Alaska TANF State Plan

2026-2028

Plan Effective December 31, 2025

What Is Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)?

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is a federal block grant program established in 1996 to help families with children meet basic needs, prepare for employment, and become more financially independent. The program is overseen by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (ACF). States have flexibility to design services that reflect community needs while following federal law.

Section 401 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 601) identifies four purposes of TANF:

1. Provide assistance to families in need so children can be cared for in their own homes or the homes of relatives.

2. Reduce dependence on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage.

3. Prevent and reduce pregnancies outside of marriage.

4. Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

How Does TANF Work in Alaska?

The Alaska Temporary Assistance Program (ATAP) is Alaska's TANF cash assistance program, administered by the Department of Health, Division of Public Assistance. ATAP provides temporary cash assistance, employment services, and supports such as job preparation, child care, and transportation to help eligible families move toward self-sufficiency. Eligibility, work participation, and time limits are governed by federal and state requirements. Alaska also supports other eligible TANF-funded services, and eligible Alaska Native families may be served by Tribal TANF programs.

How Is TANF Funded?

TANF is supported by a federal block grant and qualifying state expenditures known as Maintenance of Effort (MOE). Federal law sets rules for how these funds may be used and requires states to meet applicable program, reporting, and accountability requirements. Not every activity described in the State Plan is necessarily funded by TANF or directly administered by ATAP.

What Is a State Plan and Why Is It Required?

A TANF State Plan explains how a state operates its program and meets federal requirements. Section 402 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 602) makes submission of a qualifying State Plan a condition of federal TANF block grant funding. Alaska prepares the plan to describe its services, document how it meets federal requirements, and provide information to the public and community partners.

What Must Be Included in the State Plan?

Federal law requires the State Plan to address specific program policies, planning provisions, and certifications. These subjects extend beyond monthly cash assistance. Key areas include:

• **Assistance and work services:** How the state assists eligible families and engages participants in employment and other work activities.

• **Eligibility and participant rights:** Eligibility and benefit rules, fair treatment, appeal rights, confidentiality, and certain provisions for families moving between states and noncitizens.

• **Family stability and prevention:** Programs to prevent and reduce pregnancies outside of marriage and required education and training on statutory rape.

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• **Safety and access:** Required notifications and staff training concerning sexual harassment, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and rules governing access to cash benefits.

• **Coordination and certifications:** Certifications concerning child support enforcement, foster care and adoption assistance, equitable access for eligible Tribal members, and program integrity.

• **Program administration and consultation:** State agency responsibilities, required consultation, and public availability of the plan.

Why Does the Plan Include Topics Beyond Cash Assistance?

Some required topics may seem unrelated to a cash assistance program. For example, § 402(a)(1)(A)(vi) specifically requires a state program providing education and training on statutory rape to law enforcement, the education system, and relevant counseling services as part of broader pregnancy-prevention efforts. Other provisions require certifications relating to child support and foster care, and mandatory notification and training protections concerning sexual harassment, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The separate Family Violence Option under § 402(a)(7) is elective; Alaska states in Section 8 that it has adopted that option. Activities described in this plan may be carried out by agencies other than the Division of Public Assistance.

Federal authority: Social Security Act §§ 401–402 (42 U.S.C. §§ 601–602).

Section 1: Alaska Temporary Assistance Program Major Provisions

This section explains the major eligibility and program requirements for ATAP. ATAP is available statewide to eligible Alaska families with low incomes. Some eligible families receive TANF-funded assistance through Tribal TANF programs, while other eligible families receive services through the Division of Public Assistance. Alaska uses a Work First approach to help adults who are required to participate in work activities prepare for the workforce, attend training, find employment, and move toward self-sufficiency. More detailed requirements are available in the ATAP Program Manual.

1.1 Service Delivery and Equitable Access

The division provides ATAP benefits to eligible families who are not served by a Tribal TANF program. Families can access ATAP in both urban and rural communities through division offices and other application and document-submission options, including:

- Families may apply in person, online, or by mail.
- Fee agents are available in rural and urban communities to accept applications.
- Families may submit documents in person, office drop box, email, secure messaging, by mail, or through the Virtual Contact Center.

