STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES STATE PLAN

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INTRODUCTION

The intended use of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant funds is to support programs, services, and activities aimed at achieving Department goals and Federal purposes specified in Title IV, Part A of the Social Security Act. Assistance for needy families is directed by the four purposes outlined in Sec. 401 of the Social Security Act:

- to allow children to be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives;
- to end the 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
- to encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

Within the specific limitations of the law, Michigan will use the flexibility under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant to determine what assistance and /or services will be provided, who is eligible to receive assistance and /or services, and how funds are distributed among the various populations, geographical regions, programs, activities, and services within the state.

Michigan will meet Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirements through appropriate allocation of charges between TANF and state and local resources as allowed in the Social Security Act. Programs listed in this plan include those funded by MOE. Separate eligibility requirements, if any, are noted.

Michigan will claim reimbursement for costs associated with the administration of TANF-eligible programs and services in accordance with appropriate cost allocation methodologies, in an amount not to exceed 15% of total TANF expenditures for the applicable fiscal year.

I. FAMILY INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM

The Family Independence Program (FIP) is Michigan's name for its ongoing cash assistance program. FIP is administered by the Department of Human Services through its local offices in each county in the state. The goal of the Family Independence Program is to help maintain and strengthen family life for children and the parents or other caretakers with whom they are living, and to help the family achieve the maximum possible self-support and personal independence.

Michigan does not have a time limit on its Family Independence Program. Michigan will seek federal financial participation if the family contains an adult who has received FIP for more than 60 months, subject to the limitation of such funding to 20% of the average monthly number of such families receiving assistance in a fiscal year. Such families in need of assistance beyond the 60-month limit and exceeding the 20% limitation will be state-funded as long as they continue to meet program requirements.

Policy for the Family Independence Program is derived from the Social Security Act, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PL 104-193 of 1996), Michigan's Social Welfare Act (Act 280 of 1939, as amended), and Michigan's Administrative Rules.

Persons applying for or receiving assistance under the Family Independence Program must meet certain eligibility factors.

A. BASIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. Assets

The family must have less than $3000 in countable assets. Only cash assets, such as currency, savings and checking accounts, investments, retirement plans, and trusts, are countable. Funds received for repair or replacement of a homestead are excluded for the period of time needed for repair or replacement, provided there is a written repair or replacement agreement. Funds received for the sale of a homestead are excluded for up to 12 months if the client has made a purchase agreement for another homestead.

Other cash exclusions include: funds for the repair or replacement of household or other goods; funds from a bona fide loan; tax refunds and credits; accounts used solely for the expenses of a business; and funds from the earnings of a child who is a student. Funds from excluded sources must not be commingled with countable assets or placed in time deposits.

2. Income

The family's countable income must be less than the maximum monthly benefit amount for the group. The first $200 plus 20% of the remainder of each employed person's earned income is disregarded.

The earnings of a child under age 18 who is attending school are completely excluded.

The amount of court-ordered child support paid by a group member for children not in the home is deducted from the group's income.

3. Income Budgeting

Income is budgeted prospectively based on a best estimate of the amount of countable, available income to be received in the benefit month. Income is available when it is actually received or can be reasonably anticipated. Reasonably anticipated means that the amount of income can be estimated and the date of receipt is known.

The best estimate is used for current and future benefit months. Actual income received is used when calculating a budget for a past benefit month. Income received less often than monthly is converted to a standard monthly amount.

Clients must report the following changes in income within ten days of the change:

- Unearned income changes of $50 or more
- New and lost sources of unearned income
- The following earned income changes:
  - changing employers;
  - gaining or losing a job;
  - changes in wage rates; and
  - changes in work hours of more than 5 hours per week that are expected to continue for more than a month.

4. Payment Standard

The maximum monthly benefit amount is called the payment standard. Income is subtracted from the payment standard to determine the grant amount. Eligible group size and grantee status (eligible or ineligible grantee) determine the statewide payment standard.

Group Size	Eligible Grantee	Ineligible Grantee
ONE	305	157
TWO	401	272
THREE	489	417
FOUR	593	553
FIVE	689	689
SIX	822	822
SEVEN	898	898
EIGHT or more - Add $79 for each additional person		

5. Group Composition

The following persons who live together must be included in the group for purposes of counting income and assets: a dependent child for whom assistance is requested; the child's parents; the child's stepparent; the child's siblings and stepsiblings who also meet the definition of dependent child; the parents of the siblings; and the child's child.

