



State of Arkansas
Department of
WORKFORCE SERVICES

www.dws.arkansas.gov

Post Office Box 2981 • Little Rock, AR 72203-2981



November 5, 2014

The Honorable John C. Edwards, Chair
Arkansas Legislative Council
Arkansas House of Representatives
500 Woodlane Street, Suite 350
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-1089

Dear Representative Edwards:

As you are aware, the Department of Workforce Services has experienced federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program funding cuts.

The expiration of the TANF Supplemental and TANF Emergency Funds, coupled with the exhaustion of the TANF Contingency Fund, has had a far reaching impact upon the TANF Program. Additionally, these cuts have resulted in a rapidly declining TANF Carryforward fund balance.

As we strive to ensure that funding is available to provide the federally-required services to our program participants, we are faced with some rather difficult decisions. One such decision is the need to suspend the use of TANF Program funding for the 2014 – 2015 Fiscal Year for the Community Investment Initiative.

In accordance with Arkansas Act 280 of 2014, I have attached our official certification to this effect.

Sincerely,

Artee Williams

Attachment

cc: Richard A. Weiss
Chief Fiscal Officer of the State



November 5, 2014

CERTIFICATION UNDER SECTION 15 OF ACT 280 OF THE 89th GENERAL
ASSEMBLY, FISCAL SESSION 2014

Pursuant to Arkansas Act 280 of 2014, I, Donnie Lindsey, hereby certify that the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Oversight Board concur with the Department of Workforce Services in suspending the use of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program funds for the purposes of the Community Investment Initiative during the 2014 - 2015 Fiscal Year. We further certify that this suspension is in accordance with Arkansas Act 280 of 2014, Section 15:

- a) *Funding from the Temporary assistance for Needy Families block grant is needed to support a critical economic development initiative,*
- b) *Other funds from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant are not available beyond those needed for the operation of the TEA, Work Pays and High Wage Education and Training Programs and for an adequate reserve for possible increases in cash assistance during the current fiscal year,*
- c) **Spending for the economic development initiative is allowable within the federal rules governing the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant.*

**Note: The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program allows economic development in the sense that it provides employment opportunities and support for eligible families, not for general job development.*

This certification shall be made to the Governor and the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State and notification shall be made to the Legislative Council and the Senate and House Public Health and Welfare Committees.


Donnie Lindsey, Chairman
TANF Oversight Board

11-5-2014
Date



November 5, 2014

CERTIFICATION UNDER SECTION 15 OF ACT 280 OF THE 89th GENERAL
ASSEMBLY, FISCAL SESSION 2014

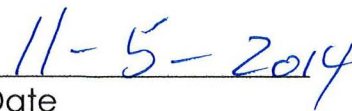
Pursuant to Arkansas Act 280 of 2014, I, Artee Williams, hereby certify that the Department of Workforce Services is suspending the use of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program funds for the purposes of the Community Investment Initiative during the 2014 - 2015 Fiscal Year. We further certify that this suspension is in accordance with Arkansas Act 280 of 2014, Section 15:

- a) *Funding from the Temporary assistance for Needy Families block grant is needed to support a critical economic development initiative,*
- b) *Other funds from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant are not available beyond those needed for the operation of the TEA, Work Pays and High Wage Education and Training Programs and for an adequate reserve for possible increases in cash assistance during the current fiscal year,*
- c) **Spending for the economic development initiative is allowable within the federal rules governing the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant.*

**Note: The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program allows economic development in the sense that it provides employment opportunities and support for eligible families, not for general job development.*

This certification shall be made to the Governor and the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State and notification shall be made to the Legislative Council and the Senate and House Public Health and Welfare Committees.


Artee Williams, Director


Date