

STATE OF MAINE

**STATE PLAN FOR TITLE IV-A BLOCK GRANT
OF THE
SOCIAL SECURITY ACT**

**TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES
(TANF)**

Effective January 1, 2012

Rev. 12/11

STATE OF MAINE
STATE PLAN FOR TITLE IV-A OF THE
SOCIAL SECURITY ACT
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)

IV-A

STATE OF MAINE

General Information

Lead Agency Responsible for Administering TANF:

Department of Health and Human Services
Mary C. Mayhew, Commissioner
Office for Family Independence
Dale J. Denno, Director

Contact Persons:

Dawn M. Mulcahey, TANF Program Manager
Liz Ray, ASPIRE-TANF Manager
Department of Health and Human Services
11 SHS – 442 Civic Center Drive
Augusta, ME 04333-0011

(207)287-2826
(207)287-3455 FAX

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**SECTION I: TANF State Plan Renewal
STATE OF MAINE
For The Period January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2014**

This state plan was developed in accordance with section 402 of the Social Security Act, as amended by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-193) and reflects the changes in work requirements outlined in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. The information submitted below restates the pertinent requirements of section 402, the regulations at 45 CFR Parts 261, 262, 263 and 265, and provides information that outlines the provisions of the State of Maine's program.

Maine submits this state plan to renew its status as an eligible state. The plan renewal is a continuation of the state plan initially submitted on October 1, 1996 and found to be complete on December 27, 1996 and approved funding under TANF as of November 1996.

SECTION II: MAINE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

TANF and TANF MOE Funded Program Descriptions

Federally Funded Programs

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

This program includes benefits provided in the form of cash, payments, vouchers, or other forms designed to meet on-going, basic needs. Eligible families must have dependent children who are deprived of parental support or care because of the death, continued absence, incapacity of a parent, or the under-employment of a parent who is the principal wage earner. It is designed to promote personal responsibility and accountability for parents. Financial eligibility is based on a Standard of Need. See Attachment A. Income disregards of earned income in the amount of \$108 and 50% of the remainder is considered when determining eligibility and benefit.

ASPIRE-TANF Support Services for TANF Families

This is the State's TANF employment and training program. As a condition of eligibility for TANF each applicant/recipient who is not exempt must participate in the ASPIRE-TANF Program. Support services include transportation, car repairs, car insurance, child care, uniforms, work boots, and other items necessary for retaining employment.

Parent's as Scholars Program - First 12 months

PaS is a student financial aid program for up to 2,000 families based on need as authorized by statute. Students must have dependent children and be matriculating in post secondary undergraduate 2-year and 4-year degree-granting education programs. Benefits include a cash benefit equal to that of TANF recipients and support services. The first 12 months of the PaS Program are federally funded. Eligibility is identical to TANF.

Emergency Assistance (EA)

EA is a limited program originally authorized under prior law. Payment of services through the EA program is limited to children and their families who are threatened by destitution or homelessness because of emergency situations. The program does not cover all emergencies. The income limit must be below 100% of FPL or families must receive TANF or PaS, SSI or Food Supplement. Payments are made to vendors. EA may be used by a family once in a 12-month period. The amount of the EA payment is capped depending on the type of emergency payment is made for.

Alternative Aid (AA) – Non recurrent short term benefits

Alternative Aid is a diversion program to assist applicants who seek short-term help to obtain or retain employment. The intent of the program is to help families remain self-supporting by providing voucher payments worth up to three months of the TANF benefits for which they are eligible. AA may be used once in a 12-month period. All payments are made directly to the vendor. Eligibility for the program is the same as for TANF cash assistance except AA is based on 133% of FPL.

Separate State Programs - Separate State Programs provide assistance to needy families that utilize state maintenance of effort (MOE) funds.

