the Rights and Responsibilities information provided to each applicant.

Recipients are notified about filing a case appeal with DCF, during the application process (Rights and Responsibilities), during an intake, and Notice of Case Action. Recipients may ask for the hearing by writing, calling the Customer Call Center or coming into a local office within 90 days from the mailing date of their notice of case action.

The DCF is responsible for providing an appeals process (Fair Hearing). If the Department takes action to reduce, deny or terminate benefits, the Department carries the burden of proof. If the reduction, denial or termination of benefits is the result of noncompliance with the LWDB's employability or alternative plan and the imposition of a penalty, the Department is responsible for ensuring that witnesses appropriate for the Fair Hearing process are invited. The Department requests that a representative of the LWDB/contract provider attend the hearing, bring relevant documents and participate in the hearing process.

SWDB/DEO Role: The SWDB is responsible for providing a grievance process for an individual related to service delivery of TANF-funded work activities or alternative requirement plans, support services and other workforce functions under the WIOA. LWDB providers explain this process to participants during the orientation period.

DISPLACEMENT COMPLAINTS:

Under Florida law, program operators must work with employers to assure trainees do not displace existing employees.

DEO is the lead agency responsible for administering displacement complaints.

Any participant or other interested party adversely affected by a decision or action by the local workforce system, including decisions by career center partners and service partners, has the right to file a grievance/complaint with the LWDB, with the exception of complaints alleging unlawful discrimination.

Protection for Current Employees

Authorizing Statute: section 445.024(7), Florida Statutes

In establishing and contracting for work experience and community service activities, other work experience activities, on-the-job training, subsidized employment, and work supplementation under the welfare transition program, an employed worker may not be displaced, either completely or partially. A participant may not be assigned to an activity or employed in a position if the employer has created the vacancy or terminated an existing employee without good cause to fill that position with a program participant.

Any employee may file a grievance about displacement by a WIOA or Welfare Transition/TANF program participant in accordance with the DEO grievance guide. The Table of Contents contains a link to the work activities grievance procedures. Displacement action prohibitions and available relief specifications are described for WIOA (20 CFR 683.270) and TANF (45 CFR 261.270).

8. A summary of State programs and activities directed at the third and fourth statutory purposes of TANF (as specified at 45 CFR 260.20(c) and (d) of this chapter).

a. Summarize below, the State programs and activities directed at preventing and reducing the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and establishing annual numerical goals for preventing and reducing the incidence of these pregnancies (TANF purpose 3)

REDUCTION OF OUT-OF-WEDLOCK BIRTHS and TEENAGE PREGNANCY PREVENTION:

Florida citizens are concerned about the number of teenage pregnancies, and the legislature has responded to those concerns by establishing a variety of state-level initiatives carried out by partnerships among federal, state and local human services, educational and health agencies and programs. They are no longer detailed in the State Plan or this report because they are no longer funded with TANF or state MOE funds.

General Strategic Planning for Reducing Teen Age Pregnancy

The Florida Legislature recognizes the need to implement initiatives aimed at reducing teen pregnancy, as outlined in Florida Statutes:

445.019 F.S. —Teen parent and pregnancy prevention diversion program; eligibility for services

The Legislature recognizes that teen pregnancy is a major cause of dependency on government assistance that often extends through more than one generation. The purpose of the teen parent and pregnancy prevention diversion program is to provide services to reduce and avoid welfare dependency by reducing teen pregnancy, reducing the incidence of multiple pregnancies to teens, and by assisting teens in completing educational or employment programs, or both.

(1) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in ss. 414.075, 414.085, and 414.095, a teen who is determined to be at risk of teen pregnancy or who already has a child shall be deemed eligible to receive services under this program.

(2) Services provided under this program shall be limited to services that are not considered assistance under federal law or guidelines.

