

Kentucky's
Temporary
Assistance for Needy
Families
(TANF)

STATE PLAN

10/1/2026-09/30/2029

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Title IV-A State Plan

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Kentucky

Mission, Goals, Philosophy

Mission

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) strives for a Commonwealth where every Kentuckian reaches their full human potential and all communities thrive.

CHFS utilizes TANF block grant funds to further this mission and the federally defined purposes of TANF to promote economic mobility and self-sufficiency, health, safety, and well-being for children and families in Kentucky.

Goals

CHFS utilizes TANF block grant funds to further the federally defined purposes of the TANF program:

1. Provide assistance to needy families so that children can be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives.
 - CHFS has designed Kentucky's cash assistance and TANF-supported non-cash assistance programs and services to promote safe, healthy family environments for children.
 - Kentucky's TANF dollars support relative caregivers to ensure children can remain safe in their family environment and in their communities.
2. End the dependence of parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage.
 - Kentucky's TANF program supports parents in obtaining full-time, unsubsidized employment that promotes economic mobility for the family and transitions them from receiving cash assistance to financial stability and well-being.
3. Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies.
 - Kentucky's TANF programs promote safe, healthy family environments that act as prevention for teen pregnancy and paternity.
4. Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.
 - Kentucky's TANF dollars foster economically secure households and communities for the well-being and long-term success of children and

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families.

- Kentucky's cash assistance and TANF-supported non-cash assistance programs are designed to maintain safe, thriving families, and ensure two-parent families have supports for both parents to participate in the workforce or for one parent to provide care for children at home.

Approach

- Kentucky utilizes cash assistance programs to ensure parents and relative caregivers have basic financial resources to care for children in their homes and communities.
- CHFS has developed robust partnerships with other state agencies, community-based organizations, and employers to reduce barriers to employment for Kentucky Works Program (KWP) participants. The ultimate goal is to integrate services across sectors to serve children and families receiving TANF services.
- Kentucky utilizes federal TANF dollars, along with TANF MOE dollars, and state general funds to maximize resources to support children and families.

Cultural Change

- Kentucky has been implementing a modern case management model for cash assistance recipients, enabling them to recognize their own strengths, value work, formulate goals, choose options, and meet new expectations.
- CHFS is integrating Kentucky's TANF State Plan into service delivery through training for case managers and communication with service providers.
- CHFS is focused on outcomes-oriented, human-centered design concepts, with an enhanced focus on supporting families with the highest barriers to economic opportunity.

Organization

Operation

- Kentucky CHFS is responsible for the TANF block grant and has authority to submit the state plan for programs funded under Title IV-A of the Social Security Act.
- CHFS has authority to establish and revise provisions of TANF-funded programs and file administrative regulations governing the administration of the plan according to Chapters 194A and 205 of the Kentucky

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Revised Statutes.

- TANF is administered by CHFS's Department for Community Based Services (DCBS). DCBS has office locations in each of Kentucky's 120 counties, as well as a statewide Call Service Center, and a customer-facing web portal to serve clients. DCBS has several divisions that play a role in the administration of Kentucky's TANF funds.
 - The Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (KTAP) is Kentucky's basic cash assistance program funded by TANF. The DCBS Division of Family Support oversees administration of the KTAP program.
 - The DCBS Division of Service Regions includes KTAP case managers who work in partnership with families in locations across the Commonwealth to ensure families meet participation rules and support their efforts toward overcoming barriers to employment and economic mobility.
 - The DCBS Division of Prevention and Community Well-Being manages a number of TANF-funded contracts intended to prevent out-of-home placements and ensure children can be cared for in their homes.
 - The DCBS Division of Child Care administers the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) and other state-supported child care assistance programs in Kentucky. DCBS DFS often exchange information with the Division of Child Care regarding eligibility factors.
 - The DCBS Division of Protection and Permanency provides family services, including crisis intervention, domestic violence services, child protective services, and family preservation services.
- The Office of the Attorney General is responsible for administering Kentucky's child support program, through the Department for Child Support Services (DCSS) to comply with TANF eligibility requirements.

TANF Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Funded Services

Kentucky invests state funds in a number of programs that meet the requirements for TANF Maintenance of Effort rules:

- KTAP Program
- Kentucky Works Program
- Kinship Care Program
- Relative Placement Support Benefit
- Family Preservation Services
- Foster Care Diversion
- Family Assistance Short-Term (FAST)
- Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Excess MOE is used to meet TANF MOE per 45 CFR § 263.3. Families receiving assistance through CCDF Excess MOE must meet financial eligibility criteria that match 160%

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of the current Federal Poverty Level (FPL)/Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) at initial CCAP Application, and 200% of the FPL/FPG at CCAP Recertification. Kentucky uses the form ACF-696, "Financial Reporting Form for the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)" to track the expenditures that are eligible to be used for TANF MOE when they are in excess of the state's MOE requirement for child care.

Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (KTAP) Monthly Cash Assistance

Kentucky utilizes federal TANF funds to administer cash assistance programs that further the federal TANF purposes of ensuring children are cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives.

KTAP Eligible Groups

KTAP is Kentucky's main TANF-funded basic cash assistance program. In Kentucky, families are eligible for KTAP if they meet the technical and income eligibility criteria outlined below and:

- There is a dependent minor child in the home.
 - A "child" is defined as age 15 or under; or age 16, 17 or 18 and has not attained 19 years of age, if attending high school or equivalent.
- Are a qualified immigrant residing in the country prior to August 22, 1996 (enactment date).
- Are a qualified immigrant who entered the country on or after August 22, 1996 and have had residency for more than five (5) years. This group of individuals is eligible for the first five (5) years and afterwards if exempt from benefit restrictions as specified in federal law.
- Victims of a severe form of trafficking, including a victim's child(ren) or spouse, are eligible for KTAP to the same extent as an immigrant who is admitted to the United States as a refugee.
 - If a victim of a severe form of trafficking is under 18 years of age, the victim's siblings and parents are also eligible for KTAP to the same extent as an immigrant who is admitted to the United States as a refugee.
- A TANF recipient moving from other states as current Kentucky residents.

KTAP Ineligible Groups

- Fugitive felons and probation/parole violators.
- Those convicted of misrepresenting residency in two states are ineligible

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for 10 years.

- Households where a child is or children are absent from home for 30 consecutive days, unless good cause exists.

KTAP Technical Eligibility Requirements

There are a number of technical eligibility requirements for KTAP:

- Families must agree to cooperate with Child Support Services (CSS), unless exempt.
- If a relative caregiver, the child must live in the home of the specified relative.
- Adults must complete work registration, unless they are exempt.
- Unmarried teen parents must live in an adult-supervised setting pursuant to Kentucky Administrative Regulation 921 KAR 2:006, Section 20.
- Teen parents must attend school.
- Teen parents without high school credentials and with a child at least 12 weeks old must attend high school or equivalent.
- Children ages 16 through 18 must attend school.
- Applicants must furnish a social security number (SSN) or agree to apply for a SSN.
- Parents and caretakers receiving KTAP must complete an assessment and self-sufficiency agreement.

KTAP Income/Resource Considerations and Exclusions

- Up to \$10,000 in liquid assets are excluded.
- All real and personal property are excluded, including all vehicles, as well as burial plans and life insurance policies.
- Up to \$5,000 in Individual Development Accounts (IDA) are excluded
- At an individual's option, the first six (6) full months of income can be excluded twice in a lifetime per adult.
- The earned income of a KTAP child or a KTAP parent aged nineteen (19) or under, who is attending school, is excluded.

KTAP Gross Income Limit

- The benefit group's total gross earned and unearned income minus excluded income is compared to the maximum gross income scale.
- If the benefit group's total gross earned and unearned income exceeds the maximum gross income limit for the appropriate benefit group size, the family is not eligible for KTAP.
- The gross income limit is as follows for the appropriate family size:

Number of

Maximum Monthly

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<i>Eligible Persons</i>	<i>Gross Income Limits</i>
1 Person	\$ 890
2 Persons	\$ 1021
3 Persons	\$ 1169
4 Persons	\$ 1315
5 Persons	\$ 1462
6 Persons	\$ 1608
7 or more Persons	\$ 1754

Benefit Calculation

- The Standard of Need calculation is defined in Kentucky Revised Statutes 205.2001 and is an amount no less than the poverty level of the family unit, minus the combined value of the state's average Medicaid utilization for a given family size, plus the value of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for a given family size.
- To compute eligibility for a cash payment, additional income deductions may be applied, and the remaining income compared to the Standard of Need for the family size.
- The family's income is subtracted from the Standard of Need to arrive at the deficit amount.
- The deficit amount is multiplied by 55 percent (45 percent ratable reduction).
- Ratable reduction allows the recipient to retain a larger portion of their earnings.
- The KTAP payment is the lesser of this product or the maximum KTAP payment for the family size.
- In no instance shall grants to families with no income be less than the appropriate grant maximum (in accordance with Kentucky Revised Statutes 205.200(2)).

