

Alaska State Plan
for the
Temporary Assistance
for Needy Families
(TANF) Program



Office of the Governor
and
Department of Health
Juneau, Alaska

Plan Effective December 31, 2022

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APPENDICES

**NEED STANDARDS TABLES
ORGANIZATIONAL CHARTS**

- Living in a community without available childcare for a child under age 6. Individuals may be referred to other programs or agencies for special services such as vocational rehabilitation, counseling, substance abuse treatment, or other medical services as those needs are identified.

Alaska is not implementing the federal option that requires an exempt parent or caretaker to participate in community work experience activities after two years of benefit receipt. The state chose to opt out of this provision because mandatory participation after two years of assistance may interfere with time spent in activities that will assist the participant to gain early paid employment.

Alaska needs flexibility in assigning program participants to work activities to ensure activities are appropriate to the work season, labor market, and available opportunities, especially in remote areas of Alaska.

7.1 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Alaska has implemented special provisions for victims of family violence in coordination with the State Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Further guidance regarding the application of this exemption is in the Alaska Temporary Assistance Manual. Alaska will:

- Screen individuals applying for and receiving ATAP for past or current domestic violence victimization,
- Refer domestic violence victims to specialized, community-based services including counseling and shelters,
- Prepare individual service strategies consistent with safety needs,
- Waive program requirements including work participation and child support cooperation,
- Waive program ineligibility due to exceeding benefit time limits when compliance with these requirements would risk the physical, mental or emotional well-being of the family, and
- Reassess the program waiver, at a minimum, every six months.

7.2 CHILDCARE

A parent or caretaker relative of a child under age six is exempt from the requirement to participate in work activities if he or she demonstrates an inability to find needed childcare because:

- Appropriate childcare within a reasonable distance from the home or activity site is unavailable,
- Affordable childcare is unavailable, or
- Suitable informal childcare is unavailable.

Childcare is available when a childcare provider is located in the community where the parent lives or participates in their work activities and the provider's hours of operation meet the parent's needs.

Childcare is appropriate when the childcare provider:

- Has the ability to provide safe and competent care for children of the same age and development level as the participant's children,
- Is willing to care for the child(ren), and
- Is located within 30 minutes travel time by public or private transportation from the parent's home or activity site.

Childcare is affordable when the family has access to a childcare program to help pay the cost.

Informal childcare is care provided by a relative or friend who is not a licensed childcare provider.

8. SERVICES PROVIDED

Services provided to ATAP participants may include:

- On-the-job training and subsidized employment,
- Short-term job training,
- Counseling and skill building,
- Help with childcare expenses,
- Referrals for paid employment,
- Referrals for community and business work experience,
- Structured job search with Job Clubs and workshops,
- Customized employment, and
- Transitional services including childcare assistance, Medicaid, and post-employment support.

9. PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

The Department uses a variety of methods to assess and evaluate how well we meet our goal of moving Alaskans into jobs so they can support their families.

9.1 ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

Work Services: The Department uses specific data based performance measures to determine program effectiveness. These measures include an on-going assessment of program success using the federally mandated work participation rates.

Other measures include:

- Percent of adults employed within 90 days,
- Percent of cases that close with earnings,
- Percent of cases that close and do not reopen, and
- Percent of cases participating in a job development activity.

ATAP data is gathered by the Eligibility Information System (EIS) used by the Division. Ongoing system enhancements are made to evaluate the effectiveness of program policies and to monitor the attainment of regional goals. The Department uses longitudinal data based on evaluation of individual family progress towards safety, stability, and self-sufficiency to measure program efficiency.

Over time the total number of families making progress towards family health, stability, and ability to work is used to determine if program strategies and services are successful in moving parents towards self-sufficiency and employment.

9.2 PROGRAM EVALUATION

During 1999 and 2000, the Department collaborated with the University of Alaska Anchorage to conduct a welfare “leavers study,” *Reaching for Independence: A Study of Families That Have Left the Alaska Temporary Assistance Program*. The main objective of this project was to determine the characteristics and status of families that left the Alaska Temporary Assistance Program as well as those who left and later returned. Additionally, the study helped to clarify the nature of barriers experienced by recipients in finding or keeping employment. Results of this study have been used to assess the effectiveness of the Department’s efforts to move welfare recipients into jobs and have informed efforts to improve service delivery.

