STATE OF OKLAHOMA

TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)

TITLE IV-A STATE PLAN

Administering Agency: Oklahoma Human Services (OKDHS)
Program: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
Federal Authority: Title IV-A of the Social Security Act, as amended.

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1. State Plan Overview

1.1 State Plan Renewal

This State Plan has been developed in accordance with Section 402 of the Social Security Act, as amended by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA), and subsequent amendments governing the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

Effective January 1, 2027, Oklahoma Human Services (OKDHS) submits this State Plan to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to describe Oklahoma's TANF program and satisfy applicable federal State Plan requirements.

This plan establishes the policies, procedures, services, and administrative responsibilities through which Oklahoma will administer TANF in accordance with federal and state law.

The Oklahoma TANF program is designed to assist needy families with children, promote employment and economic self-sufficiency, support responsible parenting, and strengthen families.

The current State Plan and related program information are available through the Oklahoma Human Services website: https://oklahoma.gov/okdhs.html

1.2 State Plan Requirements

Federal Citation: 42 U.S.C. § 602(a)

Oklahoma will administer its TANF program in accordance with the requirements established under Title IV-A of the Social Security Act.

The State Plan describes how Oklahoma will:

- Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives.
- Promote employment, job preparation, and economic independence among needy parents.
- Prevent and reduce out-of-wedlock pregnancies.
- Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

2. General Provisions

2.1 Conducting a Program That Provides Assistance to Needy Families

Federal Citation: 42 U.S.C. § 602(a)(1)(A)(i)

Oklahoma will operate a statewide TANF program designed to serve all political subdivisions of the State, although services and administrative procedures may vary according to local needs and available resources.

The program provides assistance to eligible needy families with children and provides parents and caretaker relatives with employment preparation, work opportunities, and supportive services intended to promote economic self-sufficiency.

OKDHS is responsible for administering the Oklahoma TANF program and ensuring compliance with applicable federal and state requirements.

Proper and Efficient Administration

OKDHS Financial Services supports the proper and efficient administration of TANF through financial management, reporting, and accountability activities, including:

- Preparing and submitting required federal and state financial reports.
- Cooperating with federal agencies and providing requested financial information.
- Maintaining financial records necessary for program administration.
- Supporting appropriate accounting, expenditure monitoring, and fiscal accountability.
- Providing financial information necessary for program operations and management.

2.2 Overview of the Oklahoma TANF Cash Assistance Program

Oklahoma administers its financial assistance program as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

The program includes TANF cash assistance and the TANF Work employment and training program.

Oklahoma TANF is designed to help eligible families meet basic needs while supporting parents and caretaker relatives in obtaining employment and achieving long-term economic stability.

The eligibility criteria for TANF are established under Oklahoma law, including Article XXV of the Oklahoma Constitution and Sections 230.50 through 230.76 of Title 56 of the Oklahoma Statutes, as applicable.

The federal legal authority for TANF is established under Title IV-A of the Social Security Act.

Oklahoma's TANF program includes:

- **Cash assistance:** Financial assistance to eligible needy children and their parents or caretaker relatives, as well as eligible pregnant women without other dependent children in the household, to help meet basic needs.
- **Employment and training:** Case management, employment preparation, job search, training, and supportive services to help families obtain and maintain employment.
- **Child support services:** Oklahoma Child Support Services (OCSS) assists families with establishing paternity and obtaining financial and medical support.
- **Family support services:** Additional services and community partnerships that promote family stability and self-sufficiency.

2.3 Four Purposes of TANF

Oklahoma administers TANF consistent with the four statutory purposes established under PRWORA:

1. Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives.
2. End dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage.
3. Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and establish annual numerical goals for preventing and reducing these pregnancies.
4. Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

2.4 Nondiscrimination and Equal Access

All individuals have the right to apply for TANF assistance without unlawful discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, religion, disability, or other status protected by applicable federal or state law.

OKDHS will administer TANF in accordance with applicable civil rights requirements, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and other applicable nondiscrimination provisions.

No qualified individual with a disability will, by reason of that disability, be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination under services, programs, or activities administered by OKDHS.

OKDHS will provide reasonable accommodations and appropriate auxiliary aids and services when required by law.

2.5 Applicant and Recipient Rights

Applicants and recipients are entitled to:

- Confidential treatment of personal and case information.
- Fair and equitable treatment.
- Clear information concerning eligibility and program responsibilities.
- Notice of actions affecting benefits.
- An opportunity to request an administrative hearing or appeal when dissatisfied with an agency determination.

3. Oklahoma TANF Cash Assistance Eligibility

3.1 Eligibility Requirements

An applicant household must satisfy applicable nonfinancial and financial eligibility requirements established under federal and Oklahoma law.

Eligibility factors include:

- Age and dependent-child status.
- Relationship and household composition.
- Oklahoma residency.
- Citizenship or qualified noncitizen status.
- Social Security number compliance.
- Cooperation with applicable child support requirements.
- Income and resource limitations.
- Work participation requirements, when applicable.

Eligible households must remain within applicable income and resource standards and comply with continuing eligibility requirements.

Work-eligible adults and minor heads of household must participate in TANF Work activities unless exempt or excused under applicable Oklahoma policy.