Maintenance of effort- Maine will continue its maintenance of effort based on FFY 1994 expenditures at the level of at least 80 percent unless federal work participation rates are met, in which case Maine will reduce its MOE expenditures to 75 percent. In order to meet its annual MOE obligation, Maine may count any qualifying expenditures that are allowed under federal statute and regulation. Qualifying MOE expenditures are any expenditure made on behalf of TANF-eligible families.

Non-Citizen Families

The state funded Non-Citizen Families Program provides benefits to legal aliens who were eligible under AFDC but are not considered qualified aliens under the TANF Program. The non-citizen family receives monthly benefits equal to a TANF family's benefits. A family that becomes ineligible for this program because of increased child support, increased hours of, or increased income from employment is eligible for transitional support services.

Parents as Scholars except the first 12 months of participation

PaS is a student financial aid program for up to 2,000 families based on need as authorized by statute. Students must have dependent children and be matriculating in post secondary undergraduate 2-year and 4-year degree-granting education programs and otherwise has the same eligibility guidelines as TANF. Benefits include a cash benefit equal to that of TANF recipients and support services. PaS participation after the first 12 months is State funded.

ASPIRE Support Services for State –funded programs

The ASPIRE Program provides case management and support services to assist families in preparing for, obtaining, and retaining employment in order to become self-supporting. Support services for transportation, car repairs, car insurance, child care, uniforms, work boots, and other items necessary for retaining employment.

Underemployed Families

The financial assistance program for two parent families with a principle wage earner that is unemployed or under-employed and other wise has the same eligibility guidelines as TANF. The under-employed family receives monthly benefits equal to a TANF family's benefits. A family that becomes ineligible for this program because of increased child support, increased hours of, or increased income from employment is eligible for transitional support services.

Incapacitated Families

This is the financial assistance program for a one or two parent family in which one or both parents are physically or mentally incapacitated and otherwise have the same eligibility guidelines as TANF. The family receives a benefit equal to a TANF family's benefit. A family that becomes ineligible for this program because of increased child support, increased hours of, or increased income from employment is eligible for transitional support services.

Students

State funded Student Families Program provides benefits to students and their parents ages 18, 19, and 20 who were eligible for AFDC Program benefits. A family that becomes ineligible for this program because of increased child support, increased hours of, or increased income from employment is eligible for transitional support services.

TANF Worker Supplement

This program provides a monthly food benefit for up to three years to TANF leavers due to earnings. The benefit provides food assistance in the amount of \$100 for the first 12 months, \$75 for the second 12 months and \$50 for the third 12 months. The income limit is 250% of FPL.

Transitional Services

Transitional services are available to support the post- TANF client in retaining employment. These services include transportation for up to 12 months and child care until the youngest child in the family turns 13. The income limit is 250% of FPL.

State Refundable tax credits

Property Tax Relief for Income Eligible Home Owners and Renters-The refundable tax credit is based upon the amount that property taxes or rent constituting property taxes exceeds the amount of the low income thresholds established in law and for purposes of TANF MOE, the State would only claim expenditures paid to low income families. Eligibility for an individual with a spouse or dependent(s) 2011 household income was \$86,000 or less and

2011 property tax was more than 4% of 2011 household income; or the rent paid in 2011 was more than 20% of the 2011 household income.

Child Care Tax Credit

Eligible Maine residents can receive a partial refund of child care paid. Eligible families receive a credit equal to 25% of the federal credit for child and dependent care expenses. The credit doubles if the expenses are related to a quality child care provider.

General Assistance (GA)– Non-recurrent short term benefits

General Assistance provides immediate aid of persons who are unable to provide the basic necessities essential to maintain themselves and their families. The GA Program is funded purely with State general fund dollars. This program deals with specific crisis situations such as to prevent imminent homelessness and is not intended to meet recurrent or ongoing needs and does not extend beyond 4 months.

Child Care Development Fund (CCDF)

These are payments related to child care services provided to families who are receiving TANF, transitioning off TANF, and at risk of becoming dependent on TANF. Child care costs are reimbursed up to established maximums, based on the family's gross income, the age of the child and whether a contract center or non-contract provider provides care. The income limit is 250% of FPL.

