



Ohio Family and Children First
John R. Kasich, Governor of Ohio

Cabinet Council

- Department of Aging
- Department of Developmental Disabilities
- Department of Education
- Department of Health
- Department of Job and Family Services
- Department of Medicaid
- Department of Rehabilitation and Correction
- Department of Youth Services
- Office of Budget and Management
- Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services
- Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

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MEMORANDUM

To: TANF Crisis Funding Stakeholder Group
From: Chad Hibbs, OFCF Director
Date: February 22, 2018

RE: Family and Youth in Crisis TANF Funding

The SFY 2018-2019 State Biennium Budget designated use of earmarked Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds for provision of supports to families at risk of relinquishing custody of their children solely for the purpose of obtaining needed services. Pursuant to Section 307.96:

FAMILY AND YOUTH IN CRISIS of the foregoing appropriation item 600689, TANF Block Grant, \$5,000,000 in each fiscal year shall be utilized to provide services to youth with complex care needs whose parent or legal guardian is at risk of relinquishing custody of the youth in order to access needed services. Funds shall be administered pursuant to division (A)(3) of section 121.37 of the Revised Code.

The legislation further charges the office of Ohio Family and Children First (OFCF) with oversight and management of this initiative. OFCF and Ohio's Cabinet agencies are committed to improving programs, services, and supports for children with multiple system needs, and will continue to support the FCFC Service Coordination Process.

Accompanying this memo is the guidance documentation for the use of these designated TANF funds. The application documentation that is required to access these funds for the identified population of focus and the stated purpose will be forthcoming in the very near future once funding is made available through our funding partners. A webinar will be provided that will review the guidance, the eligible services and explain the reimbursement application process.

The designated use of these funds aligns with TANF purpose 1 identified in federal regulations as - *Assisting needy families so that children can be cared for in their own homes.* Understanding the nature and the intent of these designated funds, and recognizing that TANF funds are restrictive for this legislatively-designated purpose, OFCF and Ohio's Cabinet agencies have developed a framework that meets the stated purpose of these funds while also accounting for the restrictions of the identified funding source, including:

- An expansive population of focus that encompasses those most frequently identified as at risk of custody relinquishment in order to obtain needed supports; and
- A flexible array of the most commonly identified services and supports currently provided to this at risk population so that less restrictive local funding could be used for more creative ideas tailored to the unique needs of these families in crisis.

The implementation and the oversight of these designated TANF funds will become the most recent example of the current efforts at both the state and local level for multi-system youth. These examples include work through OFCF and Ohio's Cabinet agencies, and the work of the county Family and Children First Councils (FCFCs) on behalf of the youth and families involved in the programming and service coordination process of their FCFC.

Over the past several months, OFCF and Ohio's Cabinet agencies have worked with the aid of feedback from stakeholders to develop the attached guidance. We have made every attempt, within the identified confines of federal TANF regulations, to make modifications to the guidance in response to stakeholder feedback. With these modifications, this TANF funding is positioned to provide a reasonable level of fiscal certainty while also increasing flexibility of the use of local funding that would otherwise be designated to pay for a common set of frequently provided services and supports. By providing this reasonable level of funding certainty for a group of common services and supports, this places counties in a better position to utilize their advantage of being more flexible, and in a better position to respond to the unique needs of these at risk families to determine the most appropriate level of care required.

Ohio Family and Children First and Ohio's Cabinet agencies will be analyzing the information that will be received via the submitted applications to identify trends, gaps and resource utilization as an opportunity for ongoing review of the framework to make any additional modifications as the initiative moves forward. Ohio Family and Children First and the Cabinet Council will be available to provide guidance on these difficult cases if need arises during the planning process.

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