9.3 LONG-TERM RECIPIENT STUDY

The Department collaborated again with the University of Alaska Anchorage in 2001-2002 to conduct a study of long-term recipients of Temporary Assistance, *Facing the Final Countdown: A Study of Long-Term Alaska Temporary Assistance Program Recipients*. The purpose of this study was to discover the factors associated with long-term reliance on Temporary Assistance and the degree to which those factors were addressed by the program. The Department has used the results to continue to develop effective policy and service responses.

9.4 CHALLENGES TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY STUDY

The Department collaborated with the University of Alaska Anchorage, Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies in 2011-2012 for a new study on the barriers that impact Temporary Assistance parents' ability to go to work. *Evaluating the Challenges to Self-sufficiency Faced by TANF Clients in Alaska* studied current Temporary Assistance families with long-term reliance on assistance and those families with a parent unable to participate full time in work and other activities. The study found that there were three primary challenges to self-sufficiency – health and medical problems, personal qualities, and community characteristics. Especially prevalent were depression, injury, disability, domestic violence, and a variety of mental health issues.

The Division has acted on study findings by evaluating all families on assistance and identifying those experiencing multiple and profound challenges. All families who need more intensive help, partner plan coordination, and a continuum of service to make progress towards becoming employed now receive the level of services they need regardless of where they live and who their local Work Services provider may be.

10. CURRENT WORKERS DISPLACEMENT PROTECTION

Currently employed workers are protected from displacement by state labor laws and Department policies. Workers covered by a collective bargaining agreement use agreement procedures to address complaints about ATAP participants and job displacement. Otherwise, the Department conducts a hearing to determine the validity of the complaint. If valid, the Temporary Assistance participant's placement is terminated.

11. INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT WELFARE TO WORK

11.1 ALASKA WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

The Alaska Workforce Investment Board (AWIB) is focused on developing a workforce system that is useful, accessible, and understandable to businesses looking for qualified workers, unemployed Alaskans looking for jobs, and incumbent workers wanting to upgrade their skills in a changing work environment. The board provides policy oversight of state and federally funded job training and vocational education programs. Board members, a majority of whom are business and industry leaders, look at employment trends and emerging occupations to ensure training is customized and Alaskans are prepared for high demand, good wage jobs. The AWIB helps meet the workforce development needs of economically disadvantaged citizens and Alaskans with disabilities by ensuring access to quality job training and employment services statewide.

11.2 ALASKA JOB CENTER NETWORK

Alaska has developed one-stop job centers in various communities. These offices provide job seekers, including Temporary Assistance recipients, with professional and convenient resources to help them find work. Key agencies include the Divisions of Public Assistance, Employment Security and Vocational Rehabilitation, other Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) agencies and local non-profit organizations. Alaska's TANF program is looking forward to further developing this relationship as WIOA provisions are implemented to serve the needs of individuals with barriers to employment.

12. GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF PROGRAM

Diverse economic conditions within Alaska dictate that programs are locally administered to the greatest extent possible. State government recognizes that local knowledge and resources must be used to place clients into jobs or other meaningful work activities. The state collaborates and contracts with community agencies for delivery of some services and purchases others through service agreements. Partnerships between the Division of Public Assistance field staff and community agencies are forged at the local level. Strong partnerships with Native organizations are an essential means of service delivery throughout Alaska.

ALASKA TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ATAP) BENEFITS

Financial eligibility for ATAP is based primarily on family resources and income. Other family economic considerations include childcare, shelter costs, and the number of dependent children living in the home. Temporary Assistance payments are intended to help with basic living expenses and are calculated on a monthly basis. Eligibility is reviewed periodically and redeterminations are made whenever a change in family circumstances is reported.

13. FAMILY NEED

The Department determines which individuals in the household are members of the Alaska Temporary Assistance economic unit. The Department establishes:

- With whom the dependent child lives,
- Who, of the individuals living with the dependent child, is responsible for the child and if their income and resources are available to the child,
- If the child is financially needy, and
- If any of the individuals in the household are legally or financially responsible for the dependent child's caretaker relative.