The division contracts with an outside vendor to provide interpreter services in hundreds of languages so people can apply for benefits and receive information in their preferred language.

1.2 Native Family Assistance Program

ATAP Program Manual Citation: http://dpaweb.hss.state.ak.us/manuals/NFAP/NFAP_Guide.htm.

Twelve Alaska Native organizations are federally authorized to operate TANF-funded Native Family Assistance Programs (NFAPs). Seven currently operate an NFAP. Alaska Native people whose Tribe operates an NFAP may apply for and receive TANF-funded benefits through that Tribal TANF organization. Alaska Native people who are not served by an NFAP are served through the division.

The division also awards state-funded grants to federally authorized Alaska Native organizations operating an NFAP. These grants supplement federal TANF block grant funding.

1.3 Definition of an Eligible Family

An ATAP eligible family includes the family configurations permitted under Alaska law and ATAP policy, including:

- A single parent or caretaker relative of 1 or more related dependent children; or
- A 2-parent family in which both parents live in the same household.
- A pregnant person in the last trimester of pregnancy, when otherwise eligible under Alaska law and ATAP policy.

1.4 Dependent Child

A dependent child is under 18 years old. A child who is 18 may continue to receive ATAP if the child is a full-time student in secondary school or enrolled in an equivalent level of vocational or technical training. Eligibility ends when the child completes or leaves the program or turns 19, whichever occurs first.

1.5 Residency Requirements

A family must live in Alaska and intend to remain in the state. Alaska does not apply different eligibility rules to families who recently moved to Alaska, consistent with § 402(a)(1)(B)(i) of the Social Security Act.

1.6 Temporary Absence Period

A household member generally cannot be away from the home for more than 30 days. Longer absences may be allowed in circumstances permitted under ATAP policy.

1.7 Non-Citizen Eligibility

Non-citizens may receive ATAP only if they meet applicable federal immigration-status requirements and all other ATAP eligibility requirements. This includes people who meet the federal definition of a qualified alien under 8 U.S.C. § 1641. The division does not provide assistance to people who do not meet applicable citizenship or qualified-alien requirements, consistent with § 402(a)(1)(B)(ii) of the Social Security Act.

1.8 Time Limits

ATAP assistance is generally limited to a lifetime total of 60 months. Months of federally funded TANF assistance received in Alaska, another state, or a Tribal TANF program generally count toward this limit.

As permitted under 408(a)(7)(D) months of assistance received by an adult while living in Indian country or an Alaska Native village with 50% employment will not be counted towards the adult's 60-month time limit. Additionally, some Alaska Tribal TANF programs apply a different time limit to their participants.

Federal law allows Alaska to provide hardship exceptions to the 60-month limit. The number of families receiving these exceptions is subject to the federal limitation in § 408(a)(7)(C) of the Social Security Act.

Alaska's 60-month exemptions include:

- Domestic violence
- Physical or mental inability to perform gainful activity
- Caring for a child or relative who is experiencing a disability
- Other hardship defined by the division in the ATAP Program Manual

Unless an applicable exception applies, a family that includes an adult who has reached the federal 60-month limit may no longer receive federally funded TANF assistance.

1.9 Participant Rights

ATAP applicants and participants have the right to fair and equitable treatment in the administration of the program, including a legal right to request a fair hearing when they disagree with certain program decisions.

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The division provides information about these rights during the eligibility and renewal processes and on program notices.

1.10 Parental Responsibility

Federal law at 45 CFR § 264.30 requires most ATAP applicants and recipients to cooperate with child support requirements. This may include establishing paternity and establishing, modifying, or enforcing a child support order. Child support rights that accrue while a family receives ATAP are assigned to the State as required by law. A person may qualify for good cause for not cooperating with child support requirements.

The division also uses several other child support provisions intended to strengthen families and promote parental responsibilities. These provisions include:

- Parents of unmarried minor parents may be ordered by a court to pay child support for their grandchild until the minor parent becomes an adult.
- Interest on child support arrearages is applied consistent with Alaska law.
- Alaska may take licensing enforcement action when a parent is not in substantial compliance with a child support order, consistent with Alaska law and CSED policy.
- Alaska participates in the Federal Case Registry and National Directory of New Hires to support interstate child support enforcement.