Child Support Pass Through/Supplemental TANF

Up to \$50 of current child support collected for a TANF family is 'passed through' to the family. When more than \$50 in current or arrearage is collected the family may receive a supplemental TANF or PaS payment. The pass-through amount is disregarded for eligibility purposes and is counted as TANF State MOE.

Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA)

This program includes TANF eligible families who are refugees and asylees and receiving social services through the Refugee Assistance program structure. The services provided include cash assistance, case management and employment and training services provided by local refugee agencies during the first eight months after their arrival in the United States. The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) provides social services funding for employment services to refugees. The TANF-eligible families are better served through this extensive service delivery system and TANF federal funds are used to pay for the services provided to refugee families eligible for TANF. The costs are charged to TANF Federal Funds, but TANF State MOE may also be expended on these services. The financial eligibility for these services is the same eligibility used for TANF cash assistance.

Section III: TANF State Plan Requirements

The information in this section lists the State Plan requirements for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program pursuant to Title IV-A of the Social Security Act, section 402. Information detailing the provisions of Maine's TANF program follows each State Plan requirement. Unless otherwise specifically indicated, the references to sections of law in this document are to Title IV-A of the Social Security Act.

- (i) Conduct a program, designed to serve all political subdivisions in the State (not necessarily in a uniform manner), that provides assistance to needy families with (or expecting) children and provides parents with the job preparation, work, and support services to enable them to leave the program and become self-sufficient.*

General Provisions

The State of Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is the state agency responsible for administration of the federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant. DHHS administers a financial assistance and jobs preparation program consistent with the objectives of the IV-A Block Grants described at Sec. 401. In its administration of the program, the Department respects the rights, privacy and personal dignity of the individual under the United States Constitution, the Social Security Act and the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The Department calls its financial assistance program Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). The jobs preparation program is called ASPIRE-TANF. The programs work together to help families move from welfare to work.

- TANF provides temporary financial assistance to needy, dependent and deprived children and their parents (or caretaker relatives) to meet their basic needs while being cared for in their homes.
- Simultaneously, ASPIRE-TANF provides case management and support services to help families prepare for, find, and keep employment; while the Division of Child Support Enforcement and Recovery (DSER) helps families establish paternity and secure financial and medical support.

In accord with the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA), the State of Maine has developed its TANF State Plan based upon the four major purposes of TANF, which are to:

- Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own home or in the home of a relative;

- End dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage;
- Prevent and reduce the incidence of out of wedlock pregnancies and establish annual numerical goals for preventing and reducing the incidence of these pregnancies; and
- Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

All individuals have the right to apply for any assistance without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, gender orientation, religion, or handicap.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, no qualified individual with a disability will, by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, or be subjected to discrimination by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services.

Additionally, applicants and recipients are assured confidentiality, equitable and courteous treatment and may appeal decisions and have fair hearings should they disagree with any action taken affecting their benefit.

Eligibility for the Maine Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Program:

An eligible family must meet age, relationship, deprivation, citizenship, alien status, residency, and cooperation requirements, as well as remain within the income and resource limits of the program. The eligible family must attend a TANF Orientation session and sign a Family Contract. Specific criteria are located in the Maine Public Assistance Manual available at the Department of Health and Human Services website at <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/rules/index.shtml>.

TANF Program Application

All individuals have the right to file an application for TANF or PaS benefits. An application for TANF or PaS is considered an application for Medicaid. Eligibility for financial assistance and for Medicaid is determined separately. Benefits will be calculated from the date of application or from the date of statutory eligibility, whichever occurs later.

