



ACF Offices Encourage States to Make Non-Custodial Parent Employment a Top Priority

On February 14, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) issued an information memorandum to state and territorial Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) programs regarding the use of TANF funds to promote employment programs for non-custodial parents. The guidance reminds states that they have the flexibility to include non-custodial parents as members of eligible TANF families, and provide services such as work or educational activities, including counseling, job readiness, employment placement and postemployment services, funded by TANF or separate state maintenance-of-effort (MOE) programs. The guidance goes on to encourage states to strengthen their employment programs for non-custodial parents and make getting them into employment and paying their child support a top priority. The information memorandum TANF-ACF-IM-2018-01 can be found [here](#).

On February 15, ACF released a similar information memorandum to state child support enforcement agencies. The information memorandum contains guidance on exemption requests to allow states to use child support incentive payments to provide employment programs for non-custodial parents. Currently, only four states use incentive funds for this purpose. ACF's information memorandum clarifies that it is "eager to grant exemption requests that would allow states to use their incentive payments to provide employment programs for non-custodial parents as long as the requesting states adhere to the proper procedures and demonstrate how their use of funds will improve the state's child support program." The full information memorandum can be found [here](#).