1.11 Privacy

Federal and State confidentiality requirements, including § 402(a)(1)(A)(iv) of the Social Security Act, limit how information about ATAP applicants and recipients may be used or disclosed. The division adopts and enforces rules governing the custody, use, and preservation of program records. Information is used or disclosed only as permitted by applicable law and program requirements.

Confidentiality rules permit the release of a recipient's address to law enforcement in limited circumstances authorized by law, including when the recipient is identified as a fugitive felon or parole violator.

1.12 Appeal Rights

ATAP applicants and recipients have the right to request a fair hearing when they disagree with certain eligibility or benefit decisions. A person or authorized representative may submit a written request to the division. Division staff will assist with the request when needed.

Fair-hearing information and forms are available through the division and may be provided in person or by mail, fax, or email.

Section 2: Work and Self-Sufficiency

ATAP helps parents prepare for work, find employment, and access supports that can help them remain employed and become more self-sufficient. Work Services are individualized based on a participant's skills, work history, goals, family circumstances, and barriers to employment.

This section summarizes Alaska's Work Services requirements. More detailed information is available in the Work Services Procedure Manual. The program is designed to meet the following provisions of the Social Security Act:

- § 402(a)(1)(A)(i)
- § 402(a)(1)(A)(ii)
- § 402(a)(1)(A)(iii)
- § 407(e)(2)

2.1 Family Self-Sufficiency Plan (FSSP) and Assessment

ATAP applicants who are required to participate in Work Services are referred to Work Services Case Management after eligibility is approved. Caretaker relatives in child-only cases may volunteer to participate. People who are excluded from participation by law are not required to participate.

- Upon referral, the participant completes an Employability Assessment that reviews the participant's skills, work history, employment goals, and barriers to employment.
- Participants who are required by ATAP policy to complete a Family Self-Sufficiency Plan must do so, including participants who qualify for a work exemption when applicable.
- The participant and case manager work together to develop the FSSP. The plan identifies the family's goals, the steps needed to reach those goals, and the services the division will provide.

2.2 Work Services Delivery

Work Services Procedure Manual Citation: WSPM 1001-2 Employability Assessment, 1001-5 Additional or Specialized Assessment, 1002 Family Self-Sufficiency Plan, 1004 Supportive Services, *and* 1005 Job Development.

The division uses a Work First approach that engages work-mandatory participants in employment or work activities as early as possible. Alaska's approach is designed to meet the work-engagement requirements in § 402(a)(1)(A)(ii) and § 402(a)(1)(B)(iv) of the Social Security Act.

- § 402(a)(1)(A)(ii): Alaska engages work-mandatory participants when they are ready for work and does not wait until the maximum federal timeframe to assign appropriate work activities.
- § 402(a)(1)(B)(iv): Alaska assigns appropriate work activities promptly rather than waiting 2 months to engage a participant.

The case manager uses the Employability Assessment to identify barriers and works with the participant to develop strategies and supports to address those barriers.

The case manager also uses the assessment to work with work-mandatory participants to identify employment and training paths that fit their interests, goals, and capabilities. This may include:

- Training in high-demand occupations. Case managers may refer participants to training organizations that can help them build skills for emerging employment opportunities.
- Education, training, and employment opportunities in direct care, long-term care, and other elder-care occupations where Alaska identifies a need for workers, consistent with § 402(a)(1)(B)(v) of the Social Security Act.

2.3 Work Activities

The division allows participation in all 12 federally permitted work activities. Assignment to work activities is based on the individual's goal. In addition, case managers take into account the work season, labor market, and available opportunities, especially in remote areas of Alaska. Allowable ATAP work activities include:

Work Activity	Description
Unsubsidized Employment	Full or part-time employment in the public or private sector, including self-employment and seasonal employment, for which the employer does not receive a public subsidy.
Subsidized Private Employment	Employment in the private sector for which the employer receives a public subsidy to offset some or all the participant's wages and costs of employment.