A caretaker other than a parent or stepparent may, in the absence of the child's parent or stepparent, request assistance and be included in the group with the dependent child. If such a caretaker receives assistance, the caretaker's spouse and dependent children in the home must also be included in the group.

All children cared for by the same caretaker must be included in a single group, even if the children are not related to each other as siblings or stepsiblings. A minor parent living with a parent or stepparent may not receive assistance in his or her own right, but must be treated as a dependent child of the parent or stepparent. A minor parent living with a caretaker other than a parent or stepparent who also receives assistance under the Family Independence Program may not receive assistance in his or her own right, but may be eligible only as a dependent child of the caretaker.

The State denies assistance to a person who has been, or is expected to be, absent from the home for more than 30 days, unless the absence is because of hospitalization, substance abuse treatment, training, or education.

6. Minor Parents

Minor parents must live with a parent, stepparent, or legal guardian or have good cause not to do so. If the minor parent has good cause not to live with a parent, stepparent, or legal guardian, the minor parent and child must live in another adult-supervised living arrangement to be eligible. Minor parents who have not completed high school must attend school full-time as a condition of eligibility or have good cause not to do so.

Good cause for not living with a parent, stepparent, or legal guardian includes:

- The minor parent is living with another adult relative with parental consent.
- There is no living parent, stepparent, or legal guardian whose whereabouts is known.
- The parent, stepparent, or legal guardian will not allow the minor parent to live in his or her home.
- The physical or emotional health or safety of the minor parent or child would be jeopardized if they lived with the parent, stepparent, or legal guardian.
- The minor parent is participating in a licensed substance abuse treatment program which would no longer be available if he/she returned to the parent, stepparent, or legal guardian's home.
- The parent, stepparent, or legal guardian lives in another state.

7. Caretaker

A dependent child must live with a caretaker. The caretaker must be a parent, stepparent, other relative, or an unrelated legal guardian or person age 21 or over who has a petition for legal guardianship of the child pending. Assistance is state-funded for families in which the caretaker is not related to any of the eligible children.

When a dependent child has multiple caretakers who do not live together, only the primary caretaker can receive assistance for that child. The primary caretaker is the caretaker who has primary responsibility for the child's day-to-day care and supervision in the home where the child sleeps more than half of the days of the month, averaged over the most recent twelve-month period.

8. Age and School Attendance

A dependent child must be under age 18, or age 18 or 19, attending high school full-time, and expected to complete school before turning age 20. Assistance is state-funded for families in which the only eligible child is age 19.

Children age 16 or 17 must attend school full-time or participate in employment-related activities unless deferred.

9. Immunizations

Children under age 6 must receive scheduled immunizations. Twenty-five dollars per month is deducted from the family's payment standard for failure to have one or more children under age 6 immunized according to schedule.

10. Residence

A person must be a resident of the state of Michigan and intend to remain in the state permanently or indefinitely.

Michigan does not treat families moving into the state differently than other families.

11. Identity

The grantee must show proof of identity.

12. Social Security Numbers

Each person must verify his or her Social Security Number or apply for one.

13. Citizenship and Alien Status

On March 4, 1992, The Department of Health and Human Services granted Michigan a waiver from the requirements of the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program.

In accordance with Section 1137(d) of the Social Security Act, Michigan continues to require declaration of citizenship or alien status for each person on the written application for assistance. Alien status must be verified for each person who is not a citizen of the United States.

A person must be a citizen of the United States or a qualified alien in accordance with the limitations and restraints in Title IV of PL 104-193 of 1996, as amended.

14. Child Support

Clients must cooperate in establishing paternity and pursuing child support for dependent children. Failure to cooperate without good cause results in FIP ineligibility for a minimum of one month.

15. Spousal and Parental Support

Clients must cooperate in pursuing support from absent spouses, unless child support action is taken against the absent spouse, in which case the child support action is sufficient. Minor grantees must cooperate in pursuing support from their absent parents.

16. Third Party Resource Liability

Clients must cooperate in identifying a person, entity, or program that is, or might be, liable to pay all or part of a group member's medical expenses. Failure to cooperate without good cause results in removal of the noncooperating person's needs.

17. Institutional Status

A person in an institution other than a hospital, psychiatric hospital, or substance abuse treatment center for more than 30 days is not eligible.

