

SOUTH DAKOTA
STATE PLAN
FOR THE
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE
FOR
NEEDY FAMILIES
PROGRAM

EFFECTIVE October 1, 2008

Revised August 2009 per comments received June 16, 2009

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STATE CAPITOL

500 EAST CAPITOL

PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA 57501-5070

TANF BACKGROUND

The elimination of an open-ended entitlement program changed the focus of welfare from providing financial assistance to one of assisting families as they move into work and ultimately self sufficiency. In May 1994, South Dakota began promoting self sufficiency through the implementation of a welfare reform 1115 waiver. The objectives of that waiver were to strengthen families by increasing parental responsibilities, reducing long term dependency on the welfare system, and encouraging employment. With its implementation the eligibility process changed, whereby the primary emphasis in working with recipients/applicants moved from eligibility and benefit determination to having two equally important components: 1) determining eligibility and 2) promoting work first and self sufficiency. The TANF philosophy and goals of the program were developed through discussion between top state and department officials and local department and partner-agency staff, and representatives from the private/public sector. Reinforcement of the goals and ongoing training is provided to staff at the state, district and local levels as the program continues to evolve. Performance of staff is evaluated through established review processes as well as less formal forums such as one-on-one supervision, partnering with co-workers and intradepartmental staff is used to provide staff with relevant skills to meet the goals of the program.

GOALS, RESULTS, AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The overarching goal for the department is to use TANF funds so:

- Children are cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives;
- Parents are less dependent on governmental benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage;
- Out-of-wedlock pregnancies are prevented or at least reduced;
- Strong two-parent families will be formed and maintained.

Many governmental and private sector organizations have helped shape and remain involved in the current TANF welfare reform plan. Examples include:

1. Cooperative Extension Service agents;
2. WIA funded career learning centers;
3. The Department of Labor Local Offices;
4. Tribal JOBS Welfare-to-Work programs;
5. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Indian Health Services (IHS);
6. Community Action Programs;
7. Head Start Programs;
8. The Department of Education and Cultural Affairs and local school districts;
9. The Department of Health;
10. The Department of Human Services; and
11. The Social Security Administration.

All subcontractors including the Department of Labor and other non-profit organizations are expected to meet these outcomes and performance measures:

1. Increase employment among adults who receive welfare;
 - Number of TANF recipients who enter employment;

2. Increase family income, help them get jobs with health insurance benefits, and improve the well being of children from welfare families;
 - Achieve a specific average starting wage;
 - Percentage of all job placements with employer provided health insurance;
 - More families using licensed/approved child care providers
3. Encourage more participants to accomplish program mile stones;
 - Persons preparing for a GED or high school diploma;
 - Persons in vocational training;
 - Persons in short-term skills training projects;
4. Create obligations for participants to become self sufficient faster;
 - Persons in community service;
 - Persons in job clubs or pre-employment job readiness workshops;
 - Persons in self directed job searches;
 - Swift and strict sanctions for non-participation;
 - Close monitoring of participation;
 - A large portion of cases will be involved in a minimum of 20 or 30 hours per week in a work activity (depending on age of youngest child).
5. Help applicants avoid public assistance by offering diversion programs;
 - Offer diversion programs at all office locations;
6. Reduce recidivism;
 - Persons receiving transitional child care or medical benefits;
 - Persons receiving transitional employment payments;
 - Persons receiving the Earned Income Tax Credit, Work Opportunity Tax Credit, or other work related benefits;
 - Persons getting follow-along job retention and re-employment services;
7. Achieve TANF participation requirements contained in section 407 with all families;
 - Percent of families who are “engaged in work”; and
 - Average number of hours performed each week by individuals.

Accountability for measuring the above outcomes and performance level is accomplished with these steps:

- Automated client information tracking system and associated reports;
- Internal management review process; and
- On-site local office reviews.

