

1 1. A recipient shall be eligible to receive assistance pursuant
2 to the TANF program only for a lifetime total of five (5) years,
3 subject to the exemptions allowed by federal law. Child-only cases
4 are not subject to the five-year limitation;

5 2. Single parents receiving temporary assistance pursuant to
6 the TANF program shall participate in work activities for a minimum
7 of twenty (20) hours per week during the month. Two-parent families
8 receiving temporary assistance pursuant to the TANF program shall
9 participate in work activities for a minimum of thirty-five (35)
10 hours per week during the month;

11 3. A recipient must be engaged in one or more of the work
12 activities set out in paragraph 4 of this subsection as soon as
13 required by the Department of Human Services pursuant to the TANF
14 program, but not later than twenty-four (24) months after
15 certification of the application for assistance, unless the person
16 is exempt from work requirements under rules promulgated by the
17 ~~Commission~~ Director pursuant to the STARS;

18 4. The Department shall develop and describe categories of
19 approved work activities for the TANF program recipients in
20 accordance with this paragraph. Work activities that qualify in
21 meeting the requirements include, but are not limited to:

- 22 a. (1) unsubsidized employment which is full-time
23 employment or part-time employment that is not
24 directly supplemented by federal or state funds,

1 (2) subsidized private sector employment which is
2 employment in a private for-profit enterprise or
3 a private not-for-profit enterprise that is
4 directly supplemented by federal or state funds.
5 Prior to receiving any subsidy or incentive, the
6 employer shall enter into a written contract with
7 the Department, and

8 (3) subsidized public sector employment which is
9 employment by an agency of a federal, state, or
10 local governmental entity which is directly
11 supplemented by federal or state funds. Prior to
12 receiving any subsidy or incentive, the employer
13 shall enter into a written contract with the
14 Department.

15 Subsidized hourly employment or unsubsidized hourly
16 employment pursuant to this subparagraph shall only be
17 approved by the Department as work activity if such
18 employment is subject to:

19 (a) the federal minimum wage requirements
20 pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act of
21 1938, as amended,

22 (b) the federal Social Security tax and Medicare
23 tax, and
24

1 (c) regulations promulgated pursuant to the
2 federal Occupational Safety and Health Act
3 of 1970 and rules promulgated by the ~~State~~
4 Department of Labor pursuant thereto,

- 5 b. a program of work experience,
6 c. on-the-job training,
7 d. assisted job search which may include supervised or
8 unsupervised job-seeking activities,
9 e. job readiness assistance which may include, but is not
10 limited to:

- 11 (1) orientation in the work environment and basic
12 job-seeking and job retention skills,
13 (2) instruction in completing an application for
14 employment and writing a resume, ~~and~~
15 (3) instruction in conducting oneself during a job
16 interview, including appropriate dress, and
17 (4) substance abuse treatment and mental health
18 counseling,

- 19 f. job skills training which is directly related to
20 employment in a specific occupation for which there is
21 a written commitment by an employer to offer
22 employment to a recipient who successfully completes
23 the training. Job skills training includes, but is
24 not limited to, customized training designed to meet

1 the needs of a specific employer or a specific
2 industry,

3 g. community service programs which are job-training
4 activities provided in areas where sufficient public
5 or private sector employment is not available. Such
6 activities are linked to both education or training
7 and activities that substantially enhance a
8 recipient's employability,

9 h. literacy and adult basic education programs,

10 i. vocational-educational programs, not to exceed twelve
11 (12) months for any individual, which are directed
12 toward vocational-educational training and education
13 directly related to employment,

14 j. education programs which are directly related to
15 specific employment opportunities, if a recipient has
16 not received a high school diploma or ~~General~~
17 ~~Equivalency Degree~~ General Educational Development
18 certificate, and

19 k. child care for other STARS recipients. The recipient
20 must meet training and licensing requirements for
21 child care providers as required by the Oklahoma Child
22 Care Facilities Licensing Act;

1 5. Single, custodial parents with a child up to one (1) year of
2 age may be exempt from work activities for a lifetime total
3 exemption of twelve (12) months;

4 6. In order to receive assistance, unmarried teen parents of a
5 minor child at least twelve (12) weeks of age must participate in
6 educational activities or work activities approved by the state;