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Work Activity	Description
Subsidized Public Employment	Employment in the public sector for which the employer receives a public subsidy to offset some or all of the participant's wages and employment costs.
Work Experience	A supervised work activity that provides participants with an opportunity to develop work skills and improve employability.
On-the-Job Training	Training provided by an employer to a paid participant while engaged in productive work that develops the knowledge and skills necessary to perform the job.
Job Search	Activities designed to assist participants in obtaining employment, consistent with federal requirements.
Job Readiness Assistance	Activities that improve employability and prepare participants for employment, including instruction in workplace expectations and other employment-related skills.
Community Service Programs	Community service provides participants with supervised work experience with public agencies, nonprofit organizations, Tribal organizations, and community partners. These activities help participants develop employment skills while providing a benefit to the community. Alaska has not opted out of this provision and fulfills the statutory requirement through its immediate-engagement policy and FLSA-compliant community service placements.
Vocational Educational Training	Organized educational programs that prepare participants for employment in recognized occupations through the development of occupational skills.
Job Skills Training Directly Related to Employment	Training that provides participants with specific skills needed to obtain or advance in employment.
Education Directly Related to Employment	Educational activities for participants without a high school diploma or equivalent that are directly related to obtaining employment.
Satisfactory Attendance at Secondary School or in a Course of Study Leading to a Certificate of General Equivalence	Regular attendance in secondary school or a program leading to a high school diploma or recognized equivalent.
Providing Child Care Services to an Individual Participating in a Community Service Program	Providing child care to enable another participant to engage in a community service program.

Work experience and community service assignments are structured to comply with applicable federal wage and hour requirements. The division uses the household's benefit amount and applicable minimum-wage requirements when determining allowable participation hours.

2.4 Collaboration to Deliver Work Services

Alaska's diverse economic conditions require local knowledge and resources to place recipients into jobs or other meaningful work activities relevant to each local area. Employment opportunities and available services vary across Alaska. The division works with local governments, Alaska Native organizations, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and other community partners to provide employment, training, education, and support services that reflect local needs.

2.5 Work Activity Exemptions

The division exempts parent or caretaker relatives from work activities because they are:

- Needed in the home to care for a relative with a disability;
- Determined to have a medical condition that limits their ability to participate in work activities;
- Caring for a child 12 months old or younger. This exemption is limited to a total of 12 months during the adult's lifetime;

- Experiencing or having experienced domestic violence; or
- A single custodial parent caring for a child under age 6 who demonstrates that needed child care is unavailable, unsuitable, or unaffordable, as provided under federal law.

2.6 Domestic Violence

The division, in coordination with the State Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, provides additional protections for people who are experiencing or have experienced domestic violence. The division will:

- Screen people applying for and receiving ATAP for current or past domestic violence;
- Refer people experiencing domestic violence to specialized community-based services, including counseling and shelters;
- Develop individualized service strategies that reflect safety needs;
- Waive applicable program requirements, including work participation and child support cooperation, when good cause exists;
- Waive time-limit requirements when compliance would make it more difficult to escape domestic violence or would unfairly penalize a person who is experiencing or at risk of domestic violence; and
- Review each waiver at least every 6 months.

2.7 Initiatives to Support Welfare-to-Work

2.7.1 Alaska Workforce Investment Board

The Alaska Workforce Investment Board (AWIB) helps align Alaska's workforce system with employer needs and employment opportunities. AWIB reviews employment trends and emerging occupations to support training for high-demand jobs that provide competitive wages.

2.7.2 Alaska Job Center Network

Alaska Job Centers provide job seekers, including ATAP participants, with resources to help them find employment. Partners include the Division of Public Assistance, the Division of Employment and Training Services, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, other Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) partners, and local nonprofit organizations.

2.8 Program Performance Measures

The division uses program data to evaluate whether Work Services is helping families obtain employment and become more self-sufficient.

The measures outlined below are in addition to the federally mandated work participation rates and the measures set out in 45 CFR Part 265.