Financial need is determined to exist if the family resources and income are below the need standards set by the Department in regulation. There are four sets of need standards used to determine if a family is eligible to receive ATAP based on the composition of the family unit.

The tables used to apply these standards are attached to this plan as an appendix. These standards are adjusted each year by a percentage increase equal to the cost-of-living percentage increase in Social Security Insurance benefits.

13.1. RESOURCES

ATAP rules allow families to keep up to \$2,000 in assets, or \$3,000 if the assistance unit includes an individual who is 60 years of age or older. Program rules will exclude the value of a vehicle that is necessary for family transportation, to participate in work or an approved work activity, as a family's home, or to transport a disabled family member. The equity value of any non-exempt vehicles will be counted as part of the resource limit.

13.2 EARNED INCOME DEDUCTIONS

As an incentive to employment, ATAP allows an earned income deduction when determining a participant's payment amount. The earned income deductions are designed to encourage work and to ease the transition from assistance to paid employment. The following deductions are allowed when determining net income eligibility for individuals who have received ATAP in at least one of the previous four months:

Month of Earnings	Amount of Deductions
1 through 12 months of earned income receipt	\$150 + 33% of remaining earned income
13 through 24 months of earnings	\$150 + 25% of remaining earned income
25 through 36 months of earnings	\$150 + 20% of remaining earned income
37 through 48 months of earnings	\$150 + 15% of remaining earned income
49 through 60 months of earnings	\$150 + 10% of remaining earned income
Over 60 months of earnings	\$150 + 0%

13.3 2020 CENSUS INCOME DISREGARD

In an effort to assist the federal government with obtaining the most accurate data for Alaska, the state has elected to disregard an ATAP recipient's income earned through temporary employment from the 2020 census. Not only will Alaska as a whole benefit from the income disregard, so too will ATAP recipients.

This opportunity allows for ATAP recipients to learn and practice important job skills, meet their weekly work hour requirement, and earn additional income to assist with attaining the goal of becoming self-sufficient.

13.4 PAYMENTS

The maximum levels of ATAP payments for basic living expenses are set in law:

- \$514 a month for a family consisting of a pregnant woman in her third trimester of pregnancy and no other dependent children.
- \$452 a month for a dependent child living with a non-needy caretaker relative, plus \$102 for each additional child.
- \$821 for a dependent child living with one needy parent or caretaker relative, plus \$102 for each additional child.

- \$821 per month, for a dependent child living with two parents both of whom are able to perform gainful activity, plus \$102 for each additional child. During the months of July, August and September, this amount is reduced by 50 percent.
- \$923 per month for a dependent child living with two parents, one of whom is physically or mentally unable to perform gainful activity, plus \$102 for each additional child.

14. CHILDCARE

Alaska developed a childcare program entitled Parents Achieving Self-sufficiency (PASS) to ensure seamless childcare services for families as they work to achieve economic self-sufficiency. Childcare costs associated with work, approved education and training, community service or other paid and non-paid work activities are paid for through the PASS program.

PASS is a three-tiered program that provides seamless childcare subsidies as recipients move from Temporary Assistance toward self-sufficiency. To participate in any PASS program, a parent must be working, attending school or training program, or participating in activities assigned on their FSSP.

PASS I is funded through TANF and is available for Temporary Assistance families engaged in work, job readiness or activities necessary to achieve self-sufficiency. PASS II is funded by TANF and the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) and is available for up to twelve months for transitional purposes for those employed Temporary Assistance families whose case closes.

The PASS III program is funded by CCDF and provides subsidized childcare for qualifying low-income families. PASS II and PASS III families must be engaged in work, education, or training activities and require a family contribution toward the cost of childcare based on a sliding fee scale depending on a family's gross income and family size.

Provider recruitment and referrals for childcare are accomplished primarily through Alaska's statewide Resource and Referral Network. Alaska requires that all childcare providers who participate in the PASS program be state or Municipality of Anchorage licensed, state approved, or certified by the United States Department of Defense or United States Coast Guard. Tribally Approved or Tribally Certified providers with standards that meet or exceed the State of Alaska's standards are also eligible to participate in the PASS program.

