

**NOTICE OF INTENT**

**Department of Children and Family Services**

**Economic Stability**

**Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP)**

**(LAC 67:III.1942)**

In accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act R.S. 49:953 (A), the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) proposes to adopt LAC 67:III, Subpart 3 Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), Chapter 19 Certification of Eligible Households, Subchapter G Work Requirements, Section 1942 Workforce Training and Education Pilot Initiative.

Section 1942 adopts provisions necessary to establish a pilot initiative in Tangipahoa parish for the purpose of enhancing workforce readiness and improving employment opportunities for SNAP recipients who are unemployed or underemployed able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs).

Pursuant to the authority granted to the department by the Food and Nutrition Services (FNS), the department considers these amendments necessary to comply with Act 622 of the 2014 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

**Title 67**

**SOCIAL SERVICES**

**Part III. Economic Stability**

**Subpart 3. Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program  
(SNAP)**

**Chapter 19. Certification of Eligible Households**

**Subchapter G. Work Requirements**

**§1942. Workforce Training and Education Pilot Initiative**

A. The department shall administer a workforce training and education pilot initiative within SNAP for the purpose of enhancing workforce readiness and improving employment

opportunities for SNAP recipients who are unemployed or underemployed able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs). Individuals to be served by the pilot initiative shall include, exclusively, all ABAWDs residing in Tangipahoa parish who are not exempt by provisions of this Section.

B. Individuals are ineligible to continue to receive SNAP benefits if, during any 36-month period after February 2015, they received SNAP benefits for at least three months (consecutive or otherwise) while that individual did not either:

1. work an average of 20 hours per week;
2. participate in and comply with a Job Training Partnership Act Program, Trade Adjustment Act Program, or Employment and Training Program (other than a job search or job search training program) for 20 hours or more per week; or
3. participate in and comply with a workfare program.

C. An individual is exempt from this requirement if the individual is:

1. under age 18, or 50 years of age or older;
2. medically certified as physically or mentally unfit for employment;
3. a parent of a household member under age 18, even if the household member who is under age 18 does not receive SNAP benefits;
4. residing in a household where a household member is under age 18, even if the household member who is under age 18 does not receive SNAP benefits;
5. pregnant;
6. meeting one or more of the following criteria relative to educational advancement:

a. In the previous six months, the individual enrolled in an accredited postsecondary educational institution that grants associate or baccalaureate degrees.

b. In the previous six months, the individual enrolled in a program designed to lead to a high school diploma.

c. In the previous six months, the individual enrolled in a general education development test preparation course.

d. In the previous six months, the individual earned a high school diploma or a general education development certificate.

7. satisfactorily participating or satisfactorily participated in LaJET (a SNAP employment and training program) in the previous six months; or

8. otherwise exempt from work registration requirements.

D. Regaining eligibility for assistance.

1. Individuals denied eligibility under the pilot initiative rule can regain eligibility if during a 30-day period the individual:

a. works 80 hours or more;

b. participates in and complies with a Job Training and Partnership Act Program, Trade Adjustment Assistance Act Program, or Employment and Training Program (other than a job search or job search training program) for 80 hours or more;

c. participates in and complies with a workfare program (under Section 20 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 or a comparable state or local program) for 80 hours or more.

2. An individual who regained eligibility and who is no longer fulfilling the work requirement is eligible for three consecutive countable months one time in any 36-month period,

starting on the date the individual first notifies the agency that he or she is no longer fulfilling the work requirement, unless the individual has:

a. met one or more of the following criteria relative to educational advancement:

i. In the previous six months, the individual enrolled in an accredited postsecondary educational institution that grants associate or baccalaureate degrees.

ii. In the previous six months, the individual enrolled in a program designed to lead to a high school diploma.

iii. In the previous six months, the individual enrolled in a general education development test preparation course.

iv. In the previous six months, the individual earned a high school diploma or a general education development certificate.

b. satisfactorily participated in LaJET (a SNAP employment and training program) in the previous six months; or

c. otherwise been exempted from work registration requirements.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with P.L. 104-193, P.L. 110-246, and Act 622 of the 2014 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Children and Family Services, Economic Stability Section, LR 40:

#### **Family Impact Statement**

1. What effect will this Rule have on the stability of the family? This rule will have no effect on the family's stability.

2. What effect will this have on the authority and rights of persons regarding the education and supervision of their children? This rule will have no effect on the authority and rights of persons regarding the education and supervision of their children.

3. What effect will this have on the functioning of the family? This rule will have no effect on the functioning of the family.

4. What effect will this have on family earnings and family budget? This rule will have no effect on family earnings or family budget.

5. What effect will this have on the behavior and personal responsibility of children? This rule will have no effect on the behavior and personal responsibility of children.

6. Is the family or local government able to perform the function as contained in this proposed Rule? No, these functions are department functions.

#### **Poverty Impact Statement**

The proposed rulemaking may have an impact on poverty as described in R.S. 49:973 if individuals become employed. The poverty rate may decrease.

#### **Small Business Impact Statement**

The proposed Rule will have no adverse impact on small businesses as defined in the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

#### **Provider Impact Statement**

The proposed rulemaking is not anticipated to have any impact on providers of services funded by the state as described in HCR 170 of the 2014 Regular Legislative Session.

#### **Public Comments**

All interested persons may submit written comments through, December 29, 2014, to Lisa Andry, Acting Deputy Assistant

Secretary of Programs, Department of Children and Family  
Services, P.O. Box 94065, Baton Rouge, LA, 70804.

**Public Hearing**

A public hearing on the proposed Rule will be held on  
December 29, 2014 at the Department of Children and Family  
Services, Iberville Building, 627 North Fourth Street, Seminar  
Room 1-127, Baton Rouge, LA beginning at 9 a.m. All interested  
persons will be afforded an opportunity to submit data, views,  
or arguments, orally or in writing, at said hearing. Individuals  
with disabilities who require special services should contact  
the Bureau of Appeals at least seven working days in advance of  
the hearing. For assistance, call (225) 342-4120 (Voice and  
TDD).

Suzy Sonnier  
Secretary

**FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT  
FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**

Person Preparing Statement:	<u>Allison Willeford</u>	Department:	<u>Children and Family Services</u>
Phone:	<u>(225) 342-2530</u>	Office:	<u>Economic Stability</u>
Return Address:	<u>627 N. 4th St., P.O. Box 94065 Baton Rouge, LA 70804</u>	Rule Title:	<u>Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP)</u>
		Date Rule Takes Effect:	<u>March 1, 2015</u>

**SUMMARY**

In accordance with Section 953 of Title 49 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes, there is hereby submitted a fiscal and economic impact statement of the rule proposed for adoption, repeal or amendment. The following summary statements, based on the attached worksheets, will be published in the Louisiana Register with the proposed agency rule.

**I. Estimated Implementation Costs (Savings) to State or Local Governmental Units (Summary)**

This rule proposes to adopt Louisiana Administrative Code (LAC), Title 67, Part III, Subpart 3 Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), Chapter 19 Certification of Eligible Households, Subchapter G Work Requirements, Section 1942—Workforce Training and Education Pilot Initiative. The proposed rule adopts provisions enabling the secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to establish a pilot initiative in Tangipahoa parish for the purpose of enhancing workforce readiness and improving employment opportunities for SNAP recipients in that parish who are unemployed or underemployed able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs). The proposed rule requires SNAP recipients identified as ABAWDs (unless exempt) to either work an average of 20 hours per week or participate/comply with certain programs that enhance workforce readiness and improve employment for 20 hours per week.

There is no anticipated direct material effect on state expenditures in DCFS as a result of this proposed rule. The proposed rule requires SNAP recipients identified as ABAWDs to meet certain employment and training requirements in order to be exempt from the 6-month time limit. This rule does not require additional staff or resources to meet the administrative requirements of the pilot initiative in Tangipahoa. While DCFS receives reimbursement from the federal government for administering the SNAP program, the federal government pays 100% of SNAP benefits.

The only cost associated with this proposed rule is the cost of publishing rulemaking. It is anticipated that \$1,278 (\$639 State General Fund and \$639 Federal Funds) will be expended in SFY 14-15 for the state's administrative expense for promulgation of this proposed rule and the final rule.

**II. Estimated Effect on Revenue Collections of State or Local Governmental Units (Summary)**

Implementation of this proposed rule will have no direct effect on revenue collections of State or local governmental units.

**III. Estimated Costs and/or Economic Benefits to Directly Affected Persons or Non-Governmental Groups (Summary)**

This proposed rule may enhance workforce readiness and improve employment opportunities for SNAP recipients identified as unemployed or underemployed ABAWDs.

**IV. Estimated Impact on Competition and Employment (Summary)**

This proposed rule will not have an impact on competition and employment for low-income families.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Agency Head  
or Designee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICER  
OR DESIGNEE

Lisa Andry, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Typed Name and Title of Agency Head

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE OF SIGNATURE

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DCFS Undersecretary