- Number of adults that start new employment
- Number of adults that begin training
- Number of adults that finish training
- Number of adults that participate in a job development activity

The division uses longitudinal data to evaluate family progress toward safety, stability, and self-sufficiency and to assess program effectiveness over time.

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Section 3: Benefit Delivery

This section explains how ATAP families receive and access cash benefits, applicable fees, and locations where federal law prohibits access to benefits. These requirements are addressed in § 408(a)(12) and § 402(a)(1)(A)(vii)–(viii) of the Social Security Act.

3.1 Use and Withdrawal Fees

ATAP Program Manual Citation: Section 122-15 Quest Cardholder Support.

ATAP benefits may be provided through the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) system using the Alaska Quest Card or by direct deposit. Families may access cash benefits without a surcharge at point-of-sale devices at Food and Nutrition Administration (FNA)-approved retailers in Alaska. Additional surcharge-free ATMs are identified on the DPA Quest Card web page. Current ATM fees are provided in Quest Card information made available to participants.

Participants receive information about using the Alaska Quest Card through cardholder materials and the division's resources, including information about fees, access, and restrictions.

3.2 Restricted Access

Federal law prohibits access to ATAP cash benefits through an ATM or point-of-sale device located in a liquor store, bar, gambling establishment, or adult entertainment establishment.

The division notifies applicants and recipients about these restrictions on the application form, eligibility review forms, notices of action, signage in district offices, and on the division's website. The division's ATAP and Administrative Procedures Manuals include current guidance on P.L. 112-96 to ensure consistent staff compliance. The division also collaborates with Fidelity National Information Services, Inc. (FIS) to notify ATAP recipients and relevant businesses throughout Alaska of federal statute P.L. 112-96 and the associated compliance requirements.

The division partners with the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development to identify businesses where ATAP funds cannot be spent. The division monitors Quest Card ATM transactions monthly at applicable business locations.

Section 4: Programs Addressing Out-of-Wedlock Pregnancies and Statutory Rape

4.1 Programs Addressing Statutory Rape

Alaska supports education and training on statutory rape as part of its broader pregnancy-prevention efforts. These activities are intended to reach the education system, law enforcement, relevant counseling and community services, and both women and men, consistent with § 402(a)(1)(A)(vi) of the Social Security Act. The Alaska Safe Children's Act requires K–12 schools to provide sexual-abuse and healthy-relationship education and staff training on identifying and reporting sexual abuse, including statutory rape.

4.2 Programs Helping Reduce the Incidence of Out-of-Wedlock Pregnancy

Alaska supports programs designed to prevent and reduce out-of-wedlock and teen pregnancies, consistent with § 402(a)(1)(A)(v) of the Social Security Act. These efforts include pregnancy-prevention education, healthy-relationship education, clinical services, and positive youth development activities.

The division provides federal TANF funding to the Division of Public Health to support the Adolescent Health Program. The program works with communities and partners to promote positive youth development, healthy relationships, and the prevention of unintended and teen pregnancies.

The program works with community organizations across Alaska to provide pregnancy-prevention education, clinical services, healthy-relationship education, and positive youth development activities. The goal is to reduce unintended and teen pregnancies and improve opportunities for family stability and self-sufficiency.

Section 5: Other TANF-Funded Services

The department may use federal TANF funds outside the monthly ATAP cash assistance program to support services for eligible families that advance 1 or more purposes of the TANF block grant.

Eligibility requirements vary by service. Each program described below must meet the applicable TANF purpose and program-specific eligibility requirements. Program-specific income, age, family, and other eligibility standards are applied as required for each service.

TANF funds may also support services for eligible families that are not part of the monthly ATAP cash assistance program. Eligibility requirements vary by service. Each program described below must meet the applicable TANF purpose and the eligibility requirements listed below, unless otherwise described for the applicable program.

- Income is at or below the Alaska Parents Achieving Self Sufficiency (PASS) Child Care Assistance Program income limit for the family size.
- There is a child through age 25 in the home.
- A child may be temporarily absent for up to 180 days.

These eligibility requirements are not applicable to ATAP.