NEEDY FAMILIES

The TANF program will assist low-income South Dakota families with a dependent child or children under the age of 18, or under the age of 19 and a full-time student in a secondary school, who have been deprived of parental support and care due to the continued absence, incapacity, or death of at least one parent.

There must be a specific degree of relationship between a child and a parent or relative in order to be eligible for assistance. Acceptable degrees of relationship are as follows:

1. Father, mother, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, first cousin, nephew or niece, including those of half blood; relatives of the preceding generation denoted by the prefixes of grand, great, or great-great; first cousin once removed; and great-great-great grandparent;
2. A person who achieves the degree of relationship specified in (1) by the process of legal adoption;
3. Spouses of any of the relatives specified in (1) or (2) even though the marriage is terminated by death or divorce; and,
4. Any individual specified in (1), (2) or (3) who have a step relationship with the child even though the marriage is terminated by death or divorce.

Needy families are defined as those families whose income and resources are within limits according to Administrative Rules of South Dakota (ARSD) CHAPTER 67:10:03 - INCOME REQUIREMENTS, including 10:03:03 “Income Exempt from Consideration”; 10:03:04 “Deductions from Income”; 10:03:05 “Standard Earned

Income Deduction” (The standard earned income deduction is \$90 plus 20 percent of the individual’s remaining gross earned income.) and CHAPTER 67:10:04 – RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS. The State uses commingled funds for all activities. The same financial eligibility criteria apply with respect to all benefits and services. These limits are set by the State legislature or the Secretary of the Department of Social Services via Administrative Rule making authority granted under South Dakota State law.

All families, in State operated TANF areas, have access to the same program and services. In addition this same program is offered to families who have moved from another state. Eligible citizens and eligible qualified aliens are also treated the same. South Dakota does not intend to provide assistance to individuals who are not citizens of the United States unless they meet the criteria set by federal law for qualified aliens. The State provides federally funded TANF assistance to qualified aliens to the maximum extent allowable under federal law. South Dakota Administrative Rules chapter 67:10:01 “General Provisions” addresses citizenship and alienage, and assistance for qualified aliens. Provisions of Public Law 104-193 section 402(b)(2) (110 Stat.2264) are followed as are the changes required by the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA) P.L. 109-171. Likewise the provisions in P.L. 106-386 Division A, 114 Stat. 1464 are followed in regards to victims of trafficking.

South Dakota does not provide any State funded assistance for individuals who are barred for their first five years.

The privacy and confidentiality of families is protected by South Dakota Codified Law - SDCL 28-1-29, which states, "All applications and records concerning any applicant for, or recipient of, public assistance provided under the laws of this state through the department of social services shall be confidential except:

- (1) For inspection by persons duly authorized by this state or the United States in connection with their official duties;
- (2) For the purpose of fair hearings provided by law."

The state uses a system of Fair Hearings, administered through South Dakota Administrative Rules (ARSD) 67:17:02 which gives applicants and beneficiaries the right to challenge a decision. A person who is adversely affected by a final decision is entitled to judicial review under the requirements of SDCL Chapter 1-26. Notice of appeal must be filed with the State circuit court pursuant to SDCL 1-26-31 within thirty (30) days after the date of the notice.

DSS Nondiscrimination Policy: It is the policy of the Department of Social Services (DSS) to make sure that applications for program benefits and services are made available to everyone and that program benefits are granted to all who meet eligibility standards. DSS staff, programs and policies must not discriminate against clients or applicants for services because of race, color, sex, age, disability, religion and national origin. DSS must also provide fair and equal access to all of its programs and services for people with disabilities; this includes both physical access to buildings and access to programs and services. To file a complaint of discrimination write: DSS Division of Legal Services, 700 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD 57501-2291 or call: (605) 773-3305. If you have a question regarding program services, please contact your nearest DSS office.

WORK AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY

The goal for work and self-sufficiency is to move applicants/recipients into whatever private sector job they are capable of handling, as quickly as possible, while trying to empower them to support their own families.