Income standards are identified in Attachment A, Appendix C-1, Schedule IX.

3.2 Application and Determination Procedures

All individuals have the right to apply for TANF assistance.

Benefits will be calculated beginning with the application date or the date statutory eligibility is established, whichever is later, consistent with Oklahoma policy.

The applicant or authorized representative must complete and sign an application under penalty of perjury and participate in an interview conducted in person, virtually, or by telephone, as permitted by agency policy.

Unless exempt or granted good cause, applicable work-eligible applicants must agree to participate in TANF Work.

The application explains the responsibilities of the applicant and OKDHS, including:

- Providing accurate and complete information.
- Reporting required changes.
- Cooperating with applicable child support services.
- Participating in required employment and training activities.
- Providing necessary documentation to establish eligibility.

The TANF Work Plan includes an individualized employment plan developed to address the participant's circumstances, employment goals, and supportive service needs.

Eligibility determinations will be completed within 30 days, consistent with applicable state requirements.

3.3 Nonfinancial Eligibility Requirements

Age

A dependent child must be under 18 years of age or, if 18 years of age, a full-time student in a secondary school or equivalent vocational or technical training program who is expected to complete the program before reaching 19 years of age, consistent with federal law.

Residency

An applicant must reside in Oklahoma.

An individual does not necessarily lose Oklahoma residency when temporarily absent from the State for reasons such as employment, education, or involuntary removal from the State, when the requirements of Oklahoma policy are satisfied.

Citizenship and Qualified Noncitizen Status

TANF recipients must meet applicable citizenship or qualified noncitizen eligibility requirements.

OKDHS will determine eligibility in accordance with PRWORA, including 8 U.S.C. §§ 1612, 1613, and 1641, as applicable.

The five-year limitation on certain qualified noncitizens will be applied according to federal law, including applicable statutory exemptions.

Social Security Number Compliance

Applicants and recipients must comply with applicable federal and state Social Security number requirements.

Individuals must provide a Social Security number or demonstrate that they have applied for one when required by law.

Once assigned, the Social Security number must be provided to OKDHS in accordance with applicable program requirements.

School Attendance

School attendance requirements apply to children subject to Oklahoma compulsory education laws and applicable TANF eligibility policies.

Homeschooling arrangements must comply with applicable Oklahoma constitutional and statutory provisions.

Immunization

Minor children must comply with applicable Oklahoma immunization requirements unless otherwise exempt as outlined in federal regulations.

Substance Use Screening

In accordance with Oklahoma law, adult parents and needy caretaker relatives subject to the applicable statutory requirements must participate in the prescribed substance use screening process.

The screening process may include the Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory (SASSI), another approved screening instrument, a clinical interview, and consideration of other relevant information available to OKDHS.

When reasonable cause exists under applicable law and policy, OKDHS may request additional assessment or chemical testing.

Screening results alone does not establish a substance use disorder or constitute conclusive evidence of illegal controlled substance use.

Individuals identified as needing additional services may be referred to appropriate substance use treatment, mental health counseling, or other supportive services.

Initial screening costs will not be charged to the recipient.

Any failure to participate without good cause will be addressed in accordance with applicable Oklahoma law, agency policy, notice requirements, and administrative review procedures.

Child-only cases and minor parents under age 18 are exempt to the extent provided by Oklahoma law.

Relationship

A dependent child must live with a specified relative in a home maintained by that relative, as required by applicable TANF eligibility provisions.

A specified relative is a relative by blood, marriage, or adoption within the 5th degree of relationship recognized under applicable federal and Oklahoma law.

TANF eligibility may also be extended to qualifying pregnant women without other dependent children in the household under Oklahoma policy.

Minor Parents

Unmarried parents under age 18 and their children will receive assistance consistently with Section 408(a)(S) of the Social Security Act.

Where required, the minor parent must reside with a parent, legal guardian, other adult relative, or in an approved adult-supervised living arrangement.

Temporary Absence

A temporary absence of a child or caretaker relative from the home may be allowed for up to six months under applicable Oklahoma policy.

The caretaker relative must retain responsibility for the child's supervision and guidance, and the temporary arrangement must satisfy applicable eligibility requirements.

Child Support Cooperation

Cooperation with Oklahoma Child Support Services is required as a condition of TANF eligibility unless an applicable good-cause exception or other statutory protection applies.

Nonpayment and Disqualification Situations

Oklahoma will apply applicable federal and state restrictions concerning fugitive felons, probation and parole violators, and individuals disqualified for fraud involving residence or identity.

Any disqualification will be imposed only as authorized by applicable law and with appropriate notice and administrative review rights. Oklahoma will also deny assistance for 10 years to any person, a hearing officer or court has found to have made fraudulent statements or representations regarding identity or place of residence in order to receive assistance in two or more states simultaneously.

3.4 Lifetime Time Limits on TANF Cash Assistance

Federal Citation: 42 U.S.C. § 608(a)(7)

TANF cash assistance is intended to provide temporary financial support while families work toward economic stability and self-sufficiency.

Under federal law, federal TANF assistance generally may not be provided to a family that includes an adult recipient for more than 60 cumulative months, subject to applicable federal exceptions.