5.1 Transportation

TANF funds may support transportation services that help eligible parents participate in employment, training, or education. Services may include community transportation initiatives and transportation arranged for individual ATAP participants when needed to support work activities or employment. Transportation may include taxi or rideshare services when appropriate and available.

Transportation services may be funded under TANF Purpose 2 when they help a parent or caretaker relative participate in work, training, or education. The division documents the applicable eligibility and funding requirements for each transportation activity.

5.2 Services for Refugee Families

Families who are new to Alaska as refugees may face challenges such as learning English, finding employment, obtaining transportation, and learning how to access health and social services. The division collaborates with Catholic Social Services to provide or coordinate employment preparation, job placement, English Language Acquisition classes, and other support services for eligible refugee families.

5.3 Kinship Stipend and Commodities Support Program

The Kinship Stipend provides short-term financial support for a child placed with a relative while the relative completes the licensing or certification process. The stipend is a non-recurrent short-term benefit issued on behalf of the child and may be provided monthly until the relative completes the licensing or certification process, but for no longer than 4 months. A non-recurrent short-term commodity support payment may also be issued for emergency needs that help support the child in the relative's home.

These payments are funded under TANF Purpose 1 because they help support a child in the home of a relative. For this program, the child is treated as a family of 1, only income received directly by the child is counted, eligibility is limited to income at or below 300% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), and there is no resource limit.

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5.4 Family Connection and Reunification Support Program

The Family Connection and Reunification Support Program helps children and youth in Office of Children's Services (OCS) custody maintain contact with their families by providing transportation to visits, supervision, and additional locations where visits can safely occur.

The program is allowable under TANF Purpose 3 because increased family visitations help maintain the familial bond, support the youth's healthy development, and improve the youth's long-term well-being. The program is also allowable under TANF Purpose 4 because it promotes parental access and visitation between the youth and their family. The program is available to any Alaskan children and youth who are in OCS custody.

5.5 Strong Youth, Strong Families

Strong Youth, Strong Families is a voluntary, community-based family stabilization initiative intended to connect eligible youth and families to services before challenges lead to family separation or deeper involvement with the child welfare system. The Division of Public Assistance may use federal TANF funds in coordination with the Office of Children's Services (OCS), Tribes, Family Resource Centers, and other community partners to help children remain safely in their own homes or the homes of relatives.

Services may include short-term case management, family coaching, crisis intervention, resource navigation, transportation, life-skills development, and connections to education, behavioral health, mentoring, and other community supports. Limited assistance to address immediate family stabilization needs may also be provided when allowable. Services are individualized based on family needs and participation is voluntary.

Activities funded under TANF Purpose 1 are intended to support eligible families and prevent unnecessary family disruption. Implementation, participant eligibility, service authorization, expenditure documentation, and reporting will follow applicable TANF requirements and agreements between the participating agencies.

5.6 Fatherhood Programs

The division provides federal TANF funding to community organizations that offer programs designed to strengthen fathers' involvement with their children and families. Fatherhood activities are allowable under TANF Purpose 4.

5.7 One-Time Supplemental Payments for ATAP Families

When funding is available, the division may provide eligible ATAP families with a one-time supplemental payment to address a specific family need. The applicable TANF purpose is determined based on the specific need addressed by the payment.

5.8 Non-Recurrent Short-Term Benefits for Non-ATAP Families

If federal TANF funds are available, the division may provide a non-recurrent short-term benefit to eligible families that are not receiving ATAP. A non-recurrent short-term benefit is a short-term payment or service intended to address a specific crisis or episode of need. It is not intended to meet ongoing needs and may not extend beyond 4 months. The type of need covered, amount, and frequency of the benefit are based on the family's circumstances and applicable TANF eligibility requirements.

Section 6: Maintenance of Effort

Federal TANF rules require Alaska to maintain a minimum level of qualifying State expenditures on benefits and services for eligible families. This requirement is called Maintenance of Effort (MOE). Alaska defines the financial and family eligibility standards used to determine which expenditures may be counted toward MOE. Unless otherwise noted, the standards below apply to expenditures claimed as MOE:

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- A child is under 18 years old, or is age 18 and a full-time student in secondary school or enrolled in an equivalent level of vocational or technical training. Eligibility ends when the child completes or leaves the program or turns 19, whichever occurs first.
- Income is at or below the Alaska PASS Program income limit for the family size.
- A child may be temporarily absent for up to 180 days.