The applicant or their representative must complete and sign, under penalty of perjury, an application and be interviewed face-to-face. Unless granted good cause all mandatory ASPIRE-TANF applicants must attend an orientation meeting within thirty (30) days of application and must sign a Family Contract. The Family Contract states the responsibilities of the parties to the agreement including, but not limited to, cooperation in child support enforcement and determination of paternity, the requirements of ASPIRE-TANF Program participation and referral to parenting activities and health

care services. The Family Contract will be amended to include individual employability plans as filing unit members enter the ASPIRE-TANF program and when participation review occurs. Eligibility will be determined after both the initial interview and the orientation meeting are completed. A decision will be made within 30 days.

Good cause exists in the following situations:

1. Natural disasters, such as fires or floods, having a direct impact on the applicant/recipient or an immediate family member.
2. Illness of such severity on the part of the applicant/recipient or an immediate family member that the applicant/recipient is unable to direct his or her personal affairs.
3. Refusal of an employer to provide earned income verification, or the unavailability of an employer to provide verification before the deadline.
4. Lost or stolen mail.
5. Refusal of a landlord to verify housing expense.
6. Death of the applicant/recipient or an immediate family member.
7. Inability of a third party (e.g. Social Security Administration) to provide the necessary documentation within the designated time period.
8. Domestic Violence Victim

Cash Benefits for an Assistance Unit

Except in a child-only case, cash benefits are paid only to, or on behalf of, members of a needy family for whom cash assistance is requested and who meet all the nonfinancial eligibility criteria. These eligible individuals constitute the assistance unit and include a dependent child and the dependent child's parents and minor siblings. When a parent or minor sibling of a dependent child does not qualify for inclusion in the assistance unit, their income and resources are considered available to the assistance unit for purposes of determining the amount of the cash benefit. Also, a nonparent caretaker relative may choose to be included in an assistance unit with a dependent child. In this situation, any dependent children of the nonparent caretaker relative will also be included in the assistance unit. When a dependent child of the nonparent caretaker relative does not qualify for inclusion in the assistance unit, their income and resources are considered available to the assistance unit for purposes of determining the amount of the cash benefit.

In a child-only case, the assistance unit comprises only the eligible dependent child, and only the income and resources of the dependent child are considered when determining a cash benefit amount.

Financial Eligibility

Consideration is given to the income of all members of the filing unit as well as excluded stepparents, sponsors of aliens, sanctioned parents and parents or legal guardians of minor parents.

Assets

Eligibility is limited to families whose available resources total less than \$1,000. The value of the home and a primary vehicle is excluded.

Earned Income Disregards

A portion of the earned income is disregarded when determining income eligibility and a cash benefit amount. The first \$108 and 50 percent of the remaining income, dependent care costs, and income of minor family members and dependent children in an assistance unit are disregarded.

Income Budgeting

Eligibility and the benefit are determined for a specific benefit month based on the best estimate of all nonfinancial, asset, and financial criteria that exist and are expected to exist for that month. Benefits are determined prospectively.

Benefit Determination

Payment standards are based on a Standard of Need. To determine eligibility for cash assistance, the total of a family's countable earned income (after disregards) and unearned income is compared with the appropriate assistance payment standard for the unit. See Attachment A.

The benefit amount for the month of application is prorated based on the number of days remaining in the month after the application file date.

Non-Financial Eligibility Requirements**Deprivation**

The household must contain an eligible dependent child who is living with a specified relative and who is deprived of the care and support of a parent due to death, disability, continued absence or underemployment of the principle wage earner. Determination of deprivation for a child who lives with two-parents is based on the unemployment or underemployment of the Primary Wage Earner (PWE) or the incapacity of a parent.

Age

The child must be under the age of 18 or over the age of 18 but under the age of 20, and a full-time student in secondary school, or the equivalent level of

vocational or technical training, and meets all other eligibility requirements may be included.

Residence

All recipients must be living in Maine voluntarily with the intent to make Maine their home.

Citizenship

All recipients must be U.S. citizens, aliens lawfully admitted for permanent residence or otherwise permanently residing in the U.S. under color of law.