18. Pursuit of Benefits

Clients must apply for other program benefits for which the group or a member of the group may be eligible, such as Supplemental Security Income, Social Security benefits, or unemployment compensation. Failure to do so may result in group ineligibility.

19. Strikers

Strikers and their spouses and children are ineligible.

20. Concurrent Receipt of Benefits

Persons may not receive Family Independence Program assistance concurrently with the following benefits: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families from other states; the Refugee Assistance Program; Refugee Matching Grant; the Repatriate Assistance Program; Supplemental Security Income; or state-funded cash assistance programs.

21. Criminal Justice Disqualifications

Michigan follows the provisions of federal law denying assistance for ten years from the date of conviction to persons who have been convicted of the fraudulent duplicate receipt of assistance; to persons who are fugitive felons; and to persons who are in violation of the terms of probation or parole.

Persons convicted of a felony for the use, possession, or distribution of controlled substances occurring after August 22, 1996, may receive assistance as long as they are not in violation of the terms of probation or parole. However, benefits are paid in the form of third party or vendor payments.

22. Orientation

The local Department of Human Services provides orientation to all adults applying for the Family Independence Program assistance. Orientation is also provided for children ages 16 or 17 who receive FIP and are not attending school, for minor parent grantees and for potentially deferred adults.

Clients are given a brief overview of work requirements and self-sufficiency requirements. At a minimum, DHS staff explain:

- The availability of direct support services, including transportation, child care and domestic violence assistance
- The penalties for non-compliance
- Good cause reasons for non-compliance

Clients must complete and sign a form acknowledging their understanding of the Work and Self-Sufficiency Rules.

Prior to the end of the first two months of assistance, clients complete a Personal Responsibility Plan and Family Contract or Family Self-Sufficiency Plan. The purpose of the contract or plan is to specify the family's and the department's responsibilities and plans for meeting the goal of self-sufficiency for the family.

B. WORK REQUIREMENTS

Michigan's employment and training program is called Work First or Jobs, Education and Training (JET.) Work First/JET is administered by local Michigan Works! Agencies under agreement with the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG). Concurrent with FIP approval, clients who are not deferred from immediate participation are automatically referred to their local Michigan Works! Agency and assigned to job search or job search in combination with other activities.

1. Temporary Deferrals

Some clients may be deferred from participation for a time, but will be required to participate in employment-related activities if their circumstances change so that they are no longer deferred.

Deferred persons are:

- under age 16; or
- age 65 or older; or
- the mother of a child under the age of 3 months; or
- a child age 16 or older who is a full-time student in elementary or secondary school; or
- a person with a physical or mental disability that meets SSI disability criteria, except for duration; or
- a person with a short-term mental or physical illness, limitation, or disability that severely limits his ability to participate for up to 90 days; or
- based on an assessment of the child's needs and medical evidence, a caretaker of a child with a mental or physical disability that meets SSI disability standards or meets SSI disability standards except for duration; or
- based on an assessment of the spouse's needs and medical evidence, a person who is the full-time caregiver for his or her spouse who has a mental or physical disability that meets SSI disability standards or meets SSI disability criteria except for duration; or
- a person experiencing a temporary critical event, such as homelessness or domestic abuse, for up to 90 days; or
- a full-time volunteer in Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), Job Corps, or Americorps.

2. Employment Related Activities

Appropriate employment-related activities are determined by assessing the client's job readiness. The assessment analyzes the client's educational level, skills, work history, vocational interests, barriers to employment, and child care and other supportive services needs. An Individual Service Strategy Plan (ISSP) is developed to move the participant into any type of unsubsidized employment the participant is capable of handling as quickly as possible, and to increase the responsibility and amount of work the participant is to handle over time.