KTAP Standard of Need

<i>Current Standard of Need</i>	
<i>Number of Eligible Persons</i>	<i>Standard of Need</i>
1 Person	\$481
2 Persons	\$552
3 Persons	\$631
4 Persons	\$710
5 Persons	\$790
6 Persons	\$869
7 or more Persons	\$948

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Cash Benefits

Below are maximum monthly cash payment amounts for eligible families:

<i>Number of Eligible Persons</i>	<i>Payment Maximum</i>
1 Person	\$242
2 Persons	\$293
3 Persons	\$341
4 Persons	\$426
5 Persons	\$498
6 Persons	\$562
7 or more Persons	\$627

Educational Bonus

- An adult or child receiving KTAP is eligible for an educational bonus of up to \$500 per individual if they report and verify receiving a high school diploma or GED certificate, one ESL certificate, or one post-secondary school certificate or degree.
- The individual must have been an active KTAP or Kinship Care recipient when the educational program was completed.

Relocation Assistance Program (RAP)

- KTAP recipients who choose to relocate to another area to access employment, escape a domestic violence situation, or prevent housing crisis including prevention of eviction or establishing housing if homeless, may qualify for up to \$1500 to assist the family with moving related expenses, such as moving van rental and first month's rent.
- For an individual who moves to access employment:
 - There must be a verified offer of employment of at least an amount equal to 30 hours at minimum wage; or
 - The individual must be currently employed with wages of at least an amount equal to 30 hours at the minimum hourly wage rate, reporting and verifying wages timely, and request relocation assistance within ninety (90) days from the start date of employment.
 - The current residence must be located ten (10) miles or more from the location of new employment and the new residence is closer to the location of new employment than the applicant's current residence.
- For families who use RAP for employment purposes, they may receive assistance once in a 12-month period, and again in subsequent 12-

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month periods.

- For families who use RAP to prevent housing crisis, they may receive assistance from RAP once in a 12-month period, and again in subsequent 12-month periods.
- There is no limit for RAP if needed to escape a domestic violence situation
- Follow-up case management is available to assist the family with the transition.

Penalties

- A family who fails to cooperate with child support services (and is not exempt) receives a 25 percent reduction of the maximum payment amount for KTAP household size.
- Other penalties listed in the Kentucky Works Program section of this state plan.

Time Limit

- There is a five-year lifetime limit for families receiving KTAP.
- There is a five-year lifetime limit for families with an adult who is not eligible due to being a fleeing felon or probation/parole violator.
- Up to 20 percent of Kentucky's KTAP caseload may receive an extension to the lifetime limit.

KTAP Time-Limit Exemptions

- A parent who is battered or subjected to extreme cruelty.
- A parent who has a physical or mental disability prohibiting work as determined by the Cabinet.
- A parent providing care for a disabled family member.
- A grandparent or other close relative caring for an eligible child who would otherwise be placed in foster care.
- An adult with insufficient employment opportunities who has complied with participation in Kentucky Works Program and child support requirements.
- A caretaker adult who has received a domestic violence exemption, up to the number of months the individual received KTAP during the domestic violence exemption.
- A benefit group containing a member who has lost a job within thirty (30) days of reaching the sixty (60) month time limit may receive a three (3) consecutive month extension of the time limitation.

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Good Cause Related to Domestic Violence

- On a case-by-case basis, the Department may waive requirements related to residency, time limits, child support cooperation, and work requirements when compliance would make it more difficult for the recipient to escape domestic violence or protect their children.
- Good cause is granted based on need, as determined by an individualized assessment.
- An appropriate services plan is:
 - Developed by a person trained in domestic violence or child abuse and neglect
 - Reflective of the individualized assessment and any revisions made by redetermination.
 - Designed to safely lead to employment.
- These months are tracked to identify months in which an individual is or was identified as being in a domestic violence situation and unable to participate in KWP activities.
- An individual can receive an extension beyond the 60-month time limit for the number of months the domestic violence situation existed.

Kentucky Works Program (KWP)

KWP is the work component of the KTAP program. All adults receiving KTAP must participate in the Kentucky Works Program, with the exception of:

- Single custodial parents with a child under age one (1) may be exempt for up to twelve (12) months (lifetime limit), at their option.
- Teen parents aged 18-19 years old who are enrolled and attending high school.
- Domestic violence survivors if participation would cause harm.
- A parent providing care to a disabled family member.
- A parent who is a recipient of Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI).