An applicant who applies for TANF assistance must sign a Personal Responsibility Agreement and complete/sign their Personal Responsibility Plan as a condition of eligibility. A Personal Responsibility Plan and an assessment will be done to determine parents who are ready to “engage in work” as defined by this Act. The department will meet the minimum requirements contained in section 408 relating to Personal Responsibility Plans. The state completes plans with custodial parents regardless of age, and with youth 16 years of age or older, who hasn’t completed high school or a GED and who isn’t currently enrolled in high school or an alternative secondary educational institution.

The department determines when to offer these services based on the assessment and potential each person demonstrates for becoming self supporting:

- Diversion payments for new applicants;
- Employment counseling or testing;
- Pre-employment job readiness workshops;
- Job referrals/job development;
- Job clubs and other self directed job search efforts;
- Short term skill training;
- Supportive service payments;
- Case management for student in vocational training;
- Monitoring of students in secondary educational programs;
- Community service;
- On-the-job training;
- Follow-along job retention and re-employment services;
- Worker Supplement Program – Transition Employment Allowance (TEA)
- Child care benefits; or
- Other approved services.

Welfare diversion is an important service offered to TANF applicants. Where or when feasible, the department requires new applicants to make their first contact with staff assigned to the TANF program who will:

1. Ask why the person wants to apply and if there are ways to help them avoid welfare;
2. Determine appropriate candidates for diversion assistance;
3. Screen applicants to see who is hypothetically eligible for assistance based on the department's eligibility criteria;
4. Offer applicants the choice between accepting diversion payments or proceeding with an application for TANF cash assistance; and
5. Provide job placement, training, and support services as needed.

Worker Supplement Program is an effort to provide assistance to working families leaving TANF. If a TANF case closes due to the earnings of the caretaker and it appears the employment will be permanent, the family will automatically be transitioned to the State's Worker Supplement program called Transitional Employment Allowance (TEA). They will receive a work supplement payment for one month in the form of a TEA payment. This payment will be considered assistance and the month will count towards the 60 month life time limit on TANF.

ELIGIBILITY FACTORS FOR TEA PAYMENTS

TEA payments may be made if the following conditions are met:

- The assistance unit becomes prospectively ineligible for TANF;
- The assistance unit received TANF in South Dakota in the month before becoming ineligible;
- The parent is a member of the assistance unit and had increased income from employment;
- The parent's employment averages at least 80 hours per month. A parent meets the requirements of this subdivision if the parent has multiple part-time jobs which are permanent and which together average at least 80 hours per month; and
- The parent's employment is anticipated to last at least 120 days(ARSD 67:10:08:02)

A TEA payment may not be made when the parent with increased earnings is not a member of the assistance unit.

RECEIPT OF TANF REQUIRED

A new applicant whose application is withdrawn or denied due to earnings is not eligible for a TEA payment.

REASON FOR TANF INELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for a TEA payment, the TANF case must have failed the prospective income eligibility test due to an increase in earnings of the parent. Increased earnings may be from new employment, an increase in hourly wages, or additional hours worked. An increase in earnings in combination with FBUD or other unearned income also qualifies for a TEA payment.

PERIOD OF TIME WITH NO TANF PAYMENT REQUIRED BETWEEN TEA PAYMENTS

A parent who has received a TEA payment is ineligible for future TEA payments until the parent has been a non-recipient of TANF for 12 consecutive months and again meets the TEA payment eligibility requirements. (ARSD 67:10:08:04)

DETERMINING AMOUNT OF TEA PAYMENT

TEA payments are equal to one additional month's TANF based on income the family received in the previous month. For example:

- May 1st the family receives \$430 TANF (family of 3 with no income).
- May 15 parent reports s/he will start new job May 27 and will be paid \$475 gross income on June 15 and \$475 gross on June 30th.
- TANF closes prospectively effective June 1st. The family is eligible for a TEA payment to be received at approximately the same time a June TANF payment would be received had they remained on TANF. The amount of the TEA payment would be computed using the June payment standard and income received in the previous month. In this case the income received in May was \$0, therefore the family's TEA payment would be \$430. (ARSD 67:10:08:03)