Social Security Numbers

All individuals applying for or receiving TANF or PaS must furnish the agency with a Social Security Number or proof of application for a Number and furnish the Number when received.

Non-Payment Situations

Maine will deny assistance for fugitive felons and probation and parole violator.

Maine will deny assistance for 10 years to a person found by a hearings officer or Court to have made fraudulent statements or representation with respect to identification or place of residence in order to obtain specified types of assistance in 2 or more states.

Temporary Absence

Temporary absence from the home of the child or caretaker relative for more than 45 days is allowed under certain circumstances provided that the caretaker relative has full responsibility for the supervision and guidance of the child and provided that any delegation of authority is temporary, voluntary and revocable. The child or caretaker relative must return home at the completion of the reason for separation unless there is good cause for the person to be out of the home.

Child Support

Cooperation with the Division of Support Enforcement and Recovery is required as a condition of eligibility for cash assistance.

Lifetime Time Limits on Assistance

TANF cash assistance is intended to be a temporary means of support while families work towards self-sufficiency. Federal TANF Assistance will not be given to a family that includes an adult who has received assistance for 60 or more months, whether or not consecutive, under any program funded with Federal Funds which are part of the TANF Block Grant except that states are permitted to extend benefits funded with the Federal/TANF Block Grant

beyond 60 months to up to 20% of their caseload. States may also continue benefits to families using State only funding. The Maine Legislature has elected to continue benefits under to those families over 60 months who are complying in all respects with TANF Program Rules.

(ii) Require a parent or caretaker relative receiving assistance under the program to engage in work (as defined by the State) once the state determines the parent or caretaker is ready to engage in work, or once the parent or caretaker has received assistance under the program for 24 months(whether or not consecutive), whichever is earlier.

All parents and caretaker relatives who request and receive assistance are required to sign a Family Contract and participate, unless temporarily exempt, in DHHS approved work-related activities.

One Parent Families

Single parent families shall participate for a minimum of twenty (20) hours per week for parents whose youngest child in the home is under the age of six (6), and for a minimum of thirty (30) hours per week for parents whose youngest child in the home is six (6) years of age or older, in one of the following work activities to help the parent obtain stable full-time paid employment.

Recipients of TANF based on underemployment of the principal wage earner and single parents with skills necessary to work who have no children under age 6 are referred immediately for Job Search activities.

Participants who have received TANF and are unable to find employment after 24 months, will be assigned to Workforce or MaineServe for referrals to employment experiences in the private or public sector.

Maine provides written and/or oral notice of the availability of temporary good cause exemptions from work or work-related activities and from child support requirements to victims of domestic violence at each application and review of eligibility for TANF.

Core Activities for One Parent Families:

- Countable toward the first 20 hours of participation each week are:
- Unsubsidized Employment – includes “Paid Employment”, Self – Employment, On-the-Job-Training, Work Study, ASPIRE Child Care Employment, and Apprenticeship.
- Work Experience – includes Field Training (skills)
- On-the-Job-Training – On-The-Job-Training is considered to be Unsubsidized Employment

- Job Search & Job Readiness (6 weeks in any 12-month period – 12 weeks in any 12-month period for States with Needy State status) – Job Search and Job Readiness activities include Individual Job Search, Group Job Search, Pre-Vocational (ASPIRE), Pre-Vocational (Referred), Substance Abuse/Mental Health Treatment, Field Training (readiness), Placement Assistance, and Job Development
- Community Service Programs – Activities include TEMP (regular), TEMP (UP), and Volunteering
- Vocational Educational Training – Activities include Associate’s Degree (PaS), BA/BS Degree (PaS), College Courses, Community College Degree (PaS), Community College Certificate, Community College Courses, Adult Ed (skills), Employer Sponsored Training, and Technical/Trades Courses. Participants are limited to 12 months of Vocational Educational Training in their lifetime. One hour of study time will be counted toward participation for every verified hour of classroom participation.