6.1 State-Funded Programs Providing Assistance to Households With an Eligible Child

Program Name	Description	TANF Purpose(s)
ATAP Monthly Cash Assistance Payment	Monthly cash assistance payments to families who are participating in ATAP.	Purpose 1 and 2
Child Support Pass-Through Payments	Child support pass-through payments made to eligible ATAP and Tribal TANF families when child support is received. Payments are issued by the Alaska Child Support Enforcement Division.	Purpose 1
ATAP Recipient PASS Child Care Stipends	PASS child care subsidies paid on behalf of ATAP recipients who are participating in work, education, training, or other activities included in the Family Self-Sufficiency Plan.	Purpose 2
Non-ATAP Recipient Child Care Stipends	PASS child care subsidies paid to child care providers and parents determined eligible by the department or its grantees. Only the subsidies issued to children whose parent(s) is employed are counted as MOE.	Purpose 2
NFAP Grants	State General Fund grants to eligible Tribal organizations that administer their own federal TANF or Native Employment Works (NEW) program.	Purpose 1 and 2
Administrative Costs	The allowable portion of administrative costs associated with qualifying TANF/MOE activities, subject to applicable federal limitations.	N/A – Administrative

6.2 State-Funded ATAP Diversion Program

ATAP diversion payments are non-recurrent short-term payments funded with State General Funds. They are intended to help an eligible family address a specific crisis or emergency, including a need that could interfere with employment. These payments are not intended to meet ongoing needs and may not extend beyond 4 months.

The type of need covered, amount, and frequency of the payment are based on the family's circumstances. A family may not receive a diversion payment for more than 4 months and must meet the TANF MOE eligibility criteria described at the beginning of this section.

6.3 Additional Programs and Services Funded by the Department or With Local Funds

Unless otherwise noted, the TANF MOE eligibility criteria described above apply to the programs listed below.

Program	Description	TANF Purpose(s)
Programs Focused on At-Risk Youth	Programs that provide after-school activities, mentorship, summer employment, supervised support, and other educational opportunities for at-risk youth. In some cases, participants may receive grants or scholarships to attend qualifying programs offered by other organizations.	Purpose 3
Food and Nutrition	Programs that provide or support emergency food assistance for eligible families.	Purpose 1

Program	Description	TANF Purpose(s)
Housing Assistance	Programs that help prevent homelessness and help eligible families secure or maintain stable housing.	Purpose 1
Alaska Heating Assistance Program	Benefits that help eligible families address high home energy costs.	Purpose 1
Employability Training	Education and training programs that build skills in technology, financial security, and other employment-related areas.	Purpose 2
Youth and College Scholarships	Scholarships and other financial aid that provide opportunities for eligible young adults to attend college or other postsecondary programs.	Purpose 3
Agency Financial Support Programs	Financial support for programs that provide services designed to achieve 1 or more TANF purposes. The applicable TANF purpose is determined by the specific funded activity.	As applicable
Information and Referral Services	Programs and services that connect eligible families with health and human services resources. Only expenditures attributable to families meeting Alaska's applicable MOE eligibility criteria are claimed as MOE.	Purpose 3
Support for Children Involved with Child Welfare	Services that help prevent removal from the home, support placement with relatives, or support reunification, as applicable to the funded activity.	Purpose 1

6.4 Energy Assistance Non-Recurrent Short-Term Benefit

Federal TANF and TANF MOE funds may be used for a one-time Energy Assistance non-recurrent short-term benefit. The benefit helps eligible families address high home energy costs and maintain safe and stable housing for their children.

These payments are funded under TANF Purpose 1 because they help eligible families meet home energy costs and support children remaining safely in their own homes or the homes of relatives. Eligibility information collected through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) process is used to determine whether the household also meets applicable TANF eligibility requirements. Only households that meet the applicable TANF child and family eligibility criteria may receive a TANF-funded payment.