Hours of KWP Participation

KTAP adults subject to work participation are required to participate in no less than the number of hours per week required in the activity, except where the Cabinet determines alternate hours are appropriate

The activity is required to have at least:

- Thirty (30) hours per week for single parent.
- Thirty-five (35) hours per week for two (2) parent cases, if the family does not receive federally funded child care assistance.
- Fifty-five (55) hours per week required for two (2) parent cases, receiving

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federally subsidized child care.

- Twenty (20) hours for a single parent, thirty (30) hours for two (2) parent cases in federally countable core activities (Hours above 20/30 hours may be in education).
- Twenty (20) hours for the only parent or caretaker relative in the family with a child who has not reached six (6) years of age.
- Twenty (20) hours for a single or married head of household age 18 or 19 who has not obtained a high school diploma or a general equivalency diploma if attending a secondary school or the equivalent or participates in education that is directly related to employment.

Transitional Assistance Assessment

KTAP case managers and applicants must complete a Transitional Assistance Assessment at the time of application. The assessment includes the following:

- A brief overview of the income, service needs, and family information relevant to achieving self-sufficiency through employment.
- Employment goals, work history, and concerns or barriers.
- Basic skills, work skills, occupational skills, and education levels.
- Barriers to employment such as transportation, dependent care, housing, physical disabilities, domestic violence, substance use disorder, or mental health needs.

Transitional Assistance Agreement (TAA)

Based on the assessment, a Transitional Assistance Agreement (TAA) is jointly developed by case manager and work eligible adults and teen parents containing:

- An employment goal for the participant.
- Services to be provided by the agency.
- Activities to be undertaken by the recipient to achieve the employment goal.
- Other needs of the family.
- Where appropriate, reasonable accommodation and language assistance will be provided to beneficiaries to ensure meaningful access and effective communication.

Work Activity Components

Kentucky includes all activities allowable in federal law for work components.

- *Unsubsidized employment* includes all paid employment not subsidized by TANF or any other public program to include self-employment.
- *Subsidized employment* is an activity in which the participant works for either a private or public sector employer who is reimbursed for a portion of the wage paid to the participant.

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- *Work experience training program (WEP)* is an activity to improve the employability of individuals not otherwise able to obtain employment by providing experience and training which assists the individual in obtaining regular public or private unsubsidized employment.
 - WEP is limited to projects that serve a useful public purpose.
 - WEP placement is only used if training is needed to obtain a job.
 - A valid WEP placement must benefit the participant, not displace regular employees, not be paid, and not entitle trainee to a job after training is completed.
 - The WEP Training Site Agency must provide sufficient training to ensure development of appropriate and specific skills, provide new tasks after each skill is mastered, provide intensive participant instruction and supervision at all times, and derive no immediate advantage from trainees' activities
 - The Training Site Agency will abide by the statewide grievance procedures in Chapter 13B of the Kentucky Revised Statutes for resolving grievances and/or complaints about WEP activities and any final decision rendered therein.
 - Grievances and/or complaints will be forwarded to the DCBS for resolution through the conciliation and/or administrative hearing process.
- *Job search and job readiness* assistance is allowed for a maximum of six (6) weeks per federal fiscal year with only four (4) weeks being consecutive.
 - Job Readiness is pre-employment preparation which helps prepare participants for working and becoming marketable by ensuring participants are familiar with general workplace expectations.
 - Job search is a structured activity for seeking employment with potential employers for participants who are job-ready based on the needs of the participant.
- *Community service* is a structured program in which participants perform work for the direct benefit of the community under the sponsorship of public or nonprofit organizations including, but not limited to, churches, the Red Cross, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Habitat for Humanity, public schools, and local government.
- *Vocational training* provides training directly related to the preparation for employment, not to exceed twelve (12) months.
- *Providing child care assistance* to a KWP participant participating in a structured community service activity.

Based on the findings of the Transitional Assistance Assessment, the agency or Cabinet designee and the participant may determine placement in a work preparation activity which includes:

- *Domestic violence counseling* as an activity designed to help participants

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overcome abuse due to physical and sexual violence, threats and intimidation, emotional abuse, and economic deprivation.

- *Life skills training* as an activity to learn basic living skills needed before the individual can become self-sufficient.
- A *Substance Use Disorder program* as a KWP activity in which services available in the community are accessed by the participant to overcome the use of alcohol or drugs which impair the recipient's health, and their ability to work and take proper care of his/her family.
- *Mental health counseling* is an activity in which health services are accessed by the participant to overcome mental health problems.
- *Vocational rehabilitation* as an activity available for participants who have a learning disability, substance use disorder, or mental or physical disability.
- *Adult education* (Literacy, ABE, GED, ESL).
- Other activities approved by the Cabinet.

