STATE OF IOWA

STATE PLAN FOR TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEED FAMILIES (TANF) EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2007

AMENDMENT Effective January 1, 2009

The Iowa Department of Human Services would like to submit the following five amended pages to the Iowa TANF State Plan:

1. Replace page 9: Effective January 1, 2009, the exemption of census earnings received by temporary workers from the Bureau of Census is updated to include all earnings regardless of the period of census.

2. Replace page 11: Effective February 1, 2009, eliminates reference to the obsolete combined Public Assistance Eligibility Report/Food Assistance Interim Report.

3. Replace page 12: Effective February 1, 2009, eliminates FIP quarterly reporting and implements semi-annual reporting. This change aligns FIP reporting requirements with food assistance policies.

4. New Page 18A: Effective January 1, 2009, addition of a new Non-IVA Emergency Assistance program to provide child abuse prevention and avoidance services to children who many not meet the all of the IV-A Emergency Assistance guidelines.

5. Replace page 29: Clean up language - eliminating reference to protective payees. Iowa no longer includes protective payees as a Family Investment Program (FIP) category.

The FIP goal of personal responsibility was strengthened in January 2007, through an Administrative Rule change that clarified that when a participant is offered PROMISE JOBS activities to overcome a known barrier to self–sufficiency and fails to comply, the participant will not meet hardship criteria to receive FIP beyond 60 months based on that specific barrier.

For purposes of calculating the federally required 20 percent limit on the number of families allowed an extension, the state chooses a calculation based on the average monthly number of families receiving assistance during the current fiscal year. Included in the 20 percent are families that have their FIP benefits continued beyond 60 months while an appeal is pending or other situations where the benefits are subject to overpayment recovery, such as when benefits are continued pending the issuance of timely notice.

Calculating the Grant:

The FIP eligible group must meet income and resource limits established for Iowa's Family Investment Program. The assistance grant is based on the number of people in the eligible group. The income of people in the eligible group and other people who live in the home whose income must be considered (e.g., excluded parents, ineligible stepparents, self-supporting parents of a minor parent) after appropriate disregards, must meet Iowa's income tests. The income and resources of a person on Supplemental Security Income are disregarded.

Income disregards and deductions are the same as those under the prior AFDC program except:

- Effective October 1997, the Work Transition Period (a four-month disregard of earned income for certain long-term unemployed recipients) was eliminated.

- Effective November 10, 1997, Iowa began disregarding all financial assistance for education or training as income and resources.

- The FIP child care disregard was eliminated effective July 1, 1999. FIP recipients and other people whose earned income is considered for FIP are now automatically eligible for state child care assistance without regard to the latter program's eligibility requirements and waiting lists.

- The FIP adult care disregard was eliminated effective March 1, 2000.

- All income received by ~~of~~ temporary ~~Census 2000~~ workers from the Bureau of Census ~~work performed from April 2000 through January 2001~~ is disregarded.

- Effective August 1, 2007, the earned income disregard was increased from 50% to 58%.

Effective January 2007, the Department implemented several changes in FIP policy to align with Food Assistance or Family Medical Assistance program policies. These changes improve administrative efficiency, eliminate confusion and provide better customer service for participants.

- The method of determining the FIP monthly grant amount was changed from retrospective budgeting (setting the next month's grant according to a prior month's income) to prospective budgeting (setting the amount based on anticipated income). Changing from retrospective to prospective budgeting aligns the FIP budgeting method with the method used by the Food Assistance and the Family Medical Assistance Program (FMAP)–related Medicaid programs.

- The list of changes participants are required to report for FIP was revised to make it easier for participants to understand what information must be reported and will allow the Department to focus on obtaining the information that is necessary to correctly determine eligibility and benefits.

- Recoupment will not apply when a change in income is timely reported and timely acted upon by the local office, but the Department's timely notice requirements delay the action until the second calendar month following the month of change and eligibility for FIP continues. This change will prevent imposition of small overpayments incurred through no fault of the participant or the worker and aligns policies between the Food Assistance, FMAP–related Medicaid, and FIP programs. The Department will continue to recoup any excess benefits issued when a participant fails to timely report a change in circumstances or when a change makes a case or a person ineligible for FIP but the Department's timely notice requirements delay the action.

- The period of ineligibility caused by receipt of a nonrecurring lump sum was changed to align with FMAP–related Medicaid policy. Aligning the policies will encourage timely reporting of receipt of a nonrecurring lump sum. The period of ineligibility will begin with the month when the nonrecurring lump sum is received. If the lump sum is timely reported, but timely notice provisions prevent applying it to one or both of the first two months of the period of ineligibility, no recoupment will be made for those months. If the lump sum is not timely reported, recoupment will be made.

