



DCF Legislative Report

January 11, 2024

TESTIMONY FROM:

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TESTIMONY ON:

Federal & State Assistance Program Policy Updates

DCF | ASSISTANCE PROGRAM POLICY UPDATES

Policy Updates in response to the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (FRA):

SNAP

The FRA gradually increases the age of those subject to ABAWD time limit rules and adds new exemptions. State agencies were mandated to apply the new exemptions at initial and recertification applications received on or after September 1, 2023. New exemptions include:

- A homeless individual, as defined in Section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act (FNA) of 2008 and at 7 CFR 271.2, means an individual who lacks a fixed and regular nighttime residence or an individual whose primary residence is:
 - A supervised shelter designed to provide temporary accommodations (such as a welfare hotel or congregate shelter);
 - A halfway house or similar institution that provides temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized;
 - A temporary accommodation for not more than 90 days in the residence of another individual; or
 - A place not designed for, or ordinarily used, as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings (a hallway, a bus station, a lobby, or similar places).
- A veteran, as defined in Section 5126(f)(13)(F) of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act of 2023, means an individual who served in the United States Armed Forces (such as Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, and National Guard), including an individual who served in a reserve component of the Armed Forces, and who was discharged or released therefrom, regardless of the condition of such discharge or release.
- An individual who is 24 years of age or younger and who was in foster care under the responsibility of a State on the date of attaining 18 years of age or such higher age as the State has elected as defined under Section 475(8)(B)(iii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 675(8)(B)(iii)). This includes any individual who was in a foster care program run by the State, District, Territory, or Indian Organization as of their 18th birthday or later and who is under 25 years of age.

FRA gradually increases the age of those subject to the ABAWD time limit rules as follows:

- *July 1, 2023: Prior to the FRA, KS statute required SNAP recipients ages 18-59 without dependents in the home to participate in DCF's Food Assistance Employment and Training (FAET) program. USDA FNS approved the updated KS FAET state plan to be implemented effective October 1, 2023.*
- September 1, 2023: ABAWD time limit rules apply to individuals aged 18-50
- October 1, 2023: ABAWD time limit rules apply to individuals aged 18-52
- October 1, 2024: ABAWD time limit rules apply to individuals aged 18-54

TANF

- Effective 10/01/2025, the baseline for the caseload reduction credit shifts from FFY 2005 to FFY 2015
- Effective 10/01/2024, Administration for Children and Families will select up to five states to participate in Pilot Projects for Promoting Accountability by Measuring Work. DCF is currently reviewing the application and determining our next steps.
 - Participating states will negotiate performance benchmarks for work and family outcomes for TANF recipients.
 - Percentage of work-eligible individuals in unsubsidized employment during 2nd quarter after exiting TANF
 - Level of earnings in 2nd and 4th quarters after exiting TANF
 - Other indicators of family stability and well-being as established by the Secretary.

- Duration
 - Six fiscal years
 - One year to establish benchmark data and negotiate targets and five years to measure performance against the targets.
- Effective 10/01/2024, states are required to collect and submit specific work outcomes.
 - Percentage of individuals who were work-eligible at TANF exit.
 - Percentage of work-eligible individuals in unsubsidized employment during 2nd quarter after exiting TANF
 - median earnings in 2nd quarter after exiting TANF.
 - Percentage of individuals under age 24, attending high school or enrolled in a HS equivalency program, and are work-eligible or were work-eligible individuals as of the time of TANF exit, who obtain a HS degree or equivalent while receiving TANF or within one year after TANF exit.

Policy Updates in response to the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2023:

Summer EBT

- The Consolidated Appropriations Act 2023 authorized a permanent, nationwide Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (Summer EBT) Program beginning in 2024.
 - The summer operational period is June 1st – August 15th and each eligible child receives \$40 per month.
 - Benefits will be automatically issued for children who receive free or reduced-price school lunch and/or whose families receive SNAP benefits.
 - Families whose children do not receive an auto issued benefit will be able to apply through DCF's online Self-Service Portal at any point during the summer operational period.
 - While the benefits are funded 100% by federal funds, the program requires a 50/50 state match for program administration costs.