Oklahoma administers its TANF time-limit policies in accordance with federal law and Oklahoma statutes.

Time Limit Exclusions

The following individuals or circumstances are addressed separately under applicable federal and state requirements:

- Minor children who are not the head of household.
- A parent or caretaker relative who is not included in the TANF benefit.
- Families qualifying for an applicable federal or state exception.
- Families approved for an authorized hardship extension.

Temporary Hardship Extensions

Oklahoma maintains hardship extension policies for qualifying families experiencing circumstances that may prevent them from achieving self-sufficiency within the standard time limit.

Existing Oklahoma hardship categories include:

- Substance abuse.
- Chronic underemployment.
- Disability of an individual.
- Mental illness.
- Pending Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security disability determination.
- Training or education.
- Underemployment.

Extensions will be determined individually and supported by appropriate documentation.

Federal assistance beyond the 60-month limit is subject to the statutory limitation on the percentage of families receiving federally funded assistance beyond the time limit. Oklahoma may use state-only funds for additional assistance when authorized by applicable law.

3.5 Financial Eligibility

Financial eligibility is determined by evaluating income and resources according to Oklahoma TANF eligibility policies.

Consideration may be given to the income and resources of members of the assistance unit and other individuals whose financial circumstances are considered under applicable policy, including excluded stepparents, alien sponsors, sanctioned parents, and parents or legal guardians of minor parents.

Income

Income includes gains, payments, or proceeds received from employment, business activities, property, retirement, and other sources.

All available income is considered unless specifically excluded or disregarded by federal or Oklahoma law or agency policy.

Income is considered available when actually received or otherwise determined available under applicable eligibility rules.

When income is reduced through an overpayment recoupment, garnishment, or similar withholding, the gross amount will be considered in accordance with Oklahoma policy.

Applicants and recipients are responsible for reporting income, including its source, amount, and frequency of receipt.

Resources

The existing Oklahoma resource policy is retained as follows:

- Resource limit: $2,250.
- Primary residence: Excluded.
- Vehicle equity: Excluded up to $5,000.

3.6 Earned Income Disregards

Oklahoma disregards a portion of earned income when determining TANF cash assistance eligibility and benefit amounts.

Depending on the age of the child or children included in the assistance unit, the first $120 or $240 of earned income is disregarded, plus 50 percent of the remaining earned income, according to applicable Oklahoma policy.

Earned income received by a minor child who is included in the TANF benefit and is a full-time student is also disregarded when authorized under Oklahoma policy.

3.7 Benefit Determination and Delivery

TANF payment standards are based on Oklahoma's established Standard of Need.

The existing Oklahoma maximum gross income eligibility threshold is 185 percent of the State Standard of Need.

To determine eligibility, the family's countable earned income, after applicable disregards, and countable unearned income are compared with the applicable assistance payment standard.

Current income guidelines and payment standards are identified in Attachment A, Appendix C-1, Schedule IX.

The benefit amount for the application month is prorated according to the number of eligible days remaining in the month, consistent with Oklahoma policy.

Benefit Delivery

TANF cash assistance is delivered through an electronic benefit transfer (EBT) system.

Recipients may also elect direct deposit into an eligible financial institution when this option is available under the agency's payment arrangements.

4. Work Readiness and Participation

4.1 Determining That Parents or Caretakers Are Ready to Engage in Work

Federal Citation: 42 U.S.C. § 602(a)(1)(A)(ii)

Oklahoma requires parents and caretaker relatives receiving TANF assistance to participate in employment-related activities in accordance with applicable federal and state requirements.

A work-eligible individual is an adult or minor head of household included in the TANF assistance unit who is subject to applicable work requirements.

A parent providing care for a disabled family member living in the home may qualify for an exemption or other work requirement accommodation when authorized by Oklahoma policy and supported by appropriate medical documentation.

At application and throughout the period of assistance, OKDHS will assess each work-eligible individuals:

- Employment readiness.
- Education and training.
- Employment history.
- Skills and abilities.
- Barriers to employment.
- Supportive service needs.
- Opportunities for career advancement.

Unless exempt or excused under applicable policy, work-eligible individuals must participate in assigned TANF Work activities.

An initial assessment will be conducted at application, and participation requirements will be established through an individualized TANF Work Plan.

Adult and Family Services (AFS) field staff monitor participation and provide case management to support employment preparation, job placement, and employment retention.

4.2 Work Participation Requirements

Oklahoma establishes work participation expectations consistent with applicable federal standards and Oklahoma policy.

The federal standards generally include:

Family circumstances	Federal weekly participation standard
Applicable single-parent family	30 hours
Single parent with a child under age six	20 hours
Certain two-parent families receiving federally funded childcare	55 combined hours

These are federal work participation standards for the applicable rate calculations. Individual assignments and state participation policies must be administered consistently with applicable law.

For two-parent families in which deprivation is based on incapacity, the participation obligations of the non-incapacitated adult will be determined according to applicable federal requirements and Oklahoma policy.

An individual may be excused or assigned alternative activities when an applicable exemption or good-cause circumstance is established.

4.3 Allowable Work Activities

Oklahoma's TANF Work program provides employment and training activities intended to help participants prepare for, obtain, and retain employment.