Non-core Activities for a One Parent Family:

Countable after the first 20 hours of participation each week:

- Job Skills Training Directly Related to Employment – Activities includes all activities listed in Vocational Educational Training. There are no time limits on Job Skills Training activities;
- Education Directly Related to Employment – Activities include Adult Basic Ed (ABE), English as a Second Language (ESL), Adult Ed (diploma); High School, and G.E.D. preparation.
- Satisfactory attendance at secondary school or in a course of study leading to a certificate of general equivalence. Satisfactory attendance in secondary school or in a GED program is countable as a core activity in the case of a parent who is married and is under twenty (20) years old

Two-Parent Families

In families consisting of two parents, one parent is required and shall be engaged in work activities as defined below, for at least thirty-five (35) hours per week during the month, not fewer than thirty (30) hours per week of which are attributable to one or more of the following listed work activities.

Core Activities for Two-Parent Families:

- Unsubsidized Employment – includes “Paid Employment”, Self – Employment, On-the- Job-Training, Work Study, ASPIRE Child Care Employment, and Apprenticeship.
- Work Experience – includes Field Training (skills)
- On-the-Job-Training – On-The-Job-Training is considered to be Unsubsidized Employment

- Job Search & Job Readiness (6 weeks in any 12-month period – 12 weeks in any 12-month period for States with Needy State status) – Job Search and Job Readiness activities include Individual Job Search, Group Job Search, Pre-Vocational (ASPIRE), Pre-Vocational (Referred), Substance Abuse/Mental Health Treatment, Field Training (readiness), Placement Assistance, and Job Development
- Community Service Programs – Activities include TEMP (regular), TEMP (UP), and Volunteering
- Vocational Educational Training – Activities include Associate’s Degree (PaS), BA/BS Degree (PaS), College Courses, Community College Degree (PaS), Community College Certificate, Community College Courses, Adult Ed (skills), Employer Sponsored Training, and Technical/Trades Courses. Participants are limited to 12 months of Vocational Educational Training in their lifetime. One hour of study time will be counted toward participation for every verified hour of classroom participation.

Above thirty (30) hours per week, the following activities may also count for participation:

- Job Skills Training Directly Related to Employment – Activities includes all activities listed in Vocational Educational Training. There are no time limits on Job Skills Training activities;
- Education Directly Related to Employment – Activities include Adult Basic Ed (ABE), English as a Second Language (ESL), Adult Ed (diploma); High School, and G.E.D. preparation.
- Satisfactory attendance at secondary school or in a course of study leading to a certificate of general equivalence. Satisfactory attendance in secondary school or in a GED program is countable as a core activity in the case of a parent who is married and is under twenty (20) years old.

A family with two parents, whether or not receiving child care, in which one or both parents participate in a work experience or community service program may not be required to participate for more than the maximum number of hours per week allowable by the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). If the total is less than the minimum number of hours required by Federal and/or State law, the difference will be made-up involving the participant in non-work activities.

Temporary Exemptions from Participation for All Families

Except in the instance of a work experience or community service program which must meet the requirements of the FLSA as described above, if the family receives child care assistance and an adult in the family is not disabled or caring for a severely disabled family member, then the work-eligible individuals must be participating in work activities for an average of at least

fifty-five (55) hours per week. At least fifty (50) hours must come from participation in the activities listed in the Core Activities above. Above fifty (50) hours per week, the activities listed in Non-Core Activities above may also count as participation.

- A recipient who is the single custodial parent or a caretaker relative of a child under one year of age and is personally providing care for that child This exemption is limited to no more than 12 months per single custodial parent or caretaker relative;
- A parent caretaker relative needed in the home to care for a disabled family member who is living in the household
- A recipient who is a Vista volunteer under the Federal Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973; or
- A recipient who receives Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI).