NO PAYMENT LESS THAN \$10

If the calculated TEA amount is less than \$10.00 a payment will not be made nor count as a TEA payment. (ARSD 67:10:08:03)

TEA PAYMENTS ARE WORK SUPPLEMENT PAYMENTS

It is important that former TANF recipients understand TEA payments are not another TANF payment; but rather a work supplement payment to help them in their transition from TANF to self-sufficiency. Families will be informed the payment is considered assistance and the month counts towards their 60 month life time limit on TANF. It is also important to ensure that families closed due to employment are aware of the services available to them, such as child care services.

Follow-along job retention and re-employment service is another critical service, which is available statewide to former TANF recipients. This project will reduce the numbers of participants who reapply for benefits because fewer persons are likely to leave their jobs when they have a stronger support system. The department implemented a uniform approach to monitor employed persons who have received TANF benefits. This program produces accurate data about what happens to recipients after they leave cash assistance with a job. This follow-along support includes these steps:

- The first contact will usually be done within 7 days after getting a job. Additional contacts will be made at a minimum of 30, 60, 90, 180, 270 days, and one year.
- Staff will determine if the person is still employed, their earnings, if they have health insurance, and identify problems that threaten their chances to remain employed.
- Staff will help these former recipients to find child care, housing, transportation, or secure new jobs. Staff may also refer them to appropriate community resources.
- Supportive service payments may be used to help these individuals to remain employed rather than reapply for cash assistance. Supportive service payments can be used in conjunction with any follow-up contact;
- Assist in the development of opportunities for an upgrade of the client's job skill level through additional assessment and training.

The Deficit Reduction Act introduced a new term "work eligible individual" to describe anyone whose participation in work activities is required in the calculation of the work participation rate. Work-eligible individual means an adult (or minor child head-of-household) receiving assistance under TANF or a separate State program or a *non-recipient parent* living with a child receiving such assistance (usually a child-only case) unless the parent is:

- A minor parent and not the head-of-household;
- A non-citizen who is ineligible to receive assistance due to his or her immigration status; or
- At State option, on a case-by-case basis, a recipient of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits.

The term also excludes:

- A parent providing care for a disabled family member provided that the need for such care is supported by medical documentation to support the need for a parent to remain in the home to care for the disabled family member; and
- At State option on a case-by-case basis, a parent who is a recipient of Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits.

The department offers these program components to work eligible individuals in order to achieve the participation standards as outlined in section 407:

1. Unsubsidized employment;
2. Subsidized private sector employment;
3. Subsidized public sector employment;
4. On-the-job training;
5. Job search and job readiness [4 consecutive weeks and a maximum of 6 weeks] plus an additional 6 weeks by meeting the "needy state" criteria.
6. Community service;
7. Vocational education; (limited to 12 months and no more than 30% of caseload may be counted toward participation rate);
8. Teen parents who are in high school or an alternative secondary education program;
9. Short term job skills training directly related to employment;
10. High school or GED training for adults who didn't complete high school;
11. Child care so a recipient is able to perform community service.

All adults and minor custodial parents, who are not needed in the home to care for a severely incapacitated household member or who are not caring for a child under twelve (12) weeks of age will be required to be "engaged in work" as defined by TANF regulations. A single custodial parent of a child under age 6 who has demonstrated an inability to obtain suitable child care will not be required to be "engaged in work".

South Dakota TANF Program requires parents who have received assistance under TANF for more than two months to perform community service, as defined in section 402. The department implemented all relevant provisions.

The assessment, upon which the Personal Responsibility Plan is developed, will be the initial occasion to identify persons who are victims of domestic violence or others who are likely to have particular difficulty to successfully make the transition from welfare to work. Staff will be trained to identify these situations whenever they have contact with a participant. Additional targeted support will be added as needed. Staff will help them access specialized services like counseling, support groups, training programs, and related community organizations.

