

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services  
600 East Boulevard Avenue – Department 325, Bismarck ND 58505-0250**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Agency seeks comments on N.D. State Plan for public assistance program block grant**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services is seeking comments on the latest State Plan for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, which provides time-limited assistance and employment and training services to qualifying low-income households with children.

The TANF program is funded through a federal block grant and provides temporary help to families with children who are deprived of the support of at least one parent due to a parent's absence or disability. Low-income, childless adults do not qualify for the TANF program. Block grant funds are also used to meet related needs such as foster care, kinship care, which is an alternative to foster care; and alternatives to abortion services.

Individuals can review the draft plan on the Department's Web site at: [www.nd.gov/dhs/info/pubs/docs/tanf-draft-2010-state-plan-for-comment.pdf](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/pubs/docs/tanf-draft-2010-state-plan-for-comment.pdf). Written comments about the State Plan can be submitted via mail, fax, or email until 5 p.m. on Nov. 19, 2010.

Please direct comments to Carol Cartledge, Public Assistance Director, N.D. Department of Human Services, 600 East Boulevard Avenue, Judicial Wing, Bismarck, ND 58505-0250, Fax 701-328-1060, or [ccartledge@nd.gov](mailto:ccartledge@nd.gov).

The 1996 federal welfare reform legislation required many participating adults to work or take part in approved work-readiness activities in order to receive TANF public assistance. It also placed a 60-month lifetime limit on benefits.

The N.D. Department of Human Services contracts with Community Options, a private Company; Job Service North Dakota; and Tribal Employment and Training in Belcourt, N.D., to provide work readiness, job placement, and support services for TANF clients.

In September 2010, the TANF program served 2,030 North Dakota families that included 3,841 children. The average monthly TANF benefit per family that month was \$311.

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