Summary of Proposed TANF State Plan Amendment

2026-2028

Following receipt of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) completeness determination for Alaska's approved TANF State Plan, the Alaska Department of Health proposes to submit a State Plan Amendment following a 45-day public comment period and Tribal consultation. The proposed amendment does not change core Alaska Temporary Assistance Program (ATAP) eligibility requirements, federal time limits, work participation requirements, benefit issuance methods, or participant rights.

The primary changes include:

New TANF-Funded Programs and Services

- Addition of the Strong Youth, Strong Families initiative, focused on family stabilization and prevention services.
- Addition of the Family Connection and Reunification Support Program to support visitation and reunification activities for families involved with the Office of Children's Services (OCS).
- Addition of the Kinship Stipend and Commodities Support Program for relative caregivers.
- Authorization of one-time supplemental payments for eligible ATAP households when funding is available.
- Expansion of Non-Recurrent Short-Term Benefits for eligible non-ATAP families experiencing temporary crises.

Energy Assistance

- Conversion of TANF-funded energy assistance from a single-season program description to an ongoing program framework with established eligibility and funding provisions.

Child Welfare and Family Preservation

- Expansion of TANF-funded activities supporting family stabilization, prevention of family separation, kinship care, visitation services, and reunification efforts.

Tribal TANF Programs

- Updated descriptions of Native Family Assistance Programs (NFAPs), equitable access requirements, and state support provided to Tribal TANF operators.

Work Services and Performance Measures

- Additional detail regarding work activities, community service placements, and federal compliance requirements.
- Updated program performance measures emphasizing employment entry, training participation, and training completion.

Administrative and Compliance Updates

- Additional detail regarding Maintenance of Effort (MOE) expenditures.
- Expanded public participation, Tribal consultation, and stakeholder engagement language.
- Updated descriptions of federal certification and reporting requirements.