Activities may include:

Employment

- Full-time employment.
- Part-time employment.
- Subsidized employment.

Training Opportunities

- Work Experience Program.
- Community Partnerships.

Education Opportunities

- High school completion.
- High school equivalency preparation, including HiSET or GED.
- Literacy classes.
- Vocational and technical education.

Job Readiness and Job Search

- Structured employment search.

- Job readiness activities.
- Employment preparation.
- Job placement and retention services.

Supportive Activities

- Substance use treatment services.
- Mental health services.

The TANF Work Plan will identify the participant's assigned activities, participation expectations, and supportive services.

OKDHS will determine which activities qualify as federally countable work activities under Section 407(d) of the Social Security Act.

4.4 Good Cause and Temporary Work Plan Modifications

OKDHS recognizes that circumstances may temporarily prevent a parent or caretaker from participating in assigned TANF Work activities.

Good-cause determinations will be made individually by authorized AFS field staff.

Circumstances that may constitute good cause include, but are not limited to:

Childcare

Appropriate childcare is unavailable because:

- The location is not within a reasonable distance of the individual's home or work site.
- Informal childcare arrangements are unsuitable.
- Licensed or otherwise approved childcare is unavailable.
- Affordable childcare cannot be obtained.
- A custodial parent caring for a child under age six has demonstrated an inability to obtain needed childcare.

Informal childcare arrangements must provide adequate care and supervision and a safe and stable environment appropriate to the child's needs.

Other Circumstances

Good cause may also include:

- Illness or incapacity of the participant.
- A household member requiring substantial care when appropriate alternative care is unavailable.
- Required court appearances.
- Incarceration, when applicable to the particular determination.
- Attendance at parent-teacher conferences.
- Unavailable transportation when reasonable alternatives cannot be arranged.
- Inclement weather prevents safe travel or participation.
- An assignment or job referral that does not meet applicable work activity criteria.
- Other circumstances approved under Oklahoma policy.

When good cause is established, OKDHS may:

- Temporarily excuse participation.
- Modify the TANF Work Plan.
- Provide additional supportive services.
- Assign an alternative activity.
- Establish an appropriate date for resuming participation.

All determinations will be documented in the case record.

4.5 Ensuring Engagement in Work Activities

Federal Citation: 42 U.S.C. § 602(a)(1)(A)(iii)

Oklahoma will ensure that parents and caretaker relatives receiving TANF assistance participate in assigned work activities in accordance with Section 407 of the Social Security Act and applicable Oklahoma policy.

Staff are responsible for monitoring participation, evaluating barriers to participation, and providing appropriate case management.

OKDHS will work with participants to identify employment opportunities and supportive services that promote successful participation.

4.6 Noncompliance Process and Sanction Policy

When a work-eligible individual fails or refuses to participate in assigned TANF Work activities without good cause, OKDHS will follow established noncompliance and sanction procedures.

The process includes:

1. Staff review participation records and identify the missed or incomplete activity.
2. Staff make reasonable efforts to contact the participant and determine the reason for nonparticipation.
3. Staff evaluate whether good cause exists.
4. When good cause is established, the participant is assisted with resuming or modifying the TANF Work Plan.
5. When noncompliance without good cause is established, the agency takes the action authorized under applicable Oklahoma policy.
6. Required supervisory review and approval are completed before an adverse action takes effect when required by agency procedures.

The participant will receive notice of the proposed action and information concerning applicable administrative hearing and appeal rights.

Any reduction, suspension, denial, or closure of TANF benefits will be applied in accordance with applicable federal and state requirements.

Eligibility for SNAP, childcare, and other assistance programs will be determined separately under the laws and policies governing those programs.

5. Restricting the Use and Disclosure of Information

Federal Citation: 42 U.S.C. § 602(a)(1)(A)(iv)

OKDHS will take reasonable steps to protect the confidentiality of information concerning individuals and families receiving TANF assistance.

Confidential information includes, but is not limited to:

- Names and addresses.
- Social Security numbers.
- Application and eligibility information.
- Benefit amounts and payment records.
- Employment and income information.
- Medical and disability information.

- Domestic violence and survivor-related information.
- Investigation reports.
- Federal tax information.
- Other personally identifiable information maintained by the agency.

Access to confidential information will be limited to authorized individuals with a legitimate program-related need.

Information may be disclosed only as permitted or required by applicable federal and state law.

OKDHS employees and contractors responsible for handling confidential information must comply with agency security policies and applicable confidentiality requirements.

Unauthorized disclosure may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment, and other consequences authorized by law.

OKDHS will maintain administrative, technical, and physical safeguards to protect information throughout its collection, storage, use, and disclosure.

6. Preventing and Reducing the Incidence of Out-of-Wedlock Pregnancies

Federal Citation: 42 U.S.C. § 602(a)(1)(A)(v)

Oklahoma will establish goals and undertake activities designed to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies, with particular emphasis on teenage pregnancies.

OKDHS works with community-based organizations, educational institutions, and other service providers to support youth development and pregnancy prevention initiatives.

Programs may include:

- Youth mentoring.
- Healthy relationship education.
- Life-skills development.
- Educational support.
- Career planning.
- Parenting education.
- Youth leadership and development activities.
- Access to appropriate community resources.