When the department implements a subsidized private or public sector employment component, employers will not be allowed to receive TANF money if they:

- Have employees who are laid-off from the same or equivalent jobs; or
- Terminated a regular employee in order to fill the resulting vacancy with a subsidized worker.

The department receives help from various community organizations in order to provide work or training for applicants/recipients. This assistance includes:

- Educational institutions providing short term skill training projects and GED instruction;
- Public and private sector employers offering on-the-job training, subsidize employment, or community service sites (i.e. Head Start programs);
- Tribal, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Services programs;
- Child care resource and referral networks will help parents identify child care providers; and
- South Dakota child care providers associations will help to improve the quality and quantity of available child care.

The department delivers TANF services in all political subdivisions of South Dakota except for areas covered by an approved tribal TANF program. Parents who are covered by the State's program will have access to job preparation, work, and support services to enable them to leave the program and become self-sufficient. The program will be delivered primarily by state agencies but charitable, religious, or private organizations will be used when feasible to address the self sufficiency needs of families.

BENEFITS

Benefits provided to needy families include cash assistance, supportive services, follow-along services, child support enforcement, and other services as identified by the state. The State uses commingled funds for all activities. The same financial eligibility criteria apply with respect to all benefits and services. The cash assistance is determined according to South Dakota Administrative Rules (ARSD) 67:10:05. These same families will be referred to a variety of programs which may include but are not limited to: Child Protection Services, Office of Child Care Services, Rehabilitation Services, Division of Mental Health, Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Department of Labor Local Offices, Department of Health, Community Health Nursing, Department of Education, career learning centers, and other related state or local organizations. If the TANF case closes due to the earnings of the caretaker and it appears the employment will be permanent, the family will receive a work supplement payment for one month in the form of a Transitional Employment Assistance (TEA) payment. This payment will be considered assistance and the month will count towards the 60 month life time limit on TANF.

Assistance to eligible families is furnished in the form of cash warrants or vouchers.

Time limits are incorporated into the department's program. TANF cash assistance for an assistance unit that includes an adult parent is limited to 60 monthly payments. The 60 months do not have to be consecutive months. The state disregards any month an adult lived in Indian country if the most reliable data available indicates that at least 50 percent of the adults living in that area are unemployed.

Eligibility for benefits may be extended beyond 60 months if an assistance unit that includes an adult parent meets the States' hardship criteria.

South Dakota incorporates sanctions into the program to ensure that parents are engaged in work activities in accordance with section 407 by implementing a series of penalties. Persons who fail to sign a Personal Responsibility Agreement (PRA) or Personal Responsibility Plan (PRP) or who fail to comply with the activities contained in the PRA or the PRP face the following penalties:

- Failure to sign a Personal Responsibility Agreement or Personal Responsibility Plan will result in ineligibility for the assistance unit, and,
- Failure to comply with the work activities will result in a progressive series of penalties, including a written warning for the first occurrence, a 50% reduction in cash assistance grant for one month for the second occurrence and a one month disqualification for any subsequent occurrences.

Recipients will be granted good cause for not participating if they are able to substantiate one of the following reasons:

1. Scheduled appointments with a prospective employer or department staff;
2. Illness or crisis situations such as the death of an immediate family member;
3. Adverse weather conditions which prevent participation;
4. Lack of suitable child care for children under age six or for special needs situations like a disabled child;
5. Breakdown in transportation arrangements;
6. Being battered or subject to extreme cruelty [physical violence, sexual abuse, abuse to their child, or related threats];
7. Similar reasons which are acceptable to the department.

The department will purchase or give cash reimbursements for supportive services (other than child care) and for work related expenses designed to assist applicants/recipients up to established limits set by the department. These supportive services include but are not limited to:

1. Minor auto repair/car insurance;
2. Employment related clothing;
3. Tools and Equipment;
4. Relocation;
5. Temporary travel and re-employment interview expense;
6. Employment related medical;
7. Job related training; and
8. Diversion payments for on-going expenses so applicants can avoid further cash assistance.