(3) Receipt of services under this section does not preclude eligibility for, or receipt of, other assistance or services under chapter 414.

b. Summarize below, the State programs and activities directed at encouraging the formation and maintenance of two-parent families (TANF purpose 4)

Two Parent Program

Under the administration of DEO, the Two Parent Program is designed to encourage two parent families to participate in the Welfare Transition program. Florida removed the restrictions and complex eligibility criteria that often served as barriers to participation in the former JOBS Program. Two parent families currently must meet only the same eligibility criteria as single parent families, and their participation requirements match federal law.

The additional income provided when both parents participate in the program and have the potential for increased earning power on leaving the program for unsubsidized employment will alleviate the most acute financial strain and help to maintain the intact family. The program served two parent families during the report period.

The Two Parent Program served **3,017** families during the report period.

Relative Caregiver Program

Authorizing Statute: section 39.5085, Florida Statute

The program provides financial assistance to relatives who are caring full-time for an eligible child adjudicated dependent and ordered by the court into the custody of the relative. Eligibility for this program lessens the potential for the child's placement in foster care and avoids the trauma to the child that could result from such a placement.

Children at risk of foster care placement achieve a sense of permanence and stability in a supportive home that assures their well-being, including, but not limited to, access to immunization, education, mental health services as needed and other services.

The Relative Caregiver Program served **17,973** children during the report period.

Adoption Subsidies and Services

This program provides a Maintenance Adoption Subsidy to "special needs children" determined ineligible for Title IV-E adoption assistance and to provide services to strengthen families who have adopted the children and minimize adoption disruption. This program relates to TANF Purpose One, Purpose Three and Purpose Four.

The primary activity is to promote permanency so children can be maintained in their own homes.

3,569 (estimated) families received services during the reporting period.

Healthy Families Florida Program

This program provides a community-based, voluntary home visiting program for expectant families and families of newborns, experiencing stressful life situations. The

program is designed to prevent child abuse and neglect before it occurs and to promote healthy childhood growth and development. TANF funds have allowed the program to expand the number of participating counties and increase the number of service sites. This program relates to TANF Purpose One, Purpose Three and Purpose Four.

Major activities include home visits to teach parent-child interaction, child development, discipline practices and problem-solving skills, and providing emergency supports and referral to other community resources.

9,121 families and 16,671 children received Healthy Family Services during the reporting period.

Protective Investigations

The program assesses and investigates reports of child maltreatment to ensure the safety and well-being of children who have been alleged to be abused, neglected or abandoned. The Department coordinates investigations with other agencies in accordance with Florida Statutes. This program relates to TANF Purpose One, Purpose Three and Purpose Four.

For services provided with TANF funds, the program determines TANF eligibility for all children who are subjects of an abuse report received by the Florida Abuse Hotline. Assessments and investigations are consistent, regardless of funding source.

There were 183,024 initial and additional investigations, and 196,676 alleged victims were subjects of investigations during the report period.

In-Home Supports

The program provides in-home support services to remedy some of the underlying conditions that lead to abuse, neglect or abandonment of children and to strengthen families so children can be cared for in their own homes or in the home of a relative. The families served must have cases open in Protective Investigations or Protective Services and be determined TANF eligible. TANF funds for in-home supports have been allocated to three distinct components--service funds, Family Builders and Intensive Crisis Counseling Program (ICCP). This program relates to TANF Purpose One and Purpose Four

Service Funds are used to remedy a non-recurring family need that will allow the child to remain in the family. A non-recurring need is defined as an immediate and pressing need of something essential for daily living. Some of the services provided with these funds include: home maintenance, temporary housing, transportation, respite care, school-related expenses, family builder program and intensive crisis counseling

The program provided services to 9,380 (estimated) families and 17,720 children during the report period

Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP)

To provide financial assistance to a relative who is caring full-time for an eligible child and that child cannot return to the care and custody of his or her parents and adoption is not in the best interest of the child. This program relates to TANF purpose One.

