

2013-15 Policy Option Package

Agency Name: Department of Human Services (DHS)
Program Area Name:
Program Name: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Family Support and Connections
Policy Option Package Initiative:
Policy Option Package Title: Enhancements to Family Support and Connections
Policy Option Package Number: 104-01
Related Legislation:
Program Funding Team: Safety

Summary Statement:

Fund the Family Support and Connections (FS&C) program closer to the need. The TANF program served approximately 37 percent of families with children entering foster care within a 60 day period before the families entered foster care. FS&C helps families decrease the likelihood of child welfare involvement through increasing parenting skills and addressing barriers to family stability. The program is not adequately funded and is unable to serve many families needing these services. Expanding this program will increase the number of families that can be served and also provide more timely service delivery to address child wellness and family stability issues.

	General Fund	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds
<u>Policy Option Package Pricing:</u>	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$2,000,000

1. WHAT WOULD THIS POLICY OPTION PACKAGE (POP) DO AND HOW WOULD IT BE IMPLEMENTED?

Due to the economic recession, DHS has experienced a rapid increase in the number of families requesting TANF benefits and employment and self-sufficiency services over the past four and half years. This has created challenges in maintaining the programs as designed by the 2007 Legislative Assembly through HB 2469. The intent of HB 2469 was a program model where services were individualized and tailored to meet the needs of the specific family and included addressing family stability in addition to financial stability. Program reductions, particularly to the Job Opportunity and Basic Skills (JOBS) program have impacted the ability of DHS to engage families in activities that lead to employment and greater family stability so that these families can leave the TANF caseload. The Family support and Connections program, whose goal is to reduce the likelihood that children receiving TANF become involved in the Child Welfare system, is currently serving less than half the need for those services. This policy option would enhance Family Support and Connections program resources to better meet increased demand for services that help avoid child welfare involvement among TANF beneficiaries.

Family Support and Connections (FS&C) provides supports to TANF families at a high risk of involvement with the Child Welfare system. The services focus on strengthening parenting and family stability, and decreasing the risk factors for child abuse and neglect to prevent children on TANF from entering the foster care system. Home and community-based services are used to guide interventions that build on family strengths and address family functioning issues. Currently, over 36% of children in foster care received TANF 60 days prior to foster care entry. FS&C is aligning with the new DHS Differential Response program in Child Welfare and other family stability efforts such as In-Home Safety and Reunification Services to better serve all at-risk families and improve equity in outcomes for populations which are overrepresented in both TANF and Child Welfare.

The FS&C program served 7,336 families during the 2009-2011 biennium which is more than half the estimated need in this program area. Enhancing program resources available through this policy option will help serve 4,408 additional families with risk factors that may lead to child abuse and neglect.

Implementation

Implementation of this policy option will require new or expanded performance based interagency and contract agreements.

2. WHY DOES DHS PROPOSE THIS POP?

Currently, low-income families are unable to access needed services and are faced with a more difficult transition to self-sufficiency. Currently approximately 38% of children in foster care received TANF 60 days prior to entering foster care. It is estimated the Family Support and Connections program is serving less than half the need for these services.

3. HOW DOES THIS FURTHER THE AGENCY'S MISSION OR GOALS?

This policy option package supports the department's mission and goals of assisting people be safe and become independent. Families would be better able to have access to services to address family stability issues, as well as access to services to address barriers to self-sufficiency.

4. IS THIS POP TIED TO A DHS PERFORMANCE MEASURE? IF YES, IDENTIFY THE PERFORMANCE MEASURE. IF NO, HOW WILL DHS MEASURE THE SUCCESS OF THIS POP?

This policy option is directly tied to DHS- Key Performance Measure of: TANF Family Stability.

This policy option also connects to important DHS breakthrough initiatives associated with ensuring contracted providers are delivering outcomes established by DHS programs and contracts; and improving service equity.