Child Care costs associated with approved education and training, community service, or other non paid work activities will be paid through the Department of Social Services.

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Important parts of the Personal Responsibility Agreement and Personal Responsibility Plan will be to identify and address these critical parental obligations:

- Attend school if appropriate and maintain certain grades and attendance;
- Keep school age children in school;
- Immunize children;
- Undergo appropriate substance abuse treatment/counseling;
- Accept personal therapy if appropriate;
- Supply medical information to substantiate limits on being able to “engage in work”;
- Attend parenting/money management and other resourceful living type classes when needed;
or
- Take steps needed to become and remain employed in the private sector.

Child support enforcement interacts with the TANF program in several ways. First, applicants/recipients must cooperate with the department to establish paternity or in obtaining, modifying, or enforcing a support order with respect to their dependent children. Second, the custodial parent must further assign to the State any rights they may have (on behalf of their children) to receive support from an absent parent.

The department is taking the following actions to reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies:

1. Cooperate with other stake holders involved in this issue.
2. An informational brochure will be provided to all TANF applicants regarding the availability of family planning services and general information about methods for planning a family. The brochure “Parents by Choice” an “Informational Guide to Family Planning” is a joint effort of the Department of Social Services, Labor, Health, Education, and Indian Health Services. These agencies work together to provide services regarding family planning and birth control.
3. Through a family assessment process, family planning is discussed at the time of application and continues during the period of time the individual is an active TANF recipient. Services are provided as well as appropriate referrals being made.
4. The Division of Child Support provides presentations to school student bodies on the consequences of teen pregnancy and child support. A letter and a supply of Teen Pregnancy brochures is mailed to all junior and senior high school counselors advising that they may make a request for a DCS staff to provide a presentation.

Through these efforts it is hoped that there will be a decrease in the number of out-of-wedlock births.

The department promotes an on-going cooperative effort in order to provide education and training about the problems related to domestic violence and statutory rape. These efforts will involve but are not limited to the following organizations:

- Law enforcement officials;
- State Attorney General's office;
- Department of Health;
- Department of Education;
- Department of Social Services;
- Department of Corrections;
- Department of Human Services;
- Office of Child Support Enforcement;
- Office of Child Protection Services;
- Representatives of local school districts;
- South Dakota Counselors Association.

The department trains staff regarding this issue. The Office of Child Support Enforcement will continue to make presentations that target high school age men about the consequences of out-of-wedlock pregnancies.

TRIBES

Persons served by tribes [who receive a Tribal Family Assistance Grant], will not be counted in either the State's denominator or numerator when calculating participation rates for "all families". If Tribal NEW participants are not in a countable work activity as defined under the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) final rule section 261.2 and section 407 of Public Law 104-193, the State reserves the right to require them to perform such approved work activities in order for the State to meet its work participation rate requirements.

The State provides equitable services to Indians on or off the reservations through our established network of local offices and staff, and the Tribal NEW program, Welfare-to-Work programs. Pertinent information regarding past experience will be shared with all Tribes upon request for their planning purposes related to applications for a TANF grant.

ADMINISTRATION

The structure of the agency administering the TANF program is attached. The Department of Labor and other private non profit organizations will help to deliver the work components. Elements of the program have been phased in with:

- procedural/policy revisions;
- program memos;
- administrative rule changes;
- supervisor meetings;
- staff training;
- system enhancements; and
- State enabling legislation.

FUNDING

Section 403(a)(1)(A) provides that each eligible State shall be entitled to receive for each of the fiscal years 1996 through 2010, a grant in an amount equal to the State family assistance grant as defined in section 403(a)(1)(B).

I. Payments to Agency Administering the TANF Program

- Payments for the TANF program should be made to the Department of Social Services which managed the AFDC/JOBS programs as of August 22, 1996.