The primary activity is to promote permanency so children can be maintained in a family setting.

191 children (**119** families) received services during the report period.

The Welfare Transition Scholarship and Mentoring Program (TANF funded)

The primary goal of this scholarship and mentoring program for children of current or former TCA recipients is to provide incentives to both the parent(s) and children in TCA. It encourages the parent(s) to comply with all the program's work activity and behavioral requirements. It requires the children eligible for the scholarships to remain in school, maintain good behavior and minimum standard grade point average, and stay drug-free. The program strengthens families because it encourages the parent(s) to remain more closely involved in the child's life, academic performance, and other school-related activities during the vulnerable middle-school and high school periods. This program relates to TANF Purpose Four.

Take Stock in Children provides mentoring, college success and career coaching, and a Florida Prepaid Project STARs Scholarship to each eligible student selected to participate in the program. The local Take Stock in Children program affiliate monitors the progress of the child(ren) and reports to the Take Stock in Children state office. Throughout the program, the scholarship award remains contingent on the parent and the child(ren) remaining compliant with all program requirements.

A total of **1,885** scholarships have been purchased.

- **964** total scholarships have been depleted,
- **656** total scholarships are in use, and
- **265** are scheduled for assignment.

TANF Substance Abuse/Mental Health (SAMH) Program

Authorizing Statute: section 414.1585, Florida Statutes

This program provides services to families at risk of entering the public assistance system due to substance abuse and/or mental health impairments that negatively affect economic and family stability. This program relates to TANF Purpose One and Purpose Two.

The program provides outreach, assessment, treatment and case management services to reduce the risk of low-income families joining the TCA caseload due to substance abuse and mental health problems. Whether screened at a One Stop Center, referred by community outreach contacts or directly by the mental health or substance abuse provider, these families are fully assessed for a wide range of barriers. If substance

abuse/addiction and/or mental illness impairment is diagnosed, the program may provide treatment for the whole family.

The Mental Health Program provided services to 1,456 individuals and the Substance Abuse Program provided services to 1,024 individuals during the reporting period.

Teen Parent and Pregnancy Prevention Diversion Programs

Authorizing Statute: section 445.019, Florida Statutes

Florida has no programs characterized solely as Teen Parent and Pregnancy Prevention programs funded with TANF for this report period. The state does fund many programs with these two issues as major components in the Departments of Health, Education and Juvenile Justice.

9. **Estimate of the Total Number of Individuals Who Have Participated in Subsidized Employment Under Section 261.30(b) or (c)**

Number Participating in Subsidized Employment Any Time During the Month

Month	Number without OJT	Number with OJT
Oct-20	21	1
Nov-20	21	1
Dec-20	22	0
Jan-21	17	0
Feb-21	17	0
Mar-21	16	0
Apr-21	10	0
May-21	9	0
Jun-21	16	0
Jul-21	11	0
Aug-21	14	0
Sep-21	18	0
Total	192	2
Unduplicated Total number of Participants in Subsidized Employment	69	1

Unduplicated Total Number of Participants in Subsidized Employment

October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021	70
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10. Description of EBT policies and practices in the following four areas:

(1) procedures for preventing the use of TANF assistance via electronic benefit transfer transactions in any liquor store; any casino, gambling casino, or gaming establishment, and any retail establishment which provides adult oriented entertainment in which performers disrobe or perform in an unclothed state for entertainment; (2) how the state identifies the locations specified in the statute; (3) procedures for ongoing monitoring to ensure policies are being carried out as intended; and (4) how the state plans to respond to findings of non-compliance or program ineffectiveness.

(1) & (2) Florida's EBT vendor blocks Point of Sale (POS) transactions from businesses identified by the Merchant Category Code (MMC), developed by the "Card Association", as package stores (Beer, Wine, and Liquor), High Risk Entertainment, and Betting, which includes Lottery/Casino/Wagers. The State identifies which MMC codes the vendor should block and notifies the vendor. If the MMC code is present and, on the vendor's, "no process" list, the EBT transaction will be declined. The EBT vendor also blocks ATM transactions by programming a block on the specific Automated Teller Machine (ATM) terminal ID.