These initiatives are intended to help youth develop responsible decision-making skills, establish educational and career goals, understand the responsibilities associated with early parenthood, and build pathways toward self-sufficiency.

School Based Family Services may provide additional prevention, mentoring, educational, and family support services.

Oklahoma will establish and maintain annual numerical goals for preventing and reducing the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies, consistent with federal requirements.

Progress may be evaluated using available state-level pregnancy and birth data, program participation, educational attainment, school engagement, and other relevant indicators.

7. Conducting a Program on Statutory Rape

Federal Citation: 42 U.S.C. § 602(a)(1)(A)(vi)

Oklahoma will support educational and prevention initiatives addressing statutory rape and the prevention of sexual exploitation and coercion involving minors.

The Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH), in coordination with OKDHS and other state and community partners, supports initiatives addressing sexual violence prevention, awareness, and education.

These efforts are designed to reach:

- State and local law enforcement officials.
- Educational institutions and school personnel.
- Counseling and behavioral health service providers.
- Youth-serving organizations.
- Community-based organizations.
- Parents, caregivers, and families.

Programs may provide education concerning consent, healthy relationships, sexual coercion, statutory rape, and the prevention of sexual exploitation.

Oklahoma will encourage coordination among law enforcement, educational institutions, and counseling services to support prevention and appropriate intervention.

Individuals experiencing sexual assault, domestic violence, or stalking may contact the Oklahoma Safeline at 1-800-522-SAFE (7233), subject to verification of current contact information before publication.

7.1 Education and Training

OKDHS will coordinate with appropriate state agencies, educational institutions, and community partners to support education and training addressing sexual violence prevention and statutory rape.

Training and educational efforts may include:

- Recognizing sexual exploitation and coercion.
- Understanding statutory rape laws.
- Identifying risk factors involving minors.
- Understanding the impact of sexual violence.
- Identifying appropriate reporting and referral procedures.
- Promoting prevention and responsible behavior.

8. Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, and Sexual Harassment Protections

Federal Authority: 42 U.S.C. § 602 and applicable amendments

OKDHS will maintain standards and procedures to ensure that applicants and potential applicants for TANF assistance are notified of available assistance for victims of sexual harassment and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

The agency recognizes that individuals experiencing abuse may face circumstances that affect their ability to satisfy program requirements or participate safely in employment and training activities.

9. Electronic Benefit Transfer Requirements

9.1 Policies and Practices Restricting EBT Use in Prohibited Establishments

Federal Citation: 42 U.S.C. § 602(a)(1)(A)(vii)

Oklahoma will maintain policies and procedures to restrict access to TANF cash assistance through electronic fund transactions at prohibited establishments identified under federal law.

Oklahoma's EBT restrictions are established under 56 O.S. § 241.4.

Prohibited establishments include:

- Liquor stores.
- Casinos, gambling casinos, and gaming establishments.
- Certain adult-oriented entertainment establishments where performers disrobe or perform in an unclothed state.
- Retail establishments whose principal business is selling tobacco products.

Applicable statutory exceptions involving grocery stores and establishments where gaming activities are incidental to the principal business will be recognized.

OKDHS informs applicants and recipients of EBT restrictions through application materials, rights and responsibilities disclosures, and other appropriate communications.

Violations and Penalties

When a parent or needy caretaker is determined to have violated applicable EBT restrictions, Oklahoma will apply the penalties established under 56 O.S. § 241.4 and applicable agency procedures.

The existing Oklahoma penalty schedule is:

Violation	TANF cash assistance reduction or consequence
First violation	25% reduction for three months
Second violation	35% reduction for six months
Third violation	50% reduction for twelve months
Subsequent violation	Permanent ineligibility of the responsible adult, as provided by law

The responsible individual will receive applicable notice and administrative review rights.

When an adult is permanently disqualified under this provision, dependent children may remain eligible for child-only benefits when all other eligibility requirements are satisfied and applicable law permits.

9.2 Ensuring EBT Access with No Charges and Access to Information About EBT Use

Federal Citation: 42 U.S.C. § 602(a)(1)(A)(viii)

OKDHS will ensure that TANF recipients have access to electronic benefit transfer services that allow the use or withdrawal of cash assistance with minimal fees or charges, including opportunities to access funds without fees.

Recipients will receive information concerning:

- Applicable transaction fees.

- ATM withdrawal charges.
- Surcharges.
- Replacement card fees.
- Available no-fee transactions.
- Cash withdrawal options.
- Other applicable cardholder services.

Information will be provided through cardholder materials, agency offices, electronic resources, and other appropriate communication methods.

OKDHS will make applicable fee information publicly available and periodically review EBT service arrangements to ensure compliance with federal requirements.

The availability of no-fee transactions and applicable cardholder charges will be determined by the current EBT service agreement and cardholder disclosures.

10. Special Provisions

10.1 Treatment of Families Moving to Oklahoma from Another State

Federal Citation: 42 U.S.C. § 602(a)(1)(B)(i)

Oklahoma does not intend to treat families relocating to Oklahoma from another state differently from other Oklahoma families solely because of their prior state of residence.