II. State Payments for TANF Program

- The State's estimate for each quarter of the fiscal year by percentage is:

For FY 2008 and future Years			
1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
25%	25%	25%	25%

CERTIFICATIONS

The State of South Dakota will operate a program to provide Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) so that the children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives; to end dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage; to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies; and encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

This program is known as Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF).

Executive Officer of the State is Governor M. Michael Rounds.

In administering and operating a program which provides Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and minor children under tile IV-A of the Social Security Act, the State will:

1. Specify which State agency or agencies will administer and supervise the program under part A in all political subdivisions of the State:

The South Dakota Department of Social Services is the State agency responsible for administering the program.

The South Dakota Department of Social Services is the State agency responsible for supervising the program.

2. Assure that local governments and private sector organizations:

- (a) Have been consulted regarding the plan and design of welfare services in the State so that services are provided in a manner appropriate to local populations; and

- (b) South Dakota complied with the public comment requirement .

The state's TANF plan is governed by rules and regulations promulgated through the Administrative Procedures Act (South Dakota Codified Law 1-26). The public is notified of all rule changes and invited to attend Public Hearings and provide comment.

A public comment period has also been issued for this renewal plan.

3. Operate a Child Support Enforcement program under the State plan approved under Part D;

4. Operate a Foster Care and Adoption Assistance program in accordance with Part E, and certify that the State will take all necessary actions to ensure that children receiving assistance are eligible for medical assistance;
5. Provide each member of an Indian tribe, who is domiciled in the State and is not eligible for assistance under a Tribal Family Assistance plan approved under Section 412, with equitable access to assistance under the State program funded under this part attributable to funds provided by the Federal Government.
6. Establish and enforce standards and procedures to ensure against program fraud and abuse, including standards and procedures concerning nepotism, conflicts of interest among individuals responsible for the administration and supervision of the State program, kickbacks, and the use of political patronage.
7. Make available to the public a summary of the State plan; and

CERTIFIED BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE STATE:

Date

Signature and Title

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

The purpose of the SD Department of Social Services is to provide a variety of assistance and services to citizens of the state who are disadvantaged because of income, physical condition or status in society. The secretary of the department is appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The secretary is responsible for the overall function of the department.

The SD Board of Social Services is a quasi-legislative body which establishes general policy and guidelines for the department. The members are appointed by the Governor serving staggered, four-year terms.

The Department of Social Services consists of a number of program areas. Field offices are organized geographically by Regions; each Region is subdivided into Multi-county Service Areas (MSAs).

Adult Services and Aging: Programs and services to help elderly people continue living independently: nutrition and transportation programs, homemaker services, home health care, adult day care and other community-based services help elderly people remain in their homes.

Child Care Services: Helps low-income families pay for child care so they can work or go to school. Also provides grants and assistance to improve the quality of child care in South Dakota.

Child Protection Services: Investigates child abuse and neglect, works to preserve or restore family stability, and administers foster care and adoptions.

Child Support Enforcement: Locates absent parents, establishes paternity and enforces child support payments, thereby strengthening family self-sufficiency.

Crime Victims' Compensation: Provides monetary compensation to victims of violent crimes.

Domestic Abuse Program: Provides shelter and support services for victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault.

Energy Assistance & Weatherization: Helps low-income families pay their heating bills and weatherize their homes.

Food Stamps: Helps low-income people buy the food they need to remain healthy.

Medical Eligibility: Determines eligibility for Medical Assistance (Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program.)

Medical Services: DSS's Medicaid and CHIP programs provided health care for over 95,000 low-income children and disabled adults in 2004.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF): Families facing financial difficulties may be eligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Food Stamps and Medicaid can also help these families with basic needs while they get the help they need to get jobs and become self-sufficient.

In addition to providing services directly, the department uses an extensive network of public and private entities to extend its benefits: local governments, nursing homes, doctors, day care providers, foster parents and senior centers, to name a few.