The state will assist individuals to train for, seek, and maintain employment in occupations related to elder care by:

- Referring individuals to healthcare-related training.
- Placing individuals in a structured activity for seeking employment with potential employers.
- Providing supportive services to maintain employment.

KWP Conciliation

- Conciliation is a process which resolves participation problems in the KWP. Conciliation is:
 - Conducted by the case manager.
 - At the request of a KWP participant or a component provider.
 - Used when a situation occurs which could result in a sanction or penalty.
 - Determination is made as to whether additional services are needed to assist with KWP participation.
- Where appropriate, reasonable accommodation and language assistance will be provided to beneficiaries to ensure meaningful access and effective communication.

KWP Penalties

- Unless good cause is met, a KWP participant is penalized for:
 - Failure to participate in required KWP activities, including TAA plan development after completion of the Transitional Assistance Agreement.

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- Failure to participate in activities, as defined in the Transitional Assistance Agreement, including refusal to accept employment, termination of employment, or reduction of earnings, or failure to complete Work Registration.
- Penalties include reducing the amount of assistance otherwise payable to the benefit group on a pro rata basis. The penalties continue until the participant complies with program requirements. Penalties are not applied until after conciliation procedures are conducted.
- Good cause reasons include:
 - Temporary illness or injury which prevents KWP participation as verified by the Cabinet.
 - Long-term illness determined by the Department of Disability Determination Services.
 - The work activity site is so far removed from the home that commuting time would exceed three (3) hours per day.
 - Temporary incarceration or institutionalization for 30 days or less.
 - Domestic violence survivors if participation in the KWP would cause risk of harm.
 - Other reasons involving working conditions, such as a formal complaint of discrimination, etc.
 - Child care is terminated through no fault of the applicant or recipient, child care does not meet the needs of the child, for example, a child with a disability.
 - Single custodial parent caring for a child under 6 years of age, if child care is unavailable.
 - Accommodation for disability or language barrier has not been made or is not sufficient.

KWP 3-Month “Full Family” Sanction Policy

- As a condition of eligibility, an adult who has received cash assistance for six (6) months must engage in an activity listed as KWP "components" listed in this state plan.
- A family is ineligible for assistance if the recipient refuses to participate without good cause and has been penalized for noncompliance with KWP work requirements for at least three (3) cumulative months.

KWP Supportive Services

KWP participants are eligible to receive a number of supportive services to reduce and eliminate barriers to employment.

- Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)
 - KTAP recipients are automatically eligible for child care

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assistance.

- KWP participants are eligible for free child care assistance.
- Transportation
 - If free or low-cost transportation that meets the needs of the individual is unavailable, a direct payment to the individual per month as follows:
 - Twenty-Five (25) dollars for five (5) days or less of participation per month, or
 - One hundred fifty (150) dollars for six (6) or more days of participation per month.
- Car repair payments up to a maximum of \$3000 per year (12- month period) per eligible family.
- Items or services needed by the recipient for participation in KWP up to a maximum of \$600 per year.

KWP Education Supports

The Cabinet recognizes the critical role that education plays in preparing adults for work and long-term employment. KWP participants have access to education supports, including:

- Vocational education for twelve (12) months.
 - Subsequently, recipients may continue their education while meeting the federal work requirement.
 - The requirement may be met by practicums, internships, co-op programs, and work study as well as regular employment.
- Child care assistance,
- Transportation assistance payments,
- Payments for school supplies for the KWP participant,
- GED test fees,
- Car repairs,
- Car insurance,
- Short-term training fees, registration fees, financial aid application fees, and activity fees

Kinship Care Program (Monthly Cash Assistance)

Kinship Care is a monthly cash assistance program available to support a child's relative caregiver that qualified prior to April 1, 2013, when a moratorium was placed on the program. This program is intended to meet the federal purpose of TANF to ensure children can be cared for in their own homes or the homes of relatives.

The following are eligible:

- A child in need of protection and unable to remain in his/her home.

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- A child is placed with a nonparent relative determined by CHFS to be a preferable and viable alternative to placement with a nonrelative.
- A child at risk of foster care due to abuse or neglect or death of both parents.

