

TANF Reinvestment Q&A – March 29th

BENEFITS CLIFF	
Will the system automatically update cases who have an EML code with the ELI or NAS coding?	No. You will need to add the Exit Limit Increase (ELI) and/or the No Adult Standard (NAS) to any case with earned income.

TIME LIMITS	
For the TANF clients who currently have hardship exemptions, as of 4/1/16 are the CM's required to manually code each of those customer's with the TLY coding? Or is there going to be an auto update that will add the TLY coding to those customers for us?	There will be an auto populate of the TLY for those individuals, but the hardship code will also stay on the system.
When adding a parent or spouse don't we need to pend for time limit information and a 428A?	We should determine time limits prior to adding the parent to the case.
Do we need verification of time limits for other adults we add to the case?	Yes.
Can people get a hardship extension if a hardship is reported past the 60 th months?	Yes. For hardship extensions only. This does not apply to family crisis or Jobs Plus (those are only looked at when an adult is at 60 months)
Are we looking at Federal clock at all? Are we looking at the State clock or eligibility?	The field will only look at the state clock for eligibility
Will hardship codes drop off by themselves?	No, not at this time. You will receive a monthly list that will include guidance.
Will the INGNT code of an adult that has a hardship automatically convert the adult to a NO when the hardship ends?	Not at this time.

DEPRIVATION	
If a parent is sleeping in the home 2 X week X 4.3 = 8.6. Does the worker need to round up? Do we look at how many times the parent will sleep in the home the month they apply?	We would not round up. We would also use actual month. For example the parent sleeps in the home Thursdays and Fridays. Looking at March they would be there 9x. In fact in April it would also be 9x.
Mom sleeps 10 nights a month in the home with the dad and the child. Dad does not want to add mom to the TANF grant. Can he make that decision?	No. If mom sleeps more than 9 nights a month in the home, dad must add her to the household. She would be added to the Household, Filing, Need, and Financial Group. Dad and Mom can decide how the grant is accessed between the two of them, but this case would be considered a two parent household.
Is it the applicant's choice to add the parent that cannot stay with them in the shelter? Could they apply as a single parent?	It is the families choice who is included in these situations. This is a good example to staff with the TANF unit.

Will the 415F be changing to not ask about visitation of the absent parent?	No plan at this time to change the 415F.
If the absent parent sleeping in the child's home during the day....could that count as 9 nights?	If the other parent is sleeping in the child's home 9x per month they would be included.
A parent is sleeping in a different dwelling due to circumstances outside of their control. Is 60 days the longest that we would be able to give an extension to if they choose to apply as a two parent household?	Two parent households need to be actively case managed with both adults involved in JOBS planning and/or services. We do have the capacity to extend an additional 30 days after talking with the families and there is a determination that an extension is needed. Another situation to staff if there are questions.
How are families who share custody 50/50 looked at?	If the parenting plan for the child(ren) is 50/50, and the child actually spends 50% of the time with each parent, they are not eligible for TANF. In a case like this, look at the actual – is the parenting plan is 50/50, but the child is only with one parent on the weekends, TANF may be a benefit to the HH who has the child during the week. If unsure, staff.
How are support services paid if a parent is added because they spend 9 nights in the home and has to be in the household, but does not "live" there but the other adult needs childcare to engage in the JOBS program?	A conversation with both adults and the case manager needs to happen. We need to determine what would be preventing one adult from watching the child(ren) while the other adult participates in a JOBS activity.
Pursuing child support – a child sees both parents. The parent whom the child lives with a majority of the time does not want to pursue child support because the other parent is providing other things for the child. There is no good cause for not establishing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the case close for not pursuing an asset? • Can parent choose to not pursue child support and leave the child out of benefit group? • How is this handled if there is more than one child in the home? 	If there is only ONE child in the home, and parent does not want to pursue child support and there is no safety concern/good cause AND it is an ongoing TANF case, you will follow the policy for childcare sanction process. If there is more than one child and parent does not want to pursue child support for one of the kids, that child can be coded a NO and there is no requirement to pursue.

Re-engagement	
What is you find after sanction there is good cause or something has changed and you want to remove the sanction....can you?	Yes, we can always remove a sanction if we later find it should not have been applied. A good example is DV.
Will JOBS contractors work with people coded a NO?	If the individual in mandatory they could be receiving services from a JOBS contractor. Some examples would be individuals who have reached

	the 60 month time limit, are currently disqualified or are serving an IPV.
DQ4 is a full family sanction so for no break in benefits you are opening them with no TANF?	Yes. The family will be opened on TANF with a \$0.00 benefit issuance.
On a DQ4 case it would be a P2 case and then I would use a REST to open TANF once 2 weeks cooperation is met?	If this is an applicant, TANF benefits would be opened back to the filing date once they completed the two week cooperation period.
Why do the people with a break in benefits get to go back to the filing date...that seems unfair?	We use filing date on for all TANF applicants once they clear eligibility. This is a TANF eligibility requirement and would fall in line with all other requirements in relationship to opening TANF.
It doesn't seem right that someone could agree to participate on the 40 th day. Why?	There could be a reason to extend the 45 days, which is support by policy. We could find out they had good cause. They could also turn around and apply again on the 46 th day.
If a client serves the 2 months of DQR and reapplies for TANF afterwards, do they have to serve the two weeks of cooperation before the grant is opened?	Yes. They are still within 3 months of an active DQ (DQR is a 2 month period) and would be required to cooperate for 2 weeks.

JOB QUIT	
Do we need to verify job loss?	If questionable we could verify. Also we may need to gather additional information to help determine if the individual had good cause for being terminated or quitting.
If someone reduces their hours can we apply the employment separation rule?	If they voluntarily reduce their hours (from 100/month) without good cause and are now applying for TANF.
If the worker doesn't have timely notice to apply the employment separation rule the participant really doesn't serve a 120 day penalty. Right?	If the worker doesn't have time to send the notice this month they would send it next month. The 120 days if from the date the individual left the job. This point in time wouldn't change so the worker would need to be aware of the 120 days.
How would a 30 day absence due to Job Corps effect TANF and SNAP? Would they be in the HH for TANF but not SNAP?	Policy has not changed.
If you are adding someone to the case and there was job separation, do you look at the 120 days from requested change in HH or 120 days since the loss of employment?	120 days from the date the employment was lost.

Caretaker Relative	
Grandma and grandpa have a non-needy grant for their grandson. The bio mom moves in can the grandparents still get a non-needy grant?	Depends. Does G-ma and G-pa have custody due to CW involvement? Did mom give up care, control and supervision? Did they adopt the child?
A mom leaves her boyfriend with two children, only one is his biologically. Can the boyfriend get TANF for the child with whom he has no blood, age or marriage connection?	The BF can't get TANF benefits for the child who has not relationship to him.
Are Step- Grandparents and Step- Great-Grandparents eligible to be Caretaker Relatives?	Yes. Based on the new rule effective 4/1, if there was marriage, divorce does not break that caretaker tie.

Household Questions	
A 415F is not needed to add a person?	We would use the same form we normally use to add a person to the grant
When someone is legally married do we need to verify and pend for proof of marriage and change of last name?	Only if questionable
You can complete the 7823A over the phone?	Yes but only in situations where there is a reason for doing it over the phone. We should mail and set up appointment to discuss the 7823A and create an appropriate case plan.
When adding an absent person to a case, when do we go to the first of the following month?	No. Use the filing date or the date in which eligibility was cleared. 1 st of month changes do not apply to TANF. SNAP policy uses 1 st of month rules.