(3) ATM transactions are reviewed monthly through a data analysis process to identify ATM use at prohibited locations. ATM terminal ID's from this analysis are updated monthly with the EBT vendor to ensure EBT cannot be transacted at the prohibited locations. MMC codes that have been identified for the prohibited locations are always blocked. Any new business assigned one of these MMC codes are automatically blocked.

(4) Any findings of non-compliance or program ineffectiveness will be addressed with either state staff responsible for the monthly review to identify new prohibited locations or with the vendor responsible for ensuring newly identified locations are blocked.

ATTACHMENT B
Annual Report on State Maintenance-of-Effort Programs

4 Programs

Note: The state reserves the right to amend this MOE section to change MOE sources or amounts.

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

State: Florida

Fiscal Year: FFY 2021

Date Submitted: December 1, 2021

Provide the following information for **EACH PROGRAM** (according to the nature of the benefit or service provided) for which the State claims MOE expenditures. Complete and submit this report in accordance with the attached instructions.

1. Name of Benefit or Service Program

Program 1: TANF TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE (TCA)

Authorizing Statute: section 414.045, Florida Statute

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

This program provides TCA payments, vouchers, and other benefits to meet a family's ongoing basic needs (food, shelter, clothing, utilities, household goods, personal care items and general incidental expenses). **Program expenditures also include administrative, and systems costs related to assisting those families.**

NOTE: Florida no longer has a separate state two-parent program. This report combines the numbers served and the expenditures previously reported as separate state programs under this one program—TCA.

The Temporary Cash Assistance Program has the following major elements:

1. The Department of Children and Families determines eligibility for TCA. For families where children are living with a parent, the emphasis is on work or training to enable the parent to move toward self-sufficiency. The work and training activities are part of the state's comprehensive workforce development program that operates under the policy direction of the State Workforce Development Board (SWDB). The Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) is the administrative agency to carry out the policies of the SWDB. Services are provided to TANF-eligible participants through 24 Local Workforce Development Boards. Work eligible adults and teen heads of household who receive TCA and are not exempt are subject to time limits and required participation in a work activity or training in the Welfare Transition Program.
- Some children are living in families where there is no parent able to participate in work activities. These families include children under the care of grandparents or other relatives and families where the only parent (or both parents) is disabled and receives federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments. Children in these families receive "child-only" TCA payments and the caregiver whose needs are not included in the grant is not subject to time limits or work requirements. For children who have been determined by the court to have been abused or neglected and therefore placed with grandparents or other relatives, the Relative Caregiver Program provides cash payments and support services. The Department determines eligibility for the Relative Caregiver Program and other cash assistance programs for "child-only" families.

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

This program serves TANF Purpose One and Purpose Two.

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 (Complete only if this program is a separate State program):

6. Total State Expenditures for the Program for the Fiscal Year: **\$135,925,160**

7. Total State MOE Expenditures under the Program for the Fiscal Year: **\$135,925,160**

8. Total Number of Families Served under the Program with MOE Funds: **69,337** (Includes **3,017** two-parent families)

This last figure represents (check one):

☐ The average monthly total for the fiscal year.

☒ The total served over the fiscal year.

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

To receive TCA, applicants must meet the TANF eligibility standards for assistance, including income (participation in the TCA Program is limited to those families whose gross family income is equal to or less than 185 percent of the federal poverty level, subject to certain exclusions) and resources (the maximum allowable resources, including liquid and non-liquid resources subject to certain exclusions, of all members of the family, may not exceed \$2,000). Additional eligibility requirements: the applicant must be a citizen of the United States, or a qualified noncitizen; be a legal resident of the State of Florida; must have or apply for a social security card; must have a minor child residing in the home. For additional information concerning eligibility, please see Florida's TANF State Plan.