Families moving to Oklahoma will be evaluated under the same applicable TANF eligibility standards and program requirements as other applicants.

Eligibility will be determined in accordance with Oklahoma residency requirements and applicable federal law.

10.2 Providing Assistance to Individuals Who Are Not U.S. Citizens

Federal Citation: 42 U.S.C. § 602(a)(1)(B)(ii)

Oklahoma administers TANF in compliance with PRWORA and subsequent federal amendments.

Eligible noncitizens may receive TANF assistance when they satisfy applicable federal and state eligibility requirements.

Qualified noncitizens are evaluated according to their immigration classification, date of entry, applicable statutory exemptions, and any applicable waiting period.

Certain categories of qualified noncitizens are exempt from the five-year limitation under federal law.

These categories may include, as applicable:

- Refugees.
- Asylees.
- Individuals granted withholding of removal.
- Certain Cuban and Haitian entrants.
- Certain individuals with military service or qualifying military family relationships.
- Individuals are certified as victims of a severe form of trafficking.

OKDHS will determine eligibility in accordance with 8 U.S.C. §§ 1612, 1613, and 1641 and applicable federal guidance.

10.3 Fair and Equitable Treatment and Administrative Reviews

Federal Citation: 42 U.S.C. § 602(a)(1)(B)(iii)

Oklahoma will administer TANF using objective eligibility criteria and established procedures intended to ensure fair and equitable treatment.

Applicants and recipients will receive notice of decisions affecting their eligibility or benefit amounts.

An individual whose application is denied, whose application is not acted upon within the applicable processing period, or who disagrees with an action affecting assistance may request an administrative hearing in accordance with Oklahoma law and agency policy.

Administrative reviews will be conducted by impartial hearing officials.

Participants will be informed of:

- The reason for the agency's action.
- The effective date of the action.
- The applicable deadline for requesting a hearing.
- The procedures for submitting information or evidence.
- The right to representation, as permitted by law.
- The procedures for reconsideration or further appeal, when available.

Hearings and decisions will be conducted in accordance with applicable Oklahoma administrative procedures.

10.4 Community Service Requirement

Federal Citation: 42 U.S.C. § 602(a)(1)(B)(iv)

The State of Oklahoma opts not to mandate community service employment for adults and minor heads of households have received benefits for two months under the Oklahoma Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program when the person is not otherwise exempt from work requirements or is not engaged in work. Oklahoma exempts any adult or minor head of household from the work requirement who has a child under the age of one year. Persons who may be permanently and totally disabled are aided in gaining assistance under other appropriate programs such as the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program and vocational rehabilitation services. It is the intent of the State of Oklahoma to sanction required participants who fail to engage in work as defined by the state, by terminating their entire assistance grant until such time as they are willing to cooperate with work requirements.

10.5 Elder Justice Act Provision

Federal Citation: 42 U.S.C. § 602(a)(1)(B)(v)

Oklahoma supports employment preparation, training, and career development opportunities in occupations related to elder care and long-term care services.

OKDHS may coordinate with educational institutions, workforce development organizations, and state agencies to connect eligible individuals with training opportunities in areas of identified workforce need.

These opportunities may include programs offered through:

- Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.
- Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education.
- Local workforce development organizations.
- Community colleges and other educational institutions.

Career pathways may include general health careers, direct care services, long-term care, and other occupations supporting older adults in alignment with local workforce demand.

Services will be provided consistently with available funding and applicable TANF requirements.

11. TANF-Funded Programs

Oklahoma uses federal TANF funds to support cash assistance and other services reasonably calculated to accomplish one or more of the four statutory purposes of TANF.

11.1 Services for TANF Cash Assistance Recipients

TANF families receiving cash assistance may receive employment and supportive services designed to help them meet basic needs, participate in assigned work activities, and achieve self-sufficiency.

TANF Work Program

As a condition of eligibility, each applicant or recipient who is subject to work requirements must participate in TANF Work unless an exemption or good-cause determination applies.

TANF Work participants may receive supportive services when necessary to participate successfully in assigned activities, subject to available funding and applicable program requirements.

TANF Work Support Services

Available services may include:

- Transportation assistance.
- Child care.
- Flexible funds for employment-related activities.
- Participant allowances.
- Work activity payments.
- Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) background checks when required by the assigned work activity.
- Achievement bonuses for qualifying educational and employment credentials.

These services are intended to remove barriers to employment and support successful participation.

TANF Youth Support Services

Subject to available funding, Oklahoma may provide additional youth services to eligible families.

Services may include:

- STEM camps.
- School activities.
- After-school activities.
- School supplies.
- Clothing.
- Educational and developmental activities.

These services support positive youth development, educational engagement, and family stability.

11.2 Transitional TANF Services

Oklahoma provides transitional services intended to support families transitioning from TANF cash assistance to employment and increased financial independence.

Existing Oklahoma transitional services include:

- Disregarding the first three months of employment income under applicable Oklahoma policy.
- Access to extended SNAP benefits for five months.
- Childcare assistance with a zero-dollar copayment until the next applicable review.
- Access to flexible funds for up to five months following TANF closure due to increased income, subject to eligibility and funding requirements.