Employment-related activities include the following:

- **Unsubsidized Employment** is employment in which the wages are not supported by TANF funds.
- **Subsidized Employment** is employment in the public or private sector in which the wages are supported by TANF funds.
- **Work Experience** in an unpaid training assignment for individuals who lack previous employment experience and/or job readiness and are difficult to place in unsubsidized employment.
- **Job Search** and **Job Readiness** help participants become familiar with general workplace expectations and learn behavior and attitudes necessary to compete successfully in the labor market. Job search includes job clubs, counseling, and job-seeking skills training.
- **On-the-Job Training** provides participants employment in an occupation requiring hands-on training. The participant is an employee of the employer and training is done on the job. Reimbursement of the training cost is provided to the employer with TANF funds. The employee is expected to retain employment with the employer.
- **Secondary Education** is satisfactory attendance in high school or in a course of study to attain a General Education Development certificate.
- **Community Service** programs provide participants with work experience in projects which serve a useful purpose for the community or the public interest in fields such as health, social services, environmental protection, education, urban and rural development and redevelopment, welfare, recreation, public facilities, public safety, day care, and other purposes identified by the state. Participants may only be placed with public or nonprofit agencies. Participants in this activity are subject to the Fair Labor Standards Act and other Federal labor laws.
- **Job Skills Training** is classroom activity for recipients who have a high school diploma or equivalent, but who have a specific barrier to employment. Examples of activities include English as a second language, basic math, and remedial education.
- **Education Directly Related to Employment** is classroom activity for participants who do not have a high school diploma or equivalent, but who have a specific barrier to employment. Examples of activities are English as a second language, basic math, and remedial education.
- Education and training opportunities for participants in the Work First/JET programs include **Vocational Occupational Training**, **Condensed Vocational Training**, **Internships**, **Practicums**, and **Clinicals**.
- **Provision of Child Care Services for Community Services Program Participants**.

3. Employment Participation Pilots

In addition to the above work activities, Michigan has established several pilot programs aimed at increasing work participation and client self-sufficiency. These include:

Jobs, Education and Training (JET): The Jobs, Education and Training program is an 18 month pilot implemented in Kent County, Oakland County Madison Heights, Sanilac County and Wayne County Glendale/Trumbull beginning in April, 2006. The JET pilot will provide:

- Work supports and education/training opportunities to help clients get good paying jobs that move their families out of poverty.
- A broader and more intensive range of services, including job placement assistance, job readiness services, remedial education, training, high school completion, post secondary education and ongoing post-employment supports and services.
- Training and support on-the-job past 90 days to ensure clients stay attached to the labor force and are able to prepare for advancement.
- The tools and skills that are needed to empower individuals and families to sustain long-term self-sufficiency.

The goal of this pilot is to:

- Reduce the number of families on assistance by helping them to qualify for and keep good paying jobs.
- Reduce the number of individuals who cycle between welfare and employment.
- Increase individuals' job retention and permanent labor force attachment.
- Increase the annual earnings of welfare clients.
- Reduce the number of families on Medicaid by helping parents qualify for jobs that provide health care coverage for themselves and their dependents.

Pilot site policy changes include:

- Completion of a Jobs and Self-Sufficiency Survey at application.
- Implementation of a web-based, Family Automated Screening Tool (FAST) to help identify hidden barriers within 30 days. The FAST will be completed by all eligible adults, dependent children 16 or 17 who are not in school and all minor grantees.
- Implementation of a web-based, shared Family Self-Sufficiency Plan (FSSP) within 60 days. The FSSP will be completed by all eligible adults, dependent children 16 or 17 who are not in school and all minor grantees.
- Extension of the full-family sanction from one month to three months.

Growing To Work: Partners: Thumb Area Michigan Works Agency, Huron, Lapeer, Sanilac and Tuscola County DHS Offices - This pilot project is an alternative service approach to the existing Work First System. The intent and goal of this pilot alternative is to offer a complete revision of the Work First philosophy, service delivery structure, client responsibilities and the infusion of creative empowerment throughout the entire pilot initiative.

Family Independence Program (FIP) Work Participation Project: Partners: Department of Human Services, Department of Community Health, Department of Labor and Economic Growth. This project will coordinate services to Family Independence Program (FIP) applicants and recipients who are claiming a disability beyond 90 days and help them become self-sufficient by providing individualized, coordinated and supported work efforts. Disability claims will be evaluated to determine at what level, if any, the client is capable of working or participating in employment-related activities.

Distance Learning Pilot Project: Partners: Michigan Office of Adult Education, Michigan Works! Agencies (MWA), Department of Human Services (DHS), Department of Civil Service, Michigan Rehabilitation Services, Department of History, Arts and Libraries, Local Cable Networks, Project Ideal, Local Adult Education Providers, Intelecom, KET and National Human Resources Development, Inc. Participants were given access to distance learning from their homes, local libraries and one-stop centers in order to prepare for and take the GED exam. Participants engaged in video and workbook activities and online training.