Teen Parents

A custodial parent under 20 years of age who is a recipient of TANF and has not completed high school or its equivalent must participate in the ASPIRE-TANF Program regardless of the age of the youngest child and attend courses to complete high school, with an emphasis on education in a traditional high school setting.

(iii) Ensure that parents and caretaker relatives receiving assistance under the program engage in work activities in accordance with section 4072.

Non-Compliance with Work Requirements

When the mandatory individual has refused or failed to comply, with the regulations of the ASPIRE-TANF Program, without good cause, accept employment, terminated employment or reduced earnings, sanctions shall apply for the following periods:

1. For the first failure to comply, until the failure to comply ceases;
2. For the second failure to comply, until the failure to comply ceases or 3 months, whichever is longer;
3. For any subsequent failure to comply, until the failure to comply ceases, or 6 months, whichever is longer.
4. When a sanctioned individual engages in paid employment of, at least, 30 hours or more and at no less than minimum wage, the sanction will cease even when the 3 months or 6 months has not been served fully.

The needs of the sanctioned individual will not be included in determining eligibility and benefit. If the individual is the caretaker relative, the TANF or PaS payment will be made to a third party.

(iv) Take reasonable steps, as the State deems necessary to restrict the use and disclosure of information about individuals and families receiving assistance under the program attributable to funds provided by the Federal Government.

Federal and State rules provide for the basic rights and dignity of all applicants or recipients of financial services regarding their confidentiality. The Department must ensure that information about the recipient is maintained in a confidential manner and only released under certain circumstances.

(v) Establish goals and take action to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies, with special emphasis on teenage pregnancies and establish numerical goals for reducing the illegitimacy ratio of the State (as defined in section 403(a)(2)(B) for calendar years 1996-2005.

(vi) Conduct a program, designed to reach State and local law enforcement officials, the education system, and relevant counseling services, that provides education and training on the problem of statutory rape so that teenage pregnancy prevention programs may be extended in scope to include men.

Maine's TANF program requires all unmarried minor parents to receive benefits as voucher payments instead of a direct cash payment. In addition, unmarried minor parents must live with parents, other adult relatives, or in an adult-supervised supportive living arrangement, unless certain good cause reasons exist. These initiatives are intended to discourage teen pregnancies. The average number of unmarried minor parents receiving TANF benefits as head of household in FFY00 was 53 per month. In FFY10 the average number of unmarried minor parents receiving TANF benefits was 35 per month.

The Department's Division of Support Enforcement and Recovery has worked with the Bureau of Health and the Office of Vital Statistics to produce pamphlets placing emphasis on rights and responsibilities of both male and female parents.

The Department will continue to work with the Legislature on the issue of statutory rape. There have been no changes in State law as of the writing of this Plan. Education programs provided by Sexual Assault Crisis and Support Centers are geared to students covering issues such as: childhood sexual abuse, sexual harassment, dating violence, acquaintance rape, and gender issues and stereotyping.

Numeric Goal

The Department plans to reduce the pregnancy rate of 10-14 year olds to 0 per 1,000 females, the pregnancy rate of 15-17 year olds to 16 per 1,000 females and the pregnancy rate of 18-19 year olds to 50 per 1,000 females by 2012.

The most current data available is for 2005. The pregnancy rate for 10-14 year olds has been reduced by half and the rate for 15-17 year olds has decreased over 10%. The pregnancy rate among 18-19 year olds increased between 2002 and 2004 to 60.7 per 1,000 females. The rates in 2005 were: 0.2 per 1,000 for 10-14 year olds, 17.1 for 15-17 year olds per 1,000 and 60.7 per 1,000 for 18-19 year olds.

SECTION IV SPECIAL PROVISIONS

(i) The document shall indicate whether the State intends to treat families moving into the State from another State differently than other families under the program, and if so, how the state intends to treat such families under the program.

Families moving to Maine from another state are not treated differently than other families.

(ii) The document shall indicate whether the State intends to provide assistance under the program to individuals who are not citizens of the United States, and if so, shall include an overview of such assistance.