Program Benefits

The following are the monthly payment amounts for households eligible for Kinship Care:

<i>Number of Eligible Children</i>	<i>Monthly Payment</i>
1 Child	\$ 300
2 Children	\$ 600
3 Children	\$ 900
4 Children	\$1,200
5 Children	\$1,500
6 or more children	\$1,800

Eligibility Requirements:

- The income limit for Kinship Care is the same as the monthly payment scale above.
- The resource limit and countable resources of the child are the same as a KTAP child.
- Except for the income limit, countable income of the child is the same as a KTAP child.
- The child meets technical eligibility requirements of a KTAP child.
- The child's eligibility for payment is ongoing until the child:
 - Leaves the home of the relative without involvement of the Cabinet; or
 - Has attained the age of nineteen (19) and is no longer a full-time student in elementary school, secondary school, or an equivalent level of vocational or technical school.
- A caretaker relative is excluded from the case and income or resources of the caretaker relative are disregarded.
- The caretaker relative is required to:
 - Pursue permanent custody within 30 days following the 12th month of receipt of Kinship Care.
 - Cooperate in a child support activity pursuant to 42 USC 608(a)(2).
 - Assign support rights to the state pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 608(a)(3) and KRS 205.720(1).
 - Participate in an annual eligibility review pursuant to 921 KAR 2:040, Section 2(2)(c).
 - Undergo a criminal records check, and child abuse and neglect

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check.

- Undergo a Relative Home Evaluation performed by the cabinet.
- The Cabinet reviews the placement after a six (6) month period.

Other Kinship Care Program Services

- A case management service to each non-parental relative caring for the child in the home.
- Support Services on a case-by-case basis including:
 - An educational bonus of \$500 per Kinship Care child under the same conditions as KTAP, pursuant to 921 KAR 2:017.
 - A childcare subsidy pursuant to 922 KAR 2:160.
 - Family counseling.
 - If requested, a referral to an available support group or other community-based services.
 - Case management services for a minimal period of six (6) months
 - Parenting training.

Relative Placement Support Benefit

This benefit is intended to meet the federal purpose of TANF to ensure children can be cared for in their own homes or the homes of relatives.

- To the extent funds are available, a one (1) time monetary benefit to address a child's immediate need during the cabinet's placement of a child who is eligible for Kinship Care and placed with a non-parental relative to assist with the following:
 - Clothing, school supplies, additional furniture, a deposit for a larger apartment, or an essential documentable cost up to the maximum amount allowed for the appropriate number of eligible children.
 - Relative's home evaluation must indicate the need.
 - Maximum amount for the appropriate number of eligible children.

<i>Number of Eligible Children</i>	<i>Maximum Payment Amount</i>
1 Child	\$ 350
2 Children	\$ 700
3 Children	\$ 1,050
4 Children	\$ 1,400
5 Children	\$ 1,750
6 or more children	\$ 2,100

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Kinship Navigator Program

The kinship navigator program is designed to connect relative caregivers with a dedicated support person who can guide them through resources, options, and challenges. Navigators are trained to explain the kinship process and available resources, connect caregivers with local and state services, and offer guidance on legal, financial, and emotional aspects of kinship care. This furthers the federal TANF purpose of allowing children to be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives.

Diversion Program: Family Assistance Short Term (FAST) (Short-Term Cash Assistance)

- A temporary, short-term cash assistance benefit is available to KTAP eligible families not currently receiving cash payments, who are under 100% FPL for the appropriate family size.
- The benefit is for families with ongoing means of support from earned income with a verified short-term need.
- The family agrees to forego ongoing KTAP cash assistance in order to access cash assistance, not to exceed \$2,600 maximum, to resolve a crisis.
- Families may be approved for FAST once in 12 months, with multiple payments to the family and/or vendor made within 3 months from the date of application.
- There is no limit to the number of times an individual can receive FAST
- An adult member of a benefit group is not eligible to receive FAST if they voluntarily quit employment unless there is good cause.
- Receipt of a FAST payment excludes the benefit group from receiving ongoing KTAP benefits for twelve (12) months unless non-receipt would result in:
 - Abuse or neglect of a child, as determined by the Cabinet; or
 - The parent's inability to provide adequate care or supervision due to the loss of employment through no fault of the parent, as determined by the Cabinet.
 - FAST payments funded through TANF and considered short-term assistance pursuant to 45 CFR 260.31(b)(1).

Work Incentive Program (WIN)

WIN is a benefit intended to address the federal TANF purpose of promoting work and long-term employment, so families can transition to financial stability.

- WIN is a reimbursement of \$200 per month for up to twelve (12)

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cumulative months for work-related expenses. Receipt of WIN is limited to once in a lifetime.

- WIN is available to a family if the following eligibility criteria are met:
 - An employed adult with an eligible child has been discontinued from KTAP and has a total gross income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.
 - Reports and verifies employment within ten (10) calendar days of obtaining a job.
 - Is a resident of Kentucky.

Safety Net (Short-Term Cash Assistance)

The Safety Net benefit is intended to further the federal purpose of ensuring children can be cared for in their homes or in the homes of relatives.

- Safety Net services are available for former KTAP recipients, who have a total gross income at or below 200 percent of federal poverty level, when the family is no longer eligible for KTAP due to a full-family sanction or reaching the 60-month lifetime limit.
- Assessment of family and home situation is required to identify needs and make a referral to available resources in the community, or if needed, crisis intervention with financial assistance for basic needs such as food, clothing, fuel, utilities, housing, etc.
- Financial assistance is available for up to \$635 over four (4) months, during a twelve (12) month period.
- Safety Net services are funded through TANF and considered short-term assistance pursuant to 45 CFR 260.31(b)(1).

Family Preservation Services

- TANF Family Preservation Program is a short term, intensive, in-home crisis intervention resource using evidence-based and trauma-informed service models intended to meet the TANF purpose of allowing children to be safely cared for in their home.
- In order to be eligible, household income must be equal to or less than 200 percent of the federal poverty scale, adjusted annually.
- Trained in-home specialists are available to families 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and carry a low caseload that allows for immediate response to crises.
- Family Preservation Program service workers engage the family using a strength based and holistic approach.
- Services to families include but are not limited to parenting education, child development training, skill-based teaching, household maintenance education, job readiness training, community resource linkage, emotion management skills, and concrete services.

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- Follow-ups are conducted on each family at three months, six months, and one year after completing services to determine status of the child(ren) identified as at risk of foster care placement and to assess the success of the program.
- TANF Family Preservation Program does not use TANF funds to provide medical services in accordance with 408(a)(6) of the Social Security Act.

Other Family Services and Foster Care Diversion Programs

- The diversion program is intended to meet the TANF purpose of allowing children to be safely cared for in their home or in the home of relatives.
- In order to be eligible, the family's household income must be at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty scale, adjusted annually.
- Diversion services are provided to families with children and youth ages 5-17 years old who are at risk of removal from their biological families, relatives or finalized adoptive families and those children who are in foster care and have a plan to be returned to their families.
- Services include use of evidence-based in-home service models, clinical assessments, therapeutic child support services, parent development program, and crisis intervention services, available 24 hours per day and seven days per week for up to four months (a two-month extension is possible on an as-needed basis).
- Community collaborative services include Community Mental Health Centers, schools, faith-based services, housing, transportation, and medical services that can be utilized for sustained self-sufficiency. There is follow-up with the family at three months, six months, and one year to determine the status of the child and assess the success of the program.
- Other services to meet the needs attributable to emergency or unusual crisis situations.
- The Foster Care Diversion Program does not use TANF funds to provide medical services in accordance with 408(a)(6) of the Social Security Act.
- Services are funded by TANF federal and state MOE funds.

Domestic Violence Program Services

Kentucky's domestic violence programs receive TANF funds to further the purpose of helping parents in crisis with planning for employment and financial stability.

- CHFS contracts with ZeroV (formerly the Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence), which subcontracts to fifteen regional offices, in the 15 regional area development districts, covering all Kentucky's 120 counties.

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- The mission of ZeroV is to end intimate partner violence, promote healthy relationships, and engage communities through social change, economic empowerment, educational opportunities, and other prevention strategies.
- Kentucky has established and is enforcing standards and procedures to ensure that TANF applicants and potential applicants are informed of the support provided by the state to survivors of domestic violence.
- In order to be eligible for this TANF service, the family's household income must be at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty scale, adjusted annually.
- Additionally, Kentucky has adopted and provides case workers and other agency personnel responsible for administering the TANF program training in state standards and procedures relating to the assistance for individuals who are survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and techniques for determining and guaranteeing the confidentiality of personal information and documents pertaining to applicants and their kids who have disclosed this information.
- Kentucky has adopted the Family Violence Option under section 402(a)(7) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 602(a)(7)). Under this option, the state has established standards and procedures for screening applicants and identifying victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Program Integrity, Compliance Monitoring, and Quality Assurance

Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT)

- In accordance with 42 U.S.C. 608(a)(12), the state must maintain policies and practices as necessary to prevent TANF-funded cash assistance from being used in any EBT transaction in any liquor store, casino, gambling casino, gaming establishment or business that provides adult-oriented entertainment in which performers disrobe or perform in an unclothed state for entertainment.
- EBT restrictions are described in Kentucky Administrative Regulations 921 KAR 2:050 and included in the staff operation manual.
- The application to apply for public assistance includes a statement concerning the restrictions of using the EBT card to access cash benefits
- Restrictions outlined in 42 USC 608 (a)(12) are included on the EBT Brochure under "EBT Card Restrictions" mailed to all EBT recipients when a new card is issued.
- Notices mailed to individuals with the EBT card include EBT restrictions, ATM and other fees that may apply, and a toll-free number available 24

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hours/7 days a week for customers to contact for any questions or problems accessing benefits. A list of participating stores and Kentucky locations of ATMs that are linked to the Quest program are available on the EBT vendor's Cardholder Portal website/mobile application.

- Measures prevent access to assistance through EBT transactions in ATM or point-of-sale devices located in restricted businesses.
- The Kentucky Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) has agreed to allow the agency to post signs on EBT restrictions at local liquor stores.
- Educational information is printed on the card carrier in both English and Spanish covering how and where to use the card.
- Individuals are limited to one free cash withdrawal per month, after which they are charged a minimal fee. Normal bank charges are assessed if the ATM charges a processing fee.
- There is no charge for cash withdrawals at an authorized retailer's point of service terminal at the time of a retail purchase.

Language Access

- Qualified interpreters and appropriately translated forms and documents are provided at no cost for the Cabinet's clients, allowing the Cabinet to remain in compliance with Section 601 of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Executive Order 13166.
- The Cabinet provides interpretation and translation services for Limited English Proficiency clients who have Spanish as their primary language through staff interpreters, other qualified Cabinet staff members, qualified community-based partners, and a contract with Language Services Associates, Inc.
- The Cabinet also provides interpretation and translations in up to 160 other languages through qualified community-based partners and contracted partners.
- Cabinet agencies and staff:
 - Post multilingual signs in waiting areas to explain the availability of interpreters.
 - Use "I Speak" cards at the initial contact to invite people with limited English Proficiency to identify their primary language.
 - Identify each LEP customer and record the primary language of such customer. Document in the case records that the household contains LEP individuals, so interpreter services can be provided at no cost and without unreasonable delay.

TANF-Funded, Non-Cash Assistance Contracts

DCBS staff oversee and monitor the agency's TANF-funded contracts on a

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routine basis. This includes monitoring of invoices and practices for contractors to ensure funding is utilized in compliance with federal and state rules. Contractors are required to demonstrate a process for assessing clients for income eligibility and other rules set by the Department and report data and outcomes.

Compliance with Other Laws

The following provisions of law apply to any program or activity funded with TANF funds:

- The Age Discrimination Act of 1975
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (amends Social Security Act section 402(a)(7))
- This program is prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin or ancestry, sexual orientation, age, or disability.

Privacy Protections

- Privacy protections are guaranteed for TANF recipients through Kentucky Revised Statutes 194A.060, 205.175, and 205.177.
- Case record information is not published or open for public inspection.
- Kentucky ensures compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA).
- Information available to the following entities:
 - Public employees administering public assistance and child support programs.
 - All law enforcement agencies in cases involving the discovery and prosecution of fraud.
 - Banks or other financial institutions to confirm information submitted by the recipient for assistance determination.
- Applicants provide written consent prior to the disclosure of any financial data.
- Information about the recipient is also available to:
 - Entities supplying or securing services for the recipient, where a confidentiality agreement exists with the Cabinet.
 - An authorized representative of any other state or local government agency, if there is a direct or legitimate interest in the participant or his family, notwithstanding any state statute or regulation to the contrary.
 - Private or quasi-private agency when such agency has an

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agreement with the state assuring the confidentiality of all such information and a direct, tangible and legitimate interest in the individual.

Hearing Rights

- A system of hearings is available to any applicant or recipient dissatisfied with an action or inaction.
- On receipt of an oral request (later submitted in writing) or written request, the applicant or recipient is given reasonable notice and opportunity for a hearing pursuant to procedures provided in Chapter 13B of Kentucky Revised Statutes and Kentucky Administrative Regulation 921 KAR 2:055.
- If dissatisfied with the decision of a hearing officer, the applicant or recipient may appeal to the Appeal Board for Public Assistance.
- Within 30 days after a decision by the appeal board, any party aggrieved may secure judicial review in the circuit court of the county in which the petitioner resides.
- A complaint of discrimination against the Commonwealth of Kentucky should be directed in writing to:

**Office of Human Resource Management
EEO Compliance Branch
275 East Main Street, 5C-D
Frankfort, Kentucky 40621**

Tribes

Not applicable to the Commonwealth of Kentucky

Certifications

- Operation of child support program.
- Operation of foster care and adoption assistance program.
- Administration by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services.
- Assurance that local governments and private sector organizations have been given 45 days for submitting comments.
- Procedures to ensure against fraud and abuse.