The target population for this pilot was single, TANF recipients in the last trimester of pregnancy through their baby's first birthday.

This pilot has been extended for participants who successfully passed their GED exams early and wanted to use the balance of time allowed for GED completion to begin post-secondary education.

Moving Men & Women to Economic Independence in Michigan: Partners: the Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit (Goodwill), the City of Detroit Employment and Training Department for Wayne County, the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG.) The intent and goal of this proposed alternative is to pride people, who have disabilities and other barriers to employment with opportunities to become independent, self-supporting citizens through training, work experience and employment in the community. The program is designed to assist individuals who are chronically unemployed due to multiple barriers.

The project site is the City of Detroit, including Highland Park and Hamtramck. As the program achieves success, and funding becomes available, it is hoped that the model can be expanded and replicated to provide services to Southeast Michigan and communities in the State.

The target population for this initiative is adults living in the urban center of Detroit who have multiple barriers to employment, are chronically unemployed, and living in poverty. Specifically targeted groups include people exiting the criminal justice system, people receiving public assistance, and young, minority men.

4. Employment Related Sanctions

If an applicant fails to participate in employment-related activities without good cause, the family is ineligible for FIP.

If a recipient fails to participate in employment-related activities without good cause, the family loses FIP eligibility for a minimum of one calendar month.

These penalties help to ensure that clients participate in the program and families with noncooperating members will not receive assistance while the person continues to refuse to participate.

C. DELIVERY OF BENEFITS AND DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY

1. Applications

Any person or his authorized representative may apply for assistance at any local DHS office, but the application will be processed by an office serving the location in which the person lives. An applicant has the right to file an application on the same day he comes to a local office to apply.

2. Assisting Clients

Staff must assist clients who ask for help in completing the application or other forms, or in obtaining required verifications. Clients needing a bilingual interpreter or sign language interpreter may use their own interpreter or one provided by the Department. The Department will pay for the cost of providing an interpreter.

3. Nondiscrimination

Discrimination based on race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, marital status, disability, or political beliefs is prohibited.

4. Determining Eligibility

Local offices determine eligibility following policies promulgated by the Michigan Department of Human Services. The local office must determine the family's eligibility within 45 days from the date of application. Clients must be informed of the decision in writing. If assistance is denied, the notice must explain the reason for denial.

5. Initial Benefits

If the family is eligible, benefits must begin with the pay period in which eligibility was determined, but no earlier than the pay period following the pay period in which the family applied and no later than the pay period in which the application becomes 30 days old. Pay periods are semi-monthly periods, from the first through the fifteenth of the month and the sixteenth through the last day of the month.

6. Administrative Hearings

Applicants and recipients have the right to an administrative hearing to contest adverse actions affecting their eligibility or the amount of benefits. The application form and written notices of case actions inform clients of their hearing rights.

A hearing request must be in writing and signed by the client or the client's authorized representative. The request must be made within 90 days from the date of the written notice of case action. Canceled or reduced benefits are restored pending the hearing decision if the request is received within ten days from the written notice of case action. The client is not entitled to benefits pending the hearing when the action is a denial at application.

Final action on hearing requests, including implementation of a decision and order of the Administrative Law Judge, must be completed within 90 days from the date of the hearing request.

The Department of Human Services and the Department of Labor and Economic Growth maintain joint authority over the Administrative Law Judges.

7. Confidentiality

Information about individuals and families receiving assistance is confidential and may be released only under limited circumstances for five general purposes:

- Release of information necessary for the administration of the program or of other federal or federally-assisted programs which provide assistance in cash, in kind, or in services to individuals based on need. This includes information necessary to the investigation or prosecution of criminal or civil proceedings related to program administration, and audits related to program administration and conducted by a government agency authorized to do so.
- Release of information to government officials if necessary to perform their official duties. Government officials are: officials of a federal department, state department, city, county, or district, including law enforcement officials; and members or committees of the Congress or State legislature.
- Release of limited information to charitable organizations, if the purpose is to provide goods or services to clients. The only information that may be released for this purpose is grantee name and address and first names and ages of the children.
- Release of information to the general public, unless the client requests that information not be released. Only the grantee name and amount of monthly assistance may be released for this purpose.
- A client or his authorized representative may examine the client's case record or request copies of case material, provided the material is not restricted by law or court order.