7 7. For single-parent families, except for teen parents,
8 educational activities, other than vocational-technical training, do
9 not count toward meeting the required twenty (20) hours of work
10 activity. For two-parent families, educational activities, except
11 vocational-technical training, do not count toward meeting the
12 required thirty-five (35) hours of work activity;

13 8. A teen parent must live at home or in an approved, adult-
14 supervised setting as specified in Section 230.55 of this title to
15 receive TANF assistance;

16 9. A recipient must comply with immunization requirements
17 established pursuant to the TANF program;

18 ~~10. A recipient shall be subject to the increment in benefits~~
19 ~~for additional children established by Section 230.58 of this title;~~

20 ~~11.~~ The following recipient resources are exempt from resource
21 determination criteria:

- 22 a. an automobile with an equity allowance ~~of~~ not more
23 than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) pursuant to
24 Section 230.53 of this title,

- 1 b. individual development accounts established pursuant
2 to the Family Savings Initiative Act, or individual
3 development accounts established prior to November 1,
4 1998, pursuant to the provisions of Section 230.54 of
5 this title in an amount not to exceed Two Thousand
6 Dollars (\$2,000.00),
- 7 c. the equity value of funeral arrangements owned by a
8 recipient that does not exceed the limitation
9 specified by Section 165 of this title, and
- 10 d. earned income disregards not to exceed One Hundred
11 Twenty Dollars (\$120.00) and one-half (1/2) of the
12 remainder of the earned income;

13 ~~12.~~ 11. An applicant who applies and is otherwise eligible to
14 receive TANF benefits but who has resided in this state less than
15 twelve (12) months shall be subject to Section 230.57 of this title;

16 ~~13.~~ 12. The recipient shall enter into a personal
17 responsibility agreement with the Department for receipt of
18 assistance pursuant to Section 230.65 of this title;

19 ~~14.~~ 13. The Department shall, beginning ~~November 1, 2012~~ on the
20 effective date of this act, screen all ~~adult applicants for~~ TANF
21 recipients as part of the required TANF employability plan to
22 determine if they are engaged in the illegal use of a controlled
23 substance or substances. If the Department has made a determination
24 that the ~~applicant~~ recipient is engaged in the illegal use of a

1 controlled substance or substances, the ~~applicant's request for TANF~~
2 ~~cash benefits shall be denied. The Commission for Human Services~~
3 recipient's TANF employability plan shall include substance abuse
4 treatment and, if appropriate, mental health counseling, as part of
5 the assigned work activities required by paragraph 4 of this
6 subsection. The Director shall adopt rules to implement the
7 requirements of this paragraph consistent with the following:

- 8 a. the Department shall create a controlled substance
9 screening process to be administered ~~at the time of~~
10 ~~application~~ during the assessment process that
11 determines the TANF employability plan. The process
12 shall, at a minimum, include a Substance Abuse Subtle
13 Screening Inventory (SASSI) or other similar screening
14 methods. If necessary to establish a reasonable
15 expectation of certainty, the Department is authorized
16 to use further screening methods, which may include,
17 but are not limited to, a clinical interview, and
18 consideration of the Department's history with the
19 applicant, ~~and an Addictions Severity Index (ASI).~~ If
20 the Department has reasonable cause to believe that
21 the ~~applicant~~ recipient is engaged in the illegal use
22 of a controlled substance or substances, the
23 Department is authorized, though not required, to
24 request administration of a chemical drug test, ~~such~~

1 ~~as urinalysis.~~ The cost of all such initial
2 screenings shall not be borne by the ~~applicant~~
3 recipient, and

4 b. if at any time during the controlled substance
5 screening process, the ~~applicant~~ recipient refuses to
6 participate without good cause, that refusal shall
7 lead to a ~~denial~~ closure of TANF benefits,

8 ~~c. if the Department, as the result of a controlled~~
9 ~~substance screening process, has determined that the~~
10 ~~applicant is engaged in the illegal use of a~~
11 ~~controlled substance or substances, the applicant's~~
12 ~~request for TANF cash benefits shall be denied,~~
13 ~~subject to the following:~~

14 ~~(1) if there has not already been a chemical drug~~
15 ~~test administered as part of the controlled~~
16 ~~substance screening process, the applicant may~~
17 ~~submit proof of a negative chemical drug test~~
18 ~~from a state certified laboratory to challenge~~
19 ~~the Department's finding that the applicant is~~
20 ~~engaged in the illegal use of a controlled~~
21 ~~substance or substances. Proof of the chemical~~
22 ~~drug test must be submitted to the Department no~~
23 ~~later than the tenth calendar day following~~
24 ~~denial. If denial is communicated by mail, the~~

