



AMENDMENT TO THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA STATE PLAN FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE BLOCK GRANT FOR TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)

TANF State Plan Amendment: Certification of Compliance with Section 703 of Title VII of Division W of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (42 U.S.C. § 602(a)(8))

Effective March 14, 2023

The District of Columbia (“D.C.”) certifies that it will provide information to victims of sexual harassment or and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. D.C. has established and is enforcing standards and procedures to:

1. Ensure that applicants and potential applicants for TANF assistance are notified of assistance made available by D.C. to victims of sexual harassment and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

2. Ensure that caseworkers and other agency personnel responsible for administering the TANF program are trained in:
 - a. The nature and dynamics of sexual harassment and domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking;
 - b. D.C. standards 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
 - c. 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.

3. Screen for and identify domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and provide information about the options available to current and potential beneficiaries and ensure that caseworkers and other agency personnel are trained on relevant state standards and procedures because the District has adopted the Family Violence Option set forth in Section 402(a)(7) of the Social Security Act.

Explanation:

1. Notification of Assistance Available:
Information about services available to victims of domestic violence will be accessible to current and potential TANF recipients via the agency's website, displayed on monitors in the service centers and provided during the TANF assessment process.

2. Training:
D.C. contracts with a service provider to administer domestic violence training for agency personnel. D.C. will ensure that the service provider

records and tracks attendance, develops objectives for each training, and conducts assessments to ensure training objectives have been met.

3. Identification, Screening and Assessment

Participants are screened for domestic violence at numerous stages in the process, by various entities, in writing and in person, to effectively capture persons suffering from domestic violence. First, DHS itself screens for domestic violence at both its intake and recertification applications. Additionally, DHS administers the Economic Security Comprehensive Assessment to assess and identify whether TANF applicants face barriers to employment or participation in the program, including domestic violence, sexual harassment, sexual assault, and stalking. If current or historic evidence of domestic violence, sexual harassment, sexual assault, and stalking is identified, a referral for additional screening or assessment services will be provided to the applicant or recipient who should comply with the instructions. The additional screening is completed by a domestic violence provider in D.C., trained in the nature and dynamics of sexual harassment and domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. If an entity that operates a TANF work or education program discovers that a recipient has a domestic violence, sexual harassment, sexual assault, or stalking issue and may need services, that entity may contact DHS and a referral to the domestic violence service providers(s) will be made at that time. The domestic violence service provider will determine the right course of action for the family, e.g., shelter/alternate housing, counseling services, legal options, etc., on a case-by-case basis.

CERTIFICATION BY THE MAYOR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN SUPPORT OF THIS AMENDMENT TO THE
TANF STATE PLAN FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

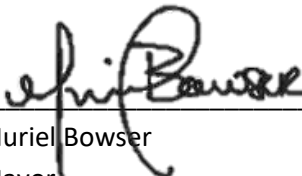
The District of Columbia will continue to operate a program to provide Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) so that the children may be cared for in their own homes or in homes of relatives or caregivers and to end dependence of needy able-bodied adults on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work and pathways to the middle class.

The TANF State Plan for the District of Columbia , as amended by this amendment, includes all required assurances and provisions to be implemented by the District of Columbia Department of Human Services (“DCDHS”). DCDHS has been given authority to administer and supervise the activities referenced in the state plan.

I hereby approve this amendment to the TANF State Plan for the District of Columbia and submittal of this amendment to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

3/16/23
Date

Signed


Muriel Bowser
Mayor