
DEO Communiqué

DATE: March 28, 2013
TO: Regional Workforce Board Directors
FROM: Lois A. Scott, Chief, Bureau of One-Stop and Program Support
SUBJECT: 2011–2014 TANF State Plan



PURPOSE

We are pleased to report that the Department of Health and Human Services has provided final approval of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan renewal. The TANF Renewal State Plan is located at the following link: [2011 - 2014 TANF State Plan](#). While the State Plan mainly remains the same, there are some changes that have been made. The most significant change is clarifying language required by Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Civil Rights (OCR) that provides the assurance that all customers have meaningful access to programs in accordance with section 402 (a)(1)(A)(i) of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C § 602. It states:

“To ensure effective communication and meaningful access to programs and services, individuals with disabilities or limited English proficient (LEP) persons will be notified of the availability of services at no cost. Such services may include, but are not limited, to sign language and foreign language interpretation services.” In addition, documents notifying applicants and program participants of adverse actions will need to be:

- Communicated in plain language;
- Provided in the applicant or program participant’s primary language; or
- Interpreted at no cost to the participant.

ACTION REQUIRED

Program forms and notifications now are only provided in English, Spanish, and Creole. For those applicants/participants whose primary language is not represented in current program forms, RWBs will need to ensure that information related to program requirements and case actions that may affect the benefits and/or program services of participants be made available in their primary language, or make provisions for the forms/documents to be interpreted in the customer’s language at no cost to them.

AUTHORITIES

Department of Children and Families
Department of Economic Opportunity