II. OTHER PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Michigan provides other TANF-funded programs and services designed to meet the purposes of the Act.

The following are examples of services that are intended to allow children to be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives or to end the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation and work. Clients must be recipients of FIP, Medicaid, Food Assistance Program, or Child Development and Care, or their income must be no more than 200% of the poverty level. Other eligibility requirements may vary.

- **Emergency Relief** - Provides emergency assistance to families to help them obtain safe and affordable shelter and other essentials when the family faces an emergency due to factors beyond their control. Assistance includes relocation services, home ownership services and home repairs, and utility restoration or shut-off prevention.

  Emergency Relief also provides emergency foster family care or residential group care for children separated from their parents if such care cannot be provided under Title IV-E. Emergency services are limited to the duration of the emergency, not to exceed 364 days.

- **Emergency Shelter –** Funds contracted with emergency shelter providers to provide shelter to homeless families.

- **Food Bank –** Funds contract with the Michigan Food Bank Council to provide emergency food assistance to families.

- **Community Action Agencies –** Funds contracts with Community Action Agencies to provide a variety of services to families.

- **Child Development and Care Services** - Child care services and payments necessary to promote self-sufficiency.

- **Employment Support Services** - Services to support employment or employment-related activities or enhance self-sufficiency. Such services include, but are not limited to, transportation services, mentoring services, purchase or repairs of cars, purchase of tools, uniforms or work clothes, money management services, and various local projects identified by local communities as needed to overcome barriers to self-sufficiency.

- **Family Support Services** - Services provided to families to help them identify and overcome barriers to self-sufficiency.

- **Individual Development Accounts** - Michigan supports the establishment of Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) by low-income families. TANF funding is used in support of IDAs. TANF matching funds are provided for IDAs established for the purposes of homeownership and post-secondary education.

- **Family Resource Centers** – On site services provided to or coordinated for families at targeted schools and designed to overcome barriers in order to improve school attendance and outcomes for children.

- **Disaster Relief –** A lump sum, non-recurring benefit paid to families who have been evacuated from their homes due to a natural or technological disaster and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has issued a major disaster declaration for the area that includes their normal residence.

- **Short Term Family Support -** A lump sum, non-recurring benefit paid to families who are normally self sufficient and are facing temporary obstacles to continued self sufficiency may be better served by a one-time, lump sum payment, than ongoing cash assistance. Short Term Family Support is provided resolve barriers quickly and to prevent families from becoming dependent on public assistance.

The following services have different financial eligibility requirements:

- **Family Support Subsidy** – Provides a grant for the special nonmedical needs of disabled children to allow them to remain in the family home. The payments are intended to cover the costs of such expenses as special equipment, unique transportation costs, in-home specialized care, respite care, family counseling, etc. Family income must be no greater than $60,000 annually of Michigan taxable income. Payments are for the needs of the disabled child only.
- **Adoption Support Subsidy** – Provides payments to families of adoptive children with special needs. These payments are intended to facilitate the adoption of special needs children by removing financial barriers for the adoptive families, allowing these children to be cared for in the home of the adoptive parents. Family income must be less than 500% of the poverty level and the child must not be eligible for Title IV-E adoption subsidies.
- **Adoption Medical Subsidy** – Assists adoptive families with non-medical expenses that result from a physical, mental, or emotional condition that existed or the cause of which existed prior to the adoption, and which are not covered by other public or private resources (e.g., Medicaid, Children's Special Health Care Services, an Intermediate School District, or health insurance). The child must be eligible for Medicaid.

The following services are intended to encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families. There is no financial eligibility test for these services.

- **Employment Services for Noncustodial Parents** – Provides employment services to noncustodial parents who are unemployed or underemployed in order to enable to them to meet their responsibilities to support their children.
- **Domestic Violence Comprehensive Services** – Provides services to victims of domestic violence and their families.
- **Family Preservation and Family Support Programs** – These services are intended to promote the well-being of children and families by increasing the strength and stability of families and by increasing parents' confidence and competence in their parenting abilities.

  Family Support services are primarily community-based preventive activities designed to promote parents' ability to successfully nurture their children; enable families to use other resources and opportunities available in the community; and create supportive networks to enhance child-rearing abilities of parents.