These services are designed to reduce barriers that may otherwise interfere with employment retention and family stability.

11.3 Marriage Adjustment Period

Oklahoma maintains a marriage adjustment period intended to support marriage and promote family stability.

Under existing Oklahoma policy, a qualifying family may receive up to three months of additional TANF cash assistance following marriage.

The adjustment period is intended to help families address outstanding financial obligations and gradually assume full financial responsibility as household circumstances change.

Eligibility and payment determinations will be made under applicable Oklahoma policy and federal requirements.

12. Other TANF-Funded Services

Oklahoma uses TANF funds to support programs and services reasonably calculated to accomplish one or more of the four statutory TANF purposes.

These services may support children, parents, youth, families experiencing crises, and other eligible populations.

All TANF-funded expenditures must satisfy applicable federal requirements concerning eligible activities, needy families, assistance, non-assistance, and expenditure reporting.

12.1 Alternatives to Incarceration

TANF Purpose 1

Existing Income Limit: 200% FPL

Oklahoma supports alternatives-to-incarceration programs serving eligible men and women facing potential prison sentences, often involving drug-related offenses.

These programs may provide non-medical diversion services intended to strengthen families, address barriers to family stability, and support successful reintegration.

Services may include:

- Healthy relationship education.
- Parenting support.
- Trauma-informed services.
- Substance use recovery support.
- Employment readiness.
- High school equivalency preparation.
- Family reunification support.

Programs are designed to help participants develop the skills and support systems needed to improve family functioning and promote stable family relationships.

TANF expenditures must be supported by a documented connection to an authorized TANF purpose.

12.2 Subsidized Employment Program

TANF Purpose 2

Existing Income Limit: 185% FPL

Oklahoma supports subsidized employment opportunities intended to help individuals obtain work experience, develop employment skills, and transition into unsubsidized employment.

Through this program, OKDHS may provide employers with partial reimbursement for wages paid to qualifying TANF participants and other eligible individuals.

The existing program structure provides reimbursement for full-time employment for a period of up to four months.

12.3 Family Violence Emergency Assistance

TANF Purpose 1

Existing Income Limit: 300% FPL

Family Violence Emergency Assistance (FVEA) provides emergency financial assistance intended to stabilize families experiencing domestic violence, homelessness, or related crises.

Through participating state-certified domestic violence shelters, eligible individuals may receive one-time assistance of up to $3,000 for qualifying expenses.

Eligible expenses may include:

- Rent.
- Utility payments.
- Security deposits.
- Moving expenses.
- Other approved housing-related expenses.

Services will be provided in a manner that protects participant confidentiality and supports individual safety.

12.4 Child Welfare Services Authorized Under Prior Law

TANF Purpose 1

Existing Income Standard: Income limits applicable under prior law

Oklahoma uses TANF funding, where authorized, to support certain child welfare services that promote the ability of children to remain in their own homes or the homes of relatives.

These services may include emergency assistance and family support services designed to prevent family disruption and address circumstances that place children at risk.

Subject to available funding and applicable legal restrictions, services may include:

- In-home services.
- Day treatment.
- Wraparound services.
- Substance use services.
- Educational and vocational services.

- Independent living services.
- Information and referral.
- Counseling.
- Foster care.
- Emergency shelter.
- Childcare.
- Legal services.
- Parenting education and training.
- Medical services.
- Respite care.
- Clothing.
- Diagnostic and evaluation services.
- Cash assistance is necessary to meet or prevent an emergency crisis.

12.5 Child Welfare Services – Non-IV-E Eligible

TANF Purpose 1

Existing Income Standard: 185% FPL or eligibility for TANF, SNAP, or Child Care

Oklahoma supports child welfare services for eligible children and families who are not eligible for services under Title IV-E but need assistance to maintain safe and stable family relationships.

Services are designed to help children remain in their own homes or in the homes of relatives and prevent circumstances that could lead to family separation.

Children receiving TANF, SNAP, or childcare benefits at the time-of-service enrollment may be deemed eligible under the existing program policy.

Services may include:

- In-home parenting services.
- Household management.
- Budgeting assistance.
- Family support and stabilization.
- Other approved services supporting family functioning.

12.6 Family Strengthening Programs

TANF Purpose 4

Income Standard:

Oklahoma supports programs intended to strengthen family relationships and encourage the formation and maintenance of stable two-parent families.

Services may include:

- Healthy relationship education.
- Family communication and conflict resolution.
- Coordinated employment and educational support.
- Financial literacy.
- Family stability services.

Programs may be delivered in collaboration with organizations such as:

- Safe Families.
- WorkReady Oklahoma.
- Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

- Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education.
- Other eligible community-based and educational organizations.

Programs will be designed to promote positive family relationships, responsible parenting, economic stability, and long-term family well-being.

12.7 School Based Family Services

TANF Purposes 3 and 4

Income Standard: To be established under applicable program eligibility requirements.

School Based Family Services connect families with community and state resources that remove barriers to learning and support long-term family and student success.

Services may include:

- Relationship education.
- Parenting classes.
- Financial literacy.
- Tutoring.
- After-school programs.
- Youth mentoring.
- Job readiness.
- Mental health supports.
- Family resource referrals.
- Other educational and family strengthening activities.