15. SUPPORT SERVICES BENEFITS

The Division contracts services necessary to support work activities and to promote self-sufficiency for ATAP participants and recipients transitioning into the workforce.

These services include, but are not limited to:

- Transportation,
- Job related training,
- Tools and equipment,
- Employment related clothing,
- Minor auto repair/car insurance,
- Pre-employment interview expenses,
- Start-up expenses, and
- Social Security application assistance.

16. SHELTER

A portion of the ATAP payment is intended to cover shelter costs. Families with shelter costs below the shelter allowance will receive a smaller benefit payment than a family with shelter costs equal to or higher than the shelter allowance. Payments for families with low or no shelter costs will be reduced by up to 30 percent.

17. BENEFIT DELIVERY

ATAP benefits will be paid in the form of cash warrants, wage subsidies, vouchers, and/or third-party vendor payments. The Department has implemented electronic benefit transfer (EBT) as a form of issuing ATAP and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for recipients.

ATAP recipients have surcharge-free access to their cash benefits via point of sale (POS) devices at Food and Nutrition Service approved retailers throughout Alaska. Additionally, recipients are able to pay a minimal fee of \$0.32 to make a withdrawal at any Automated Teller Machine (ATM). All recipients are educated on how to cancel a potential transaction that would charge an excessive surcharge and how to locate another ATM or POS device with a no surcharge.

- ATAP recipients receive a letter in the mail with their EBT card that explains how to use the card fee free and when fees will be applied if used outside of the fee free parameters. The Division also provides fee and other applicable EBT information via the “Your Quest Card”

brochure and the DPA Administrative Procedures Manual, section 122-15 Quest Cardholder Support. The brochure is available in hardcopy via lobby or upon fax or mail out request and ADA compliant electronic copy via the Division's public website or upon email request. The manual section is accessible through DPA's public website.

The State of Alaska has restricted access of TANF benefits from EBT cards (via ATMs or POS devices) at any liquor store, bar, gambling establishment, or adult entertainment establishment. The Department of Health partners with the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development to identify businesses in Alaska where TANF funds cannot be spent.

The State of Alaska collaborated with JP Morgan Chase to notify ATAP recipients and relevant businesses throughout Alaska, of federal statute P.L. 112-96, and their expectations for compliance.

The State of Alaska monitors EBT ATM transactions on a monthly basis at applicable businesses throughout Alaska.

Additionally, applicants and recipients are made aware of this restriction by language included on our application for services, eligibility review forms, notices of action, proliferating signs for district offices, and posting information on the Division of Public Assistance website. Alaska has updated its manuals for the ATAP and Administrative Procedures regarding PL 112-96 for all field staff.

18. PRIVACY

The Division of Public Assistance (DPA) has adopted and will enforce regulations governing the custody, use, and preservation of records including the names and addresses of recipients of any public assistance program. Except for purposes directly connected with the administration of public assistance programs, or in connection with a Legislator's official business, no one may disclose, receive or use names, or any information about people who participate in public assistance programs directly or indirectly. Confidentiality rules allow release of a recipient's address to a law enforcement officer who requests the information and identifies the recipient as a fugitive felon or parole violator. However, only an office manager or an employee of similar or higher rank is authorized to provide this information to law enforcement.

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Alaska's TANF programs promote parental responsibility. ATAP incorporates child support, minor parent program requirements, and program non-compliance penalties as previously described. Other efforts to promote parental responsibility are described under Other TANF Funded Services. In addition, as a companion to ATAP, Alaska enacted in 1996 and reauthorized in 2001 child support provisions intended to strengthen families and promote parental responsibilities. These provisions include:

- Parents of unmarried minor parents may be ordered by a court to pay child support for their grandchild until the minor parent becomes an adult.
- The interest rate on child support arrearages is reduced from 12% to 6 % to encourage delinquent obligors to comply.
- Occupational and driver licenses of obligors who are three or more months in arrears on their child support payments are withheld unless the obligors make arrangements with the CSSD.
- Alaska's participation in the National Registry of Child Support Cases and a National Directory of new hires to support the interstate enforcement of child support.

