

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

3 SENATE BILL 113

By: Dossett

6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to the Temporary Assistance for Needy  
8 Families (TANF) program; amending 56 O.S. 2021,  
9 Section 230.52, as last amended by Section 116,  
10 Chapter 452, O.S.L. 2024 (56 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section  
11 230.52), which relates to minimum requirements;  
12 modifying and adding resources exempt from resource  
13 determination criteria; updating statutory language;  
14 providing an effective date; and declaring an  
15 emergency.

16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

17 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 56 O.S. 2021, Section 230.52, as

18 last amended by Section 116, Chapter 452, O.S.L. 2024 (56 O.S. Supp.  
19 2024, Section 230.52), is amended to read as follows:

20 Section 230.52. A. Except for specific exceptions, conditions  
21 or restrictions authorized by the Statewide Temporary Assistance  
22 Responsibility System (STARS) and rules promulgated by the  
23 ~~Commission for Director of~~ Human Services pursuant thereto, the  
24 following are the minimum mandatory requirements for the Temporary  
Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program:

1. A recipient shall be eligible to receive assistance pursuant to the TANF program only for a lifetime total of five (5) years, subject to the exemptions allowed by federal law. Child-only cases are not subject to the five-year limitation;

2. Single parents receiving temporary assistance pursuant to the TANF program shall participate in work activities for a minimum of twenty (20) hours per week during the month. Two-parent families receiving temporary assistance pursuant to the TANF program shall participate in work activities for a minimum of thirty-five (35) hours per week during the month;

3. A recipient must be engaged in one or more of the work activities set out in paragraph 4 of this subsection as soon as required by the Department of Human Services pursuant to the TANF program, but not later than twenty-four (24) months after certification of the application for assistance, unless the person is exempt from work requirements under rules promulgated by the ~~Department~~ Director pursuant to the STARS;

4. The Department shall develop and describe categories of approved work activities for the TANF program recipients in accordance with this paragraph. Work activities that qualify in meeting the requirements include, but are not limited to:

a. (1) unsubsidized employment which is full-time employment or part-time employment that is not directly supplemented by federal or state funds.

- (2) subsidized private sector employment which is employment in a private for-profit enterprise or a private not-for-profit enterprise that is directly supplemented by federal or state funds. Prior to receiving any subsidy or incentive, the employer shall enter into a written contract with the Department, and
  - (3) subsidized public sector employment which is employment by an agency of a federal, state, or local governmental entity which is directly supplemented by federal or state funds. Prior to receiving any subsidy or incentive, the employer shall enter into a written contract with the Department.

Subsidized hourly employment or unsubsidized hourly employment pursuant to this subparagraph shall only be approved by the Department as work activity if such employment is subject to:

- (a) the federal minimum wage requirements pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, as amended,
  - (b) the federal Social Security tax and Medicare tax, and

(c) regulations promulgated pursuant to the federal Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 and rules promulgated by the State Department of Labor pursuant thereto,

- b. a program of work experience,
  - c. on-the-job training,
  - d. assisted job search which may include supervised or unsupervised job-seeking activities,
  - e. job readiness assistance which may include, but is not limited to:
    - (1) orientation in the work environment and basic job-seeking and job retention skills,
    - (2) instruction in completing an application for employment and writing a resume,
    - (3) instruction in conducting oneself during a job interview, including appropriate dress, and
    - (4) substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