The Department will continue to provide benefits to qualified aliens who are eligible for assistance under Title IV-A TANF Block Grant for a period of 5 years beginning on the qualified alien's date of entry into the United States.

Additionally, Maine will use separate State funds to provide benefits to legal aliens who were eligible under the AFDC Program rules who are not considered qualified under TANF.

(iii) The document shall set forth objective criteria for the delivery of benefits and the determination of eligibility and for fair and equitable treatment, including an explanation of how the State will provide opportunities for recipients who have been adversely affected to be heard in a State administrative or appeal process.

Maine's Appeals Process

Maine provides timely and adequate notice prior to taking an adverse action and provides opportunities for the recipients who have been adversely affected to be heard in a state administered appeals process. There are set time limits for requesting and holding hearings and issuing decisions. Hearings are presented before impartial hearing officers. Clients are allowed to present a case, bring witnesses, ask questions and cross-examine. If the client is unhappy with the decision, he or she may request reconsideration or appeal to the courts.

(iv) Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, unless the chief executive officer of the State opts out of this provision by notifying the Secretary, a State shall, consistent with the exception provided in section 407(e)(2), require a parent or caretaker receiving assistance under the program who, after receiving such assistance for 2 months is not exempt from work requirements and is not engaged in work, as determined under section 407(c), to participate in community service employment, with minimum hours per week and tasks to be determined by the State.

Maine has opted out of this provision.

(v) Title VI, Subtitle H, Sections 6701-6703 of the Patient Protection and Affordable care Act of 2010(PPACA) contains the "Elder Justice Act of 2009". Section 6703(a)(2) of the PPACA amends section 402(a)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 602(a)(1)(B)) to add the following new clause to the state plan requirements?

The document shall indicate whether the State intends to assist individuals to train for, seek, and maintain employment-

- i. Providing direct care in a long-term care facility (as such terms are defined under section 1397j) of this title); or***
- ii. In other occupations related to elder care determined appropriate by the State for which the State identifies an unmet need for service personnel,***

And if so, shall include an overview of such assistance.

Maine has opted out of this provision.

Attachment 1

TANF and PaS Program Income Tests, Standard of Need, and Maximum Payment Charts for
On-going Assistance Units:

ADULT INCLUDED

BASIC				SPECIAL NEED					
Number in filing unit	Gross Income Test	S.O.N.	Maximum Grant	Gross Income Test	S.O.N.	Maximum Grant +	Special Need	= Total	Max. Gap
1	485	294	230	578	394	230	100	330	64
2	762	463	363	855	563	363	100	463	100
3	1,023	620	485	1,116	720	485	100	585	135
4	1,286	780	611	1,379	880	611	100	711	169
5	1,548	938	733	1,641	1038	733	100	833	205
6	1,811	1,096	856	1,904	1196	856	100	956	240
7	2,072	1,255	981	2,165	1355	981	100	1081	274
8	2,335	1,414	1,105	2,427	1514	1,105	100	1205	309
Additional Member	+262	+159	+124	+262	+159	+124	+100	+124	

ADULT NOT INCLUDED

BASIC				SPECIAL NEED					
Number in filing unit	Gross Income Test	S.O.N.	Maximum Grant	Gross Income Test	S.O.N.	Maximum Grant +	Special Need	= Total	Max. Gap
1	285	174	138	332	274	138	100	238	36
2	546	332	262	639	432	262	100	362	70
3	808	491	386	901	591	386	100	486	105
4	1,071	649	508	1,164	749	508	100	608	141
5	1,334	809	634	1,427	909	634	100	734	175
6	1,597	967	756	1,690	1067	756	100	856	211
7	1,859	1,125	880	1,952	1225	880	100	980	245
8	2,120	1,284	1,004	2,213	1384	1,004	100	1104	280
Additional Member	+262	+159	+124	+262	+159	+124	+100	+124	