1 ~~ten (10) day window begins on the day after the~~
2 ~~date of mailing of the denial notice to the~~
3 ~~applicant's last known address. The denial~~
4 ~~notice is considered to be mailed on the date~~
5 ~~that appears on the notice, unless otherwise~~
6 ~~indicated by the facts,~~

7 ~~(2) if denied due to the provisions of this~~
8 ~~subparagraph, an applicant shall not be approved~~
9 ~~until one (1) year has passed since the date of~~
10 ~~denial,~~

11 ~~(a) if the applicant is denied due to the~~
12 ~~provisions of this paragraph, the Department~~
13 ~~shall provide a list of substance abuse~~
14 ~~treatment programs to the denied applicant,~~

15 ~~(b) if an applicant has successfully complied~~
16 ~~with a recommended substance abuse treatment~~
17 ~~program after the date of denial, the~~
18 ~~applicant may be approved for cash benefits~~
19 ~~after six (6) months have passed since the~~
20 ~~date of denial, rather than the required one~~
21 ~~(1) year, and~~

22 ~~(3) if an applicant has been denied TANF cash~~
23 ~~benefits two times due to the provisions of this~~
24 ~~subparagraph, the applicant shall be ineligible~~

1 ~~for TANF benefits for a period of three (3) years~~
2 ~~from the date of the second denial,~~

3 ~~d. child only cases and minor parents under eighteen (18)~~
4 ~~years of age are not subject to the provisions of this~~
5 ~~paragraph, and~~

6 ~~e. in cases where the application for TANF benefits is~~
7 ~~not for child only benefits, but there is not a parent~~
8 ~~who has been deemed eligible for cash benefits under~~
9 ~~the provisions of this paragraph, any cash benefits~~
10 ~~for which the dependent children of the family are~~
11 ~~still eligible shall not be affected and may be~~
12 ~~received and administered by an appropriate third~~
13 ~~party approved by the Department for the benefit of~~
14 ~~the members of the household;~~

15 ~~15.~~ 14. a. As a condition of participating in the STARS, all
16 recipients are deemed to have given authorization for
17 the release of any and all information necessary to
18 allow all state and federal agencies to meet the
19 program needs of the recipient.

20 b. The recipient shall be provided a release form to sign
21 in order to obtain the required information. Failure
22 to sign the release form may result in case closure;
23 and

24

1 ~~16.~~ 15. The recipient shall comply with all other conditions
2 and requirements of the STARS, and rules ~~of the Commission~~
3 promulgated pursuant thereto.

4 B. 1. Agencies of this state involved in providing services to
5 recipients pursuant to the STARS shall exchange information as
6 necessary for each agency to accomplish objectives and fulfill
7 obligations created or imposed by the STARS and rules promulgated
8 pursuant thereto.

9 2. Information received pursuant to the STARS shall be
10 maintained by the applicable agency and, except as otherwise
11 provided by this subsection, shall be disclosed only in accordance
12 with any confidentiality provisions applicable to the agency
13 originating the information.

14 3. The various agencies of the state shall execute operating
15 agreements to facilitate information exchanges pursuant to the
16 STARS.

17 C. In implementing the TANF program, the Department shall:

18 1. Provide assistance to aliens pursuant to Section 230.73 of
19 this title;

20 2. Provide for the closure of the TANF case when the adult
21 recipient refuses to cooperate with agreed upon work activities or
22 other case requirements pursuant to the TANF program;

23 3. Provide for the sanctioning of parents who do not require
24 their minor children to attend school; and

1 4. Deny temporary assistance to fugitive felons.

2 D. In order to ensure that the needy citizens of this state are
3 receiving necessary benefits, the Department shall maintain a
4 listing of all recipients receiving public assistance. The listing
5 shall reflect each recipient's income, social security number, and
6 the programs in which the recipient is participating including, but
7 not limited to, TANF, food stamps, child care, and medical
8 assistance.

9 E. The Department is hereby authorized to establish a grant
10 diversion program and emergency assistance services.

11 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2023.

12 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
13 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
14 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
15 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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17 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON RULES, dated 04/13/2023 - DO PASS.
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