NATIVE FAMILY ASSISTANCE

Native American Tribes may administer family assistance programs under their own TANF block grants. Federal law specifically names the twelve regional Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act non-profit organizations and the Metlakatla Indian Community as eligible federal block grant recipients in Alaska. These organizations can receive block grants under the Tribal Family Assistance Program upon approval of a plan submitted to the Secretary of the US Department of Health and Human Services.

There are currently seven Alaska Native organizations operating TANF-funded Native Family Assistance programs in Alaska: Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) in interior Alaska, Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA) in the Bristol Bay region, Cook Inlet Tribal Corporation, Inc. (CITCI) in the Municipality of Anchorage and Mat-Su Valley, the Association of Village Council Presidents in western Alaska (AVCP), the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (CCTHITA) in southeast Alaska, Kodiak Area Native Association (KANA) in the Kodiak area, and Maniilaq Inc. in the Northwest Arctic region.

Legislation passed in Alaska in 2000 and reauthorized in 2005 gave the state of Alaska the authority to award grants to certain Alaska Native organizations who develop and operate their own TANF programs. Native organizations use the state grant to augment their federal TANF block grant to deliver services and activities that promote self-sufficiency and enhance the lives of families in their services areas.

The Native regional non-profit organizations are community-based with close ties to local economies. These organizations are able to deliver locally based and culturally relevant programs. The state also contracts and grants with Native organizations to provide for the delivery of Native Employment Work (NEW) Services in those areas not served by Native Family Assistance Programs.

The Department provides state funds to certain Alaska Native Tribes that have a plan approved by the federal Department of Health and Human Services and have signed a grant agreement with Alaska DOH.

More information on Native Family Assistance Programs in Alaska may be viewed at:

http://dpaweb.hss.state.ak.us/manuals/NFAP/NFAP_Guide.htm.

OTHER TANF FUNDED SERVICES

The Department uses segregated federal TANF funds for other programs for needy families. These programs provide services that promote one or more of the four purposes of TANF block grants. These programs are designed to: provide assistance to allow children to be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives, promote job preparation and work, prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies, and encourage the formation and maintenance of two parent families.

19. TRANSPORTATION

The Department supports the promotion and development of transportation alternatives for ATAP participants who are making the transition to work and self-sufficiency. This support is provided through our participation in collaborative planning, and by using segregated federal TANF funds to support a public transportation systems capacity to serve ATAP participants in communities where lack of transportation options impacts participants' ability to obtain and maintain employment. Most of the funds are used to match federal grants received by community organizations providing transit and paratransit services. Some funds are used to arrange transportation for individual ATAP recipients. The Department is working collaboratively with the Alaska Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Alaska Department of Labor (DOL) in these efforts. In addition, ATAP encourages local transportation initiatives developed by communities and directed toward addressing their unique transportation obstacles.

20. PREGNANCY PREVENTION

The Department provides a grant to the Division of Public Health's **Adolescent Health Program** to educate teens and young adults (both male and female) on the problems and risks associated with unintended teen pregnancies. The program works with community organizations to provide education about preventing pregnancies, clinical services, building self-esteem and awareness, and positive youth development activities across 30 communities in Alaska. The goal is to reduce the number of these pregnancies as a means to improve the family's opportunities to achieve self-sufficiency.

To achieve this goal, the Department has focused on unwed and unintended pregnancies and has set an immediate goal of reducing the incidence of births to females between the ages of 15-17 to 8 per 1,000 statewide.

The Department collaborates with community partners to provide education, especially to teens, on the problems and risks associated with out-of-wedlock

and teen parent pregnancies. In areas of the state with high teen and out-of-wedlock pregnancies and high numbers of unintended pregnancies, efforts are focused on improving access to family planning services and long-term contraceptives for at-risk teens and women.

In conjunction with pregnancy prevention efforts, the Department provides education to the public on statutory rape and basic training to community partners on identifying and reporting incidences of statutory rape.

Division of Public Assistance (DPA) staff actively seek opportunities to engage and participate with a variety of local and state partners. Many of our Work Services contractors have direct relationships with local law enforcement. Catholic Social Services has increased communication with local and Federal agencies to address human trafficking issues. DPA has multiple provider agreements with adult education providers.