  Family Preservation services are designed to help families alleviate crises that might lead to out-of-home placement of children; maintain the safety of children; support families preparing to reunite or adopt; and assist families in obtaining services and other supports necessary to address their needs. They include: parent skill training; premarital and marriage counseling and mediation services; activities to promote parental access; initiatives to increase the capacity of fathers to provide emotional and financial support; and crisis or intervention services. These services are provided by community-based nonprofit agencies.

  Specific services programs include:

- Preventive Services for Families
- Kinship Care
- Child Protection: Working Together as Community Partners
- Zero to Three: Secondary Prevention
- Strong Families/Safe Children
- Families First of Michigan
- Family Group Decision Making
- Child Safety and Permanency Planning
- Teen Parent Pregnancy Prevention Services
- Marriage and Fatherhood Initiative
- Effective Family Formation

- **Post-Adoption Services –** Provides supportive services to adoptive parents and children, such as individual or group support, child or family mentoring, marriage support, information and referral, crisis intervention, community and recreational services, and educational support, such as tutoring and educational plan development.

III. OUT-OF-WEDLOCK PREGNANCIES

Michigan will continue to reduce the proportion of all pregnancies that are unintended. The state will focus on unintended pregnancies because there is a significant overlap in the populations responsible for both out-of-wedlock and unintended pregnancies. Therefore, an appropriate strategy for reducing out-of-wedlock births is to reduce the rate of unintended pregnancies. Special emphasis will be given to teenagers. The goal is to reduce the pregnancy rate among adolescents age 15 through 19 to no more than 63 per thousand females. The 1996 rate was 77.2 per thousand.

Strategies for achieving these goals include: family planning services; bulk purchasing of contraceptives; sex education in the schools; promoting abstinence by targeting selected communities with high teen pregnancy rates; providing related health care and educational services in adolescent health centers; and targeting services to special populations such as substance abusers and historically underserved individuals such as incarcerated women and homeless youth or targeting family planning services to males.

Michigan will conduct a program, designed to reach state and local law enforcement officials, the education system, counseling services, parents, teens, and young males, that provides education and training on the problem of statutory rape so that teenage pregnancy prevention programs may be expanded in scope to include men. Activities are designed to increase awareness of Michigan's criminal sexual conduct laws among the above population and may include:

- Media campaigns targeted to the 12 to 30 year old age range
- Distribution of supportive media materials, such as posters, brochures, buttons, bumper stickers, etc.
- Distribution of age-appropriate parent guides to discussing dating violence
- Professional training materials for law enforcement, health, education and social services workers

IV. CERTIFICATIONS

A. CHILD SUPPORT

Michigan will operate a child support enforcement program under the state plan approved under part D.

B. FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION ASSISTANCE

Michigan will operate a foster care and adoption assistance program under the state plan approved under part E, and will take such actions as are necessary to ensure that children receiving assistance under such part are eligible for medical assistance under the state plan under title XIX.

C. ADMINISTRATION

The Michigan Department of Human Services, working cooperatively with the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth, the Michigan Department of Community Health, and other state departments, is authorized to administer and operate Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

Michigan assures that local governments and private sector organizations:

(A) have been consulted regarding the plan and design of welfare services in the state so that services are provided in a manner appropriate to local populations; and

(B) have had at least 45 days to submit comments on the plan and the design of such services.

D. EQUITABLE ACCESS

Michigan will provide each Indian who is a member of an Indian tribe in the State that does not have a tribal family assistance plan approved under section 412 with equitable access to assistance.

E. PROGRAM FRAUD AND ABUSE

Michigan has established and is enforcing 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.

F. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Michigan has not adopted the Family Violence Option. However, Michigan identifies persons with a history of domestic violence and refers them to counseling and supportive services programs. Staff are trained in recognizing domestic violence and policies are under continuing review.

Clients may claim good cause for not cooperating in establishing paternity, pursuing support, or identifying third party resources (other insurance). Good cause exists if cooperation would result in physical or emotional harm to the client or the child. If good cause exists, a determination is made to either waive the requirement entirely or to proceed with action on the client's behalf without the client's direct participation.

An experience or threat of domestic violence may be good cause for a failure to participate in an employment-related activity. Clients may be temporarily deferred from participation in the Work First program because of domestic abuse. The client may participate in domestic violence services in order to remove or alleviate domestic violence as a barrier to employment.

Clients may request restriction on the release of information to the general public because of the history or threat of domestic violence.

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Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor

State of Michigan

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Date