5. DOES THIS POP REQUIRE A CHANGE(S) TO AN EXISTING STATUTE OR REQUIRE A NEW STATUTE? IF YES, IDENTIFY THE STATUTE AND THE LEGISLATIVE CONCEPT.

No.

6. WHAT ALTERNATIVES WERE CONSIDERED AND WHAT WERE THE REASONS FOR REJECTING THEM?

The department first identified the total need that would align resources and program structure to enable the TANF and JOBS programs to operate as fully intended by 2007 Legislative Assembly. This would be reflected in a department's needs-based budget. The State's budget challenges however are anticipated to continue, therefore, without full funding based on need, the department is pursuing a package that would enable the department to ensure the most vulnerable TANF families receive needed services.

7. WHAT WOULD BE THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF NOT FUNDING THIS POP?

Maintaining Family Support and Connection services at the current service level does not meet the growing need for these services which seek to reduce the number of children who enter foster care.

8. WHAT OTHER AGENCIES (STATE, TRIBAL AND/OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT) WOULD BE AFFECTED BY THIS POP? HOW WOULD THEY BE AFFECTED?

This policy option requires continued partnerships and coordination with other state agencies as well as community based organizations in order to deliver Family Support and Connections services.

9. WHAT ASSUMPTIONS AFFECT THE PRICING OF THIS POP?

Enhancing the Family Support and Connections program (by adding \$2 million above the current service level) will provide family prevention and intervention services to approximately 4,408 additional families with risk factors that may lead to child abuse and neglect.

Implementation Date(s): July 2013

End Date (if applicable): _____

- a. **Will there be new responsibilities for DHS? Specify which Program Area(s) and describe their new responsibilities.**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Self Sufficiency	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DHS Budget and Accounting	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Contracts and Procurement	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- b. **Will there be new administrative impacts sufficient to require additional funding? Specify which office(s) (i.e., facilities, computer services, etc.) and describe how it will be affected. See Addendum A - Administrative Services Division LC/POP Impact Questionnaire (at the end of this document).**

This package will require new or expanded interagency and/or contract agreements. These contracts and agreements will need to be written utilizing performance-based contracting language.

- c. **Will there be changes to client caseloads or services provided to population groups? Specify how many in each relevant program.**

Enhancing the Family Support and Connections program (by adding \$2 million above the current service level) will provide family prevention and intervention services to approximately 4,408 additional families with risk factors that may lead to child abuse and neglect.

- d. Will it take new staff or will existing positions be modified? For each classification, list the number of positions and the number of months the positions will work in each biennium. Specify if the positions are permanent, limited duration or temporary.**

No.

- e. What are the start-up costs, such as new or significant modifications to computer systems, new materials, outreach and training?**

No.

- f. What are the ongoing costs?**

Expanding the Family Support and Connections program will result in \$2 million additional costs for the 2013-15 biennium.

It is estimated the added responsibility for managing performance-based contracts and adding contracted services will impact the field staff. These costs have not been determined as yet.

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- g. What are the potential savings?**

It is anticipated that expanding the Family Support and Connections program would result in savings to Child Welfare and other systems but the amount of savings cannot be estimated at this time.

h. Based on these answers, is there a fiscal impact?

Yes. This policy option package will result in an estimated net impact of approximately \$2 million during the 2013-15 biennium.

TOTAL FOR THIS PACKAGE

<u>Category</u>	<u>GF</u>	<u>OF</u>	<u>FF</u>	<u>TF</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>FTE</u>
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	0.00
Services & Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		
Capital Outlay	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		
Special Payments	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$2,000,000		
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		
Total	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	0.00

DHS - Fiscal Impact Summary by Program Area:

\$0

	Family Support & Connections	Program Area 2	Program Area 3	Program Area 4	Total
General Fund	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000,000
Other Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds- Ltd	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Funds	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000,000
Positions	0	0	0	0	0
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

What are the sources of funding and the funding split for each one?