Alaska, using non-TANF funding, supports programs designed to reach Alaska services systems, families and individuals statewide to promote healthy relationships, children and families. DOH, the Office of the Governor and other state agencies target children and adults of all genders, and workers dedicated to supporting the health, safety and education of Alaskans. The wide range of activities encompasses work to support reduction of teen and out-of-wedlock pregnancy through reducing statutory rape, sexual assault and domestic violence. Efforts promote respect, healthy relationships and safety of all Alaskans.

21. SERVICES FOR REFUGEE FAMILIES

Refugee families new to Alaska often encounter multiple barriers to employment and self-sufficiency including language, culture, health, transportation and basic navigation of Alaska social and health services. In order to support refugee families receiving ATAP benefits, DPA collaborates with Catholic Social Services, the only Office of Refugee Assistance funded program in Alaska.

Refugee families new to Alaska who receive ATAP are referred to Catholic Social Services for work preparation and placement, English as a second language (ESL) classes and life skills education tailored to their needs. This reduces the number of agencies and programs families must access to receive the support they need to successfully plan for and achieve self-sufficiency through employment and ensures that work services which are relevant and effective are provided to this unique population.

ADMINISTRATION

22. ALASKA STATUTE

State statute requires the Department to:

- Provide assistance with basic living expenses and self-sufficiency services to needy children and their families.
- Determine program standards that provide clients with incentives to work, participate in financial planning, and opportunities to develop self-sufficiency.
- Prepare a state plan to submit to the federal government to assure that federal money is available to the state for operation of ATAP.
- Administer the program to assure consistency with federal requirements.
- Report to the federal government and state legislature information required to comply with any provisions the federal government determines necessary to ensure correct and verifiable information on the program.
- Conduct studies and research in order to evaluate and monitor the effectiveness of the state program.
- Adopt regulations and take actions necessary to implement, interpret, and administer ATAP.

23. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ADMINISTRATION OF TANF

The Department of Health administers ATAP through the Division of Public Assistance (DPA). The organizational structure of the Department and the Division with primary responsibility for the administration of TANF is attached as an appendix.

24. MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT

The Department funds a number of activities in order for Alaska to meet TANF Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirements. For the purposes of claiming MOE, Alaska's definition of a child is any individual under the age of 19.

- A. The following programs are state funded providing assistance to households with an eligible child who are within the federal poverty limitations for Alaska:
- Monthly cash assistance payments and child support pass through payments.
 - Childcare provided to ATAP families who are participating in work, education, training or other activity included in the Family Self-Sufficiency Plan.

- Native Family Assistance Program (NFAP) Grants to eligible Tribal Organizations that administer their own federal TANF or NEW Program to support basic assistance payments and other allowable expenditures eligible as MOE for Alaska’s Department of Health.
- A percentage of the costs of the Department’s administration of activities as described in this plan.
- Alaska’s Child Support Services Division partners with Tribal TANF programs and provides countable monthly pass-through payments and additional MOE expenditures.
- Parents Achieving Self Sufficiency (PASS) II and III childcare subsidies paid to child care providers and parents as determined eligible by the Division of Public Assistance or its grantees.
- Parent(s) in the family must be participating in an eligible activity of working, attending school or a job training program, and meet non-financial and financial eligibility criteria, and
- Families must not exceed income limits which are set at 85% of adjusted 2016 median income for Alaska: \$5,156 for a household of 3, \$6,107 for a household of 4, etc.

B. Additional programs and services that are funded by the Department or with local funds to meet the TANF MOE requirements, include:

- **Programs targeted towards “at risk” youth** – Programs which provide after school programming, mentorship opportunities, summer employment, and other supervised support programs and which provide additional educational opportunities for at-risk youth. In some instances, participants may be given grants or scholarships to attend programming with other organizations.
- **Food and Nutrition** – Programs which provide or support the distribution of emergency food assistance to families through food banks.
- **Housing Assistance** – Programs that provide financial assistance to families to prevent homelessness and assist in finding permanent housing.
- **Employability Training** – Education and training programs to build skills and capacity in technology, financial security, and other employment related areas.
- **Youth and College Scholarships** – Scholarships and other financial aid programs which provide opportunities for young adults to attend college or post-secondary programs.
- **Various United Way programs** – Provides financial support to programs that provide a variety of services focused on achieving a TANF goal. Programs are focused on supporting “at-risk” youth and families.