By connecting families with services in school settings, the program seeks to strengthen family functioning, reduce crises, and support positive choices among parents and youth.

Expected outcomes may include:

- Improved school engagement.
- Increased educational attainment.
- Improved graduation rates.
- Greater financial stability.
- Stronger family relationships.
- Increased formation and maintenance of safe and stable two-parent households.
- Reduced incidence of teen pregnancy.

13. State Maintenance of Effort

Federal Citation: 42 U.S.C. § 609(a)(7)

Oklahoma will maintain state expenditures consistent with the federal TANF Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement.

The State's required MOE expenditure level is generally 80 percent of applicable historical state expenditures, reduced to 75 percent when the State satisfies the applicable federal work participation requirements.

Oklahoma may count qualifying state expenditures for eligible families and authorized activities consistent with federal TANF statutes and regulations.

13.1 Programs for TANF Cash Assistance Recipients

The following programs provide ongoing support to families receiving TANF cash assistance.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

See Section 11.1.

Transitional TANF Services

See Section 11.2.

Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)

Oklahoma may count qualifying state childcare expenditures toward TANF MOE when permitted under federal law and applicable CCDF requirements.

These expenditures may support childcare services for families receiving TANF assistance or other eligible families at risk of becoming dependent on TANF.

Childcare payments are subject to applicable program maximums based on:

- Family income.
- Child age.
- Type of childcare provider.
- Applicable reimbursement schedules.

Income eligibility is determined under the childcare program's applicable standards.

Child Care Direct

Subject to available funding, Oklahoma may provide childcare assistance through direct state program expenditures.

Childcare eligibility, payment amounts, and allowable expenditures will be determined under applicable CCDF and TANF requirements.

Child Welfare – Direct Benefits

Oklahoma may count qualifying child welfare expenditures toward TANF MOE when the expenditures meet applicable federal requirements.

See Section 12.4 and Section 12.5.

13.3 Administrative Costs

Oklahoma will classify and report administrative expenditures in accordance with applicable federal TANF requirements.

Administrative costs will be appropriately allocated, documented, and reported.

The federal TANF grant administrative cost limitation, and any applicable exceptions will be applied separately from the treatment of state MOE expenditures.

14. Federal Certifications and Assurances

Federal Citation: 42 U.S.C. § 602(a)

The State of Oklahoma certifies that it will administer the TANF program in accordance with Title IV-A of the Social Security Act, applicable federal regulations, and Oklahoma law.

14.1 Administration of the TANF Program

Oklahoma Human Services is the state agency responsible for administering and supervising the Oklahoma TANF program, subject to applicable state agency authorities and responsibilities.

14.2 Child Support Enforcement

Oklahoma certifies that it will operate a child support enforcement program under the State Plan approved pursuant to Title IV-D of the Social Security Act.

14.3 Foster Care and Adoption Assistance

Oklahoma certifies that it will operate foster care and adoption assistance programs under the State Plan approved pursuant to Title IV-E of the Social Security Act and comply with applicable federal requirements.

14.4 Public Consultation

Oklahoma will provide opportunities for local governments and private-sector organizations to participate in consultation regarding the development and design of TANF services.

Local governments and private-sector organizations will be provided at least 45 days to submit comments on the State Plan and the design of welfare services, consistent with federal requirements.

14.5 Equitable Access for Tribal Members

Oklahoma will provide equitable access to federally funded TANF assistance for members of federally recognized Indian tribes who reside in Oklahoma and are not receiving assistance under an approved tribal TANF program, consistent with federal requirements.

14.6 Fraud Prevention and Program Integrity

Oklahoma will maintain and enforce standards and procedures designed to prevent fraud and abuse in the administration of TANF.

These standards and procedures will address:

- Nepotism.
- Conflicts of interest.
- Kickbacks.
- Political patronage.
- Other prohibited practices.
- Appropriate program integrity and financial accountability requirements.

14.7 Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, and Sexual Harassment

Oklahoma will maintain standards and procedures to ensure that applicants and potential applicants are informed of available assistance for victims of sexual harassment and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

OKDHS personnel responsible for TANF administration will receive required training concerning these issues, applicable state procedures, and confidentiality protections.

14.8 Administration Consistent with TANF Purposes

Oklahoma will administer its TANF program to accomplish the four statutory purposes:

1. Providing assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives.
2. Ending dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage.
3. Preventing and reducing the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies.
4. Encouraging the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

14.9 State Maintenance of Effort

Oklahoma will meet the applicable state MOE expenditure requirements under Section 409(a)(7) of the Social Security Act.

14.10 Program Accountability

OKDHS will maintain administrative and financial controls necessary to ensure that TANF funds are used for authorized purposes and that program expenditures are appropriately documented and reported.

15. State Executive Certification

The State of Oklahoma certifies that it will operate a Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program in accordance with Title IV-A of the Social Security Act and applicable federal and state requirements.

The program is designed to:

- Provide assistance so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives.
- 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.
- Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

The program will be administered under the name Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

State of Oklahoma

Governor: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Administering Agency: Oklahoma Human Services

Agency Director: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Signature blocks are proposed for review. The actual authorized signatories and required federal certification format must be confirmed before submission.