

# State of Florida Department of Children and Families

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Shevaun L. Harris Secretary

**DATE:** June 13, 2024

**TO**: Community Directors

Community-Based Care Lead Agency CEOs

**FROM:** Kate Williams, Assistant Secretary for Child & Family Well-Being

K. Williams

SUBJECT: 2024-2025 Federal Poverty Level Guidelines for TANF

Effective July 1, 2024

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this memorandum is to provide updates to the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) guidelines that take effect July 1, 2024.

**BACKGROUND:** Section 673(2) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA) of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 9902(2)) requires the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services to update at least annually the poverty guidelines. The FPL helps guide financial eligibility for certain federal programs, including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

In child welfare, TANF funds help pay administrative costs of the Florida Abuse Hotline, child protective investigation, and case management staff. This necessitates an eligibility determination for the child and his or her family at investigation and every 12 months thereafter. Eligibility for TANF 200% (gross income below 200% of FPL) must be determined every 12 months for children receiving protective services in their own homes or in the home of a relative. TANF also helps fund maintenance adoption subsidies (MAS) for special needs children who are not eligible to receive a Title IV-E funded MAS.

Please be reminded that eligibility for TANF 200% and TANF MAS funds is to be conducted through Florida Safe Families Network (FSFN). FSFN will be updated to reflect the 2024-2025 FPL. Please refer to CFOP 170-15, Federal and State Funding Eligibility.

**NEW INFORMATION:** The attached Request for TANF Funds/Eligibility Form shows the poverty guidelines for the 2024-2025 state fiscal year.

**ACTION REQUIRED:** Please share this memorandum and attachment with all appropriate staff in your region, circuit, and lead agency.

2415 North Monroe Street, Suite 400, Tallahassee, Florida 32303-4190

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**CONTACT INFORMATION:** If you have any questions or need clarification regarding this memorandum, please submit your questions to the eligibility redesign mailbox at HQW.FS.Eligibility.Redesign@myflfamilies.com.

#### **ATTACHMENT:**

Form CF-FSP 5244 – Request for TANF Funds/Eligibility Determination – 2024/2025

Andrew Collins, Staff Director for Partner Compliance CC:

**Child Protection Directors** 



### Request for TANF Funds/Eligibility Determination - 2024/2025

**Eligibility Requirement:** To be eligible for the TANF funds: the child/family income must be less than 200% of the federal poverty level; the child must be living in the home of a parent or other specified relative; the individual must be a United States citizen or qualified non-citizen; and the child/family must be residing in Florida.

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## INSTRUCTIONS Request for TANF Funds/Eligibility Determination

**PURPOSE:** TANF funding in family safety is used to pay the administrative costs of the Florida Abuse Hotline, eligible staff activities of protective investigators and protective services counselors, services for children who are in their own homes with a parent or specified relative and who are at imminent risk of removal and for services to expedite reunification. The information requested in this form is used to determine the child/family's eligibility for TANF.

#### INFORMATION REQUESTED:

- 1. Enter the name of the region/lead agency in which the child/family resides.
- 2. Enter the date of request (date the form is initiated).
- 3. Enter the names of all the family members/children in the household, their social security numbers, and dates of birth.
- 4. Indicate whether each individual is a United States citizen or qualified noncitizen.

#### **ELIGIBILITY:**

1. When the application is being completed at the time of the investigation, check "YES" if the child is being removed from the home of a parent or specified relative; otherwise, check "NO". When the application is being completed to provide TANF funded protective services in the child's home or out-of-home placement, check "YES" if the child is currently living with a parent or **specified** relative, otherwise check "NO".

IF "YES", continue with Item # 2. Write the name of the specified relative with whom the child(ren) is(are) living and the relationship to the child(ren).

IF "NO" the child is ineligible for TANF funding.

- 2. Check "YES" or "NO"
- IF "YES," child/family meets residency criteria, continue with Item # 3

IF "NO," child is ineligible for TANF funding.

- 3. Check "YES" or "NO"
- IF "YES," child/family meets financial criteria; submit form to supervisor or designee for TANF eligibility determination.
- IF "NO," Continue with Item # 4.
- 4. FAMILY INCOME: If the family income information is "documented", list the type of documentation. When child is in the home of his/her parent(s) the income of the child(ren) and child's parent(s) living in the home is counted. The family size will include the parent(s) and the child(ren). When child is in the home of a non-parent specified relative, only the child's income is counted and each child will be considered a family of "one". Two hundred percent (200%) of the FPL by family size is listed in the chart.

Note: The source of the income information must be documented on the request form. When efforts to obtain income information is unsuccessful; the child will be ineligible for TANF funding. Indicate in the top margin of the request form that income information could not be obtained then initial and date.

The person completing the form - parent, adult non-parent specified relative, CPI, case manager, or region/lead agency designee - must sign and date the form.

The supervisor or region/lead agency designee conducts the eligibility determination by indicating whether the family's income is less than 200% of the FPL for the household size and marks the appropriate space whether the child/family is eligible for TANF 200% funds.

The supervisor or region/lead agency designee must sign and date the form.

#### **DISTRIBUTION:**

Original must remain in child's file (copies can be used when the family has more than one child) Copy to region/lead agency Revenue Maximization Unit, as appropriate.

#### CODING:

The child's eligibility must be recorded in FSFN.