- **Information and Referral Services** – Programs and services which aim to connect people with information and resources about health and human services programs and services available in the community.
- **Support for Children involved with Child Welfare** – Support to help children in foster care remain in their own homes or the homes of relatives.

CERTIFICATIONS

The State of Alaska will operate a program to provide Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) so that the children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives; to end dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work and marriage; to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and establish annual numerical goals for preventing and reducing the incidence of these pregnancies; and encourage the formation of two-parent families.

This program is known as the Alaska Temporary Assistance Program or ATAP.

In administering and operating a program which provides Temporary Assistance for Needy Families with minor children under title IV-A of the Social Security Act, the Governor of Alaska, Governor Mike Dunleavy, hereby certifies that:

- The Department of Health, Division of Public Assistance, is the agency responsible for administering the ATAP program in Alaska.
- Local governments and private sector organizations have been consulted regarding the plan and design of welfare services in Alaska so that services are provided in a manner appropriate to local populations; and these organizations have been provided a 45-day comment period.
- Alaska will operate a Child Support Enforcement program under the State Plan approved under part D.
- Alaska will operate a Foster Care and Adoption Assistance program in accordance with part E and will take all necessary actions to ensure that children receiving assistance are eligible for medical assistance under title XIX of the Social Security Act.
- Alaska will provide each member of an Indian Tribe who is domiciled in the state and is not eligible for assistance under a Tribal Family Assistance plan approved under Section 412 of the Social Security Act, with equitable access to assistance under the state program funded under this part attributable to funds provided by the federal government.
- Alaska has established and enforces standards and procedures to ensure against program fraud and abuse, including standards and procedures concerning nepotism, conflicts of interest among individuals responsible for the administration and supervision of the state program, kickbacks, and the use of political patronage.
- The State Plan is available to the public.

- Alaska will screen for and identify individuals receiving assistance under this part with a history of domestic violence while maintaining the confidentiality of such individuals and refer such individuals to counseling and supportive services. Furthermore, the state will waive, pursuant to a determination of good cause, other program requirements such as time limits for individuals receiving assistance, residency requirements, child support cooperation requirements, and family cap provisions, in cases where compliance with such requirements would make it more difficult for individuals receiving assistance under this part to escape domestic violence or unfairly penalize such individuals who are or have been victimized by such violence, or individuals who are at risk of further domestic violence.
- Alaska has established and is enforcing standards and procedures to ensure that applicants and potential applicants for TANF are notified of assistance made available by the state to victims of sexual harassment and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.
- Alaska’s case workers and other agency personnel responsible for administering the TANF program are trained in: the nature and dynamics of sexual harassment and domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking; state standards and procedures relating to the prevention of, and assistance for; individuals who are victims of sexual harassment or survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking; and methods of ascertaining and ensuring the confidentiality of personal information and documentation related to applicants for assistance and their children who have provided notice about their experiences of sexual harassment, domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

CERTIFIED BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

Mike Dunleavy, Governor

Date

FUNDING

Section 403(a)(1)(A) provides that each eligible state shall be entitled to receive for each of the fiscal years 1996 through 2020, a grant in an amount equal to the state family assistance grant as defined in section 403(a)(1)(B).

I. Payments to Agency Administering the TANF Program

Payments for the TANF program will be made to the organization managing the AFDC/JOBS programs as of August 22, 1996. This organization is the Alaska Department of Health, Division of Public Assistance.

II. State Payments for TANF Program

Section 405 requires that grants be paid to states in quarterly installments, based on state estimates. The state's estimate for each quarter of the fiscal year by percentage is:

1 st Quarter	2 nd Quarter	3 rd Quarter	4 th Quarter
\$9,152,539.87 MOE	\$9,152,539.87 MOE	\$9,152,539.87 MOE	\$9,152,539.87 MOE
\$11,151,844.00 TANF	\$11,151,844.00 TANF	\$11,151,844.00 TANF	\$11,151,844.00 TANF
25%	25%	25%	25%