- Federal TANF Funds: Federal TANF is used to fund the Energy Assistance non-recurrent short-term benefit for eligible families with children who received a LIHEAP payment in the most recent LIHEAP season.
- TANF MOE: State General Funds are used for payments to Tribally administered households that received a LIHEAP payment in the most recent LIHEAP season. Only State General Fund payments made for families meeting Alaska's applicable MOE eligibility criteria are reported as TANF MOE.

Section 7: Administration

7.1 Department of Health Administration of TANF

The Alaska Department of Health (DOH) administers ATAP through the Division of Public Assistance (DPA). An organizational chart showing the offices responsible for administering ATAP is included as an appendix.

7.2 Alaska Statutes

State law requires the department to:

- Administer ATAP and provide assistance and self-sufficiency services to eligible families.
- Establish program standards that support employment and self-sufficiency.

- Prepare and administer the State Plan necessary to receive federal TANF funding.
- Meet applicable federal reporting and program requirements.
- Evaluate and monitor program effectiveness.
- Adopt regulations and take other actions necessary to administer ATAP.

7.3 Public Involvement

Alaska provides multiple opportunities for the public, local governments, community organizations, Tribes, Tribal organizations, private-sector organizations, and other partners to learn about ATAP and provide input on program policies and services.

- TANF State Plan: A copy of this TANF State Plan is available on the division's website.
- TANF State Plan Consultation and Public Input: Alaska provides opportunities for the public and community partners to provide input on the State Plan. The State also meets the federal consultation requirement for local governments and private-sector organizations, including the applicable 45-day comment period, and the federal public-availability requirements for the TANF State Plan.
- Alaska Statutes and the Alaska Administrative Code: Alaskans are provided opportunities to comment on proposed statutory and regulatory changes as required by applicable law.
- Community Outreach: Alaska takes advantage of ongoing opportunities to inform and respond to the public through the news media, social media, websites, and participation in various public forums and meetings.

These communication methods provide information about ATAP and opportunities for the public, Tribes, Tribal organizations, and other community partners to provide input on program policies and services.

Section 8: Certifications

The Alaska Temporary Assistance Program (ATAP) is Alaska's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. In accordance with § 402 of the Social Security Act, the Governor of Alaska certifies that:

- The Alaska Department of Health, Division of Public Assistance, is the agency responsible for administering and supervising ATAP in Alaska. Local governments and private-sector organizations have been consulted regarding the plan and design of welfare services, and those organizations have been provided at least 45 days to submit comments, consistent with § 402(a)(4) of the Social Security Act.
- Alaska will operate a child support enforcement program under the State Plan approved under part D of title IV of the Social Security Act.
- Alaska will operate a foster care and adoption assistance program under the State Plan approved under part E of title IV of the Social Security Act and will take the actions necessary to ensure that children receiving assistance are eligible for medical assistance under the State Plan under title XIX.
- Alaska will provide each member of an Indian Tribe who is domiciled in the state and is not eligible for assistance under a Tribal Family Assistance Plan approved under § 412 of the Social Security Act with equitable access to federally funded assistance available through the State TANF program.
- Alaska has established and enforces standards and procedures to prevent program fraud and abuse, including standards and procedures concerning nepotism, conflicts of interest among people responsible for administration and supervision of the State program, kickbacks, and political patronage.
- Alaska has elected the Family Violence Option under § 402(a)(7) of the Social Security Act. Alaska screens for and identifies people receiving assistance who have a history of domestic violence, protects the confidentiality of those individuals, refers them to counseling and supportive services, and provides good-cause waivers of applicable program requirements when compliance would make it more difficult to escape domestic violence or would unfairly penalize a person who is experiencing or at risk of domestic violence.

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- Alaska has established and enforces standards and procedures to ensure that applicants and potential applicants for TANF are notified of assistance made available by the State to victims of sexual harassment and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.
- Alaska trains caseworkers and other TANF staff on the nature and dynamics of sexual harassment, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking; applicable State prevention and assistance procedures; confidentiality requirements; and Alaska's Family Violence Option standards and procedures.