10. Prior Program Authorization: Was this program authorized and allowable under prior law? (check one)

Yes ☒ No ☐

11. Total Program Expenditures in FY 1995: _____
(NOTE: provide only if response on 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: Morgan Helton

NAME: Morgan Helton

TITLE: Staff Director of Revenue Management

DATE: 1/21/2022

6. Total State Expenditures for the Program for the Fiscal Year: **Unknown; multiple funding sources**
7. Total State MOE Expenditures under the Program for the Fiscal Year: **\$127,927,544**
8. Total Number of Families Served under the Program with MOE Funds: **3,833** parents, **6,479** children

This last figure represents (check one):

_____ The average monthly total for the fiscal year.

 X The total served over the fiscal year.

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

The School Readiness Program serves children ages birth to 13 years of age.

1. Priority for participation

- a) First to children younger than 13 years of age from a family that includes a parent who is receiving temporary cash assistance under Chapter 414 and who is subject to federal work requirements or a parent who has an Intensive Service Account or an Individual Training Account under section 445.009, Florida Statutes.

2. Subsequent priority shall be given to children that meet one of the following criteria:

- a) At risk children under age nine.
- b) Children from birth to the beginning of the school year for which the child is eligible for admission to kindergarten in a public school under section 1003.21(1)(a)2, Florida Statutes, until the beginning of the school year the sibling is eligible to begin sixth grade, from a working family that is economically disadvantaged, provided family income does not exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty level. First priority for funding an eligible sibling is local revenues available to the coalition for funding direct services.
- c) Children of a parent who transitions from the work program into employment as described in section 445.032, Florida Statutes from birth to the beginning of the school year the child is eligible for admission to kindergarten in a public school under s.1003.21(1)(a), provided family income does not exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty level.
- d) At risk children age nine but younger than age 13. An at-risk child with a sibling enrolled in the school readiness program within an eligibility priority category listed in paragraphs (a)-(c) must be given priority over other children eligible under this paragraph.

- f) Children under age 13 from a working family that is economically disadvantaged, a child who is eligible under this paragraph whose sibling is enrolled in the school readiness program under paragraph (c) must be given priority over other children eligible under this paragraph provided family income does not exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty level.
- g) Children under age 13 whose parent transitions from the Welfare Transition Program into employment as described in section 445.032, Florida Statutes, provided family income does not exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty level.
- h) Child(ren) who has special needs, has been determined eligible as a student with a disability, has a current individual education plan with a Florida school district, and is not younger than three years. A special needs child eligible under this paragraph remains eligible until the child is eligible for admission to kindergarten in a public school under section 1003.21(1)(a)2, Florida Statutes.
- i) Notwithstanding paragraphs (a)-(d), last priority must go to a child who meets one of the eligibility criteria in paragraphs (a)-(d) but is also enrolled concurrently in the federal Head Start Program and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

Additionally, Chapter 445.023 Florida Statutes establishes eligibility for economically disadvantaged, special-needs children between the ages of 13 and 17 years, who are the dependent children of TANF-eligible adults and for whom care is needed for the parent to accept or continue employment or otherwise participate in TANF-funded work activities. Implementation of this part of the program is subject to appropriation of funds for this purpose.

10. Prior Program Authorization: Was this program authorized and allowable under prior law? (check one)

Yes X No

11. Total Program Expenditures in FY 1995: _____
(NOTE: provide only if response on 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: Morgan Helton

NAME: Morgan Helton

TITLE: Staff Director of Revenue Management

DATE: 1/21/2022

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

State: Florida

Fiscal Year: FFY 2021

Date Submitted: December 1, 2021

Provide the following information for **EACH PROGRAM** (according to the nature of the benefit or service provided) for which the State claims MOE expenditures. Complete and submit this report in accordance with the attached instructions.

1. Name of Benefit or Service Program

Program 3: IN HOME SUPPORTS (INCLUDES FAMILY BUILDERS AND OTHER SERVICES SUCH AS PROTECTIVE INVESTIGATIONS, HOTLINE, CASE MANAGEMENT, AND OTHER FAMILY SAFETY ACTIVITIES.)

Authorizing Statute: sections 445.020 F.S. or 445.018 Florida Statutes

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

In Home Supports services provide certain measures of safety and care for the entire family through intensive in-home services. The program provides:

1. Support to families to alleviate crises that might otherwise lead to out of home placement of children, to maintain the safety of children in their own homes, to support families preparing to reunify or adopt and to assist families in obtaining services and other supports necessary to address their multiple needs;
2. In-home intervention for families to prevent the recurrence of abuse and neglect, which would result in the removal of children from their home; and
3. Assessments, family preservation plans, parent education, role modeling, case management, advocacy for families and teaching techniques to improve the environment, including improvement of communication skills through an in-home service model of moderate duration, not to exceed 90 days, or 120 days if an extension has been granted.

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

The purpose of this program is to provide safety and care for the entire family and to prevent the out of home placement of children. This program serves TANF Purpose One and Purpose Four.

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 (Complete only if this program is a separate State program):

6. Total State Expenditures for the Program for the Fiscal Year: **Unknown; multiple funding sources**

7. Total State MOE Expenditures under the Program for the Fiscal Year:
\$104,137,470

8. Total Number of Families Served under the Program with MOE Funds: **192,404 (estimated families (Includes 183,024 family protective investigations and 9,380 estimated families served with other in-home supports))**

This last figure represents (check one):

_____ The average monthly total for the fiscal year.

 X The total served over the fiscal year. (Families sometimes stay in the program multiple years.)

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

To receive services, participants must meet the TANF services financial eligibility standards:

- The family receives TCA, Relative Caregiver payments, food assistance or the children in the family are eligible for Medicaid
- The services are being provided for TANF Purposes One and the family income is at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level; or

The services are being provided for TANF Purpose Four and there is no financial eligibility

10. Prior Program Authorization: Was this program authorized and allowable under prior law? (check one)

Yes X No _____

11. Total Program Expenditures in FY 1995: _____
(NOTE: provide only if response on 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."

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1. Name of Benefit or Service Program

Program 4: HEALTHY FAMILIES FLORIDA (INCLUDES THE HEALTHY FAMILIES PROGRAM and ADOPTION MAINTENANCE Payments)

Authorizing Statute: section 414.158, Florida Statue

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

This program provides a community-based, voluntary home visiting program for expectant families and families with newborns who are experiencing stressful life situations. The program prevents child abuse and neglect before it occurs and promotes healthy childhood growth and development as well as healthy and strong families.

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

The program provides home visits to teach parent-child interaction, child development, discipline practices and problem-solving skills. It also provides emergency supports and referral to other community resources that may be helpful to a family. This program serves TANF Purpose One, Purpose Three and Purpose Four.

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 (Complete only if this program is a separate State program):

6. Total State Expenditures for the Program for the Fiscal Year: **Unknown, multiple funding sources.**

7. Total State MOE Expenditures under the Program for the Fiscal Year: **\$15,969,579**

8. Total Number of Families Served under the Program with MOE Funds: **12,690 families** (Includes **9,121** healthy family diversions and **3,569** family adoption subsidies and services.)

This last figure represents (check one):

_____ The average monthly total for the fiscal year.

 X The total served over the fiscal year.

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

This program supports TANF Purposes One, Three, and Four and serves families with income at or below 200 percent of federal poverty level.

10. Prior Program Authorization: Was this program authorized and allowable under prior law? (check one)

Yes X No _____

11. Total Program Expenditures in FY 1995: _____
(NOTE: provide only if response on 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."

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