- ~~A combined Public Assistance Eligibility Report/Food Assistance Interim Report to be issued in months when both are required was implemented. A combined Public Assistance Eligibility Report/Food Assistance Interim Report will eliminate unnecessary paperwork, and avoid confusion for participants.~~

- The substitution of a telephone interview for a face–to–face interview at the time of reapplication or review will be allowed, as appropriate. Allowing income maintenance workers the flexibility to do some FIP interviews by telephone will promote efficiency for workers while removing a barrier for families who have difficulty attending a face–to–face interview. A family may have difficulty attending a face–to–face interview because of work or school schedules, lack of transportation, lack of child care, health problems, or other issues.

- Effective August 2007, Medicaid increased the earned income disregard from 50% to 58% to align with FIP.

- Effective February 1, 2009, eliminated FIP quarterly reporting and moved to semi-annual reporting. This change aligns FIP reporting requirements to food assistance and provides less customer confusion and less paper work.

Other TANF and State Programs Used for Maintenance of Effort

The following is a list of all other current Iowa programs that use either TANF or state maintenance of effort funding. Separate or Segregated State Programs used for maintenance of effort are identified below. Except for those programs below that are specifically identified as only using state funds, each program listed uses either all TANF funds or commingled TANF and state maintenance of effort funds.

All programs, benefits, and services for which state funds may be claimed for maintenance of effort (MOE) purposes under Section 409(a)(7) of the Social Security Act, as amended by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-193), were either previously authorized and allowable as of August 21, 1996, or were implemented after that date. Consequently, in accordance with 45 CFR 265.9(c)(7) and (8), information about state expenditures on MOE programs for federal fiscal year 1995 are not required and are not included.

Of the programs listed below, only TANF funding for Family Investment Program cash grant assistance is considered "assistance" within the federal TANF definition and, consequently, counts toward a family's 60-month lifetime limit. However, by state law, the same definition of "assistance" is used for the segregated state programs, Two-Parents Receiving FIP and FIP for Battered Aliens, and is counted toward a family's state 60-month lifetime limit.

Citizenship, eligible alien status, and social security number requirements apply to:
- FIP
- Two-Parents Receiving FIP
- FIP for Battered Aliens
- All other programs to the extent required by federal law.

In those instances where the description of a program indicates that a family must be participating in FIP or otherwise eligible for FIP as a condition for receiving benefits or services, the FIP income limitations and other eligibility criteria previously described [including household composition] apply unless otherwise specified. FIP income limitations and other eligibility criteria also apply to any program where the program description indicates the family must be participating in PROMISE JOBS services as described below. Descriptions of programs dependent on FIP eligibility criteria do not repeat these criteria.

New page 18A:

- *Non-IV-A Emergency Assistance Program*: As of January 1, 2009, the state uses TANF funds for a number of child welfare services similar to those provided under prior IV-A Emergency Assistance law. The purpose of the non IV-A Emergency Assistance services are to reduce and advert child abuse in families not otherwise eligible for IV-A Emergency Services under prior law.

  These services may include: family assistance fund; social casework; family preservation; family foster care; protective day care; adolescent monitoring and tracking; and shelter care (over 48 hours).

  Families must meet general child welfare eligibility criteria regardless of the specific services(s) being sought: residency, an eligible child (under age 18, although some services are available up to age 21), and a need for services. There are no any other eligibility criteria specific to this program.

  This program is intended to meet the 3rd statutory objective of TANF to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies.

Replace page 29 with the following:

- Suspension, reduction or termination of assistance.
- Existence and the amount of an overpayment.
- Recovery of an overpayment.
- ~~Appointment of a protective payee.~~

Aggrieved people may request a review of the Department's appeal decision or appeal the decision to the district court in the client's county of residence.

The Department has a written policy on nondiscrimination consistent with federal and state law that is included on applications, notices, and other forms. This policy includes information on where and how to file discrimination complaints.

(iv) Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, unless the chief executive officer of the State opts out of this provision by notifying the Secretary, a State shall, consistent with the exception provided in Section 407(e)(2), require a parent or caretaker receiving assistance under the program who, after receiving such assistance for two months is not exempt from work requirements and is not engaged in work, as determined under Section 407(c), to participate in community service employment, with minimum hours per week and tasks to be determined by the State.

Iowa opted out of this provision. See Attachment A.1 for details.

(a)(2) CERTIFICATION THAT THE STATE WILL OPERATE A CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM. - A certification by the chief executive officer of the State that, during the fiscal year, the State will operate a child support enforcement program under the State plan approved under part D.

As certified by the Governor in the attached State Plan Certifications, Iowa will operate a child support enforcement program approved under part D of the State plan.

(a)(3) CERTIFICATION THAT THE STATE WILL OPERATE A FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. - A certification by the chief executive officer of the State that, during the fiscal year, the State will operate a foster care and adoption assistance program under the State plan approved under Part E, and that the State 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.

As certified by the Governor in the attached State Plan Certifications, Iowa will operate a foster care and adoption assistance program approved under Part E of the State plan and take actions as are necessary to ensure that children receiving foster care or adoption assistance are eligible for medical assistance under the Title XIX State plan.

(a)(4) CERTIFICATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM. - A certification by the chief executive officer of the State specifying which State agency or agencies will administer and supervise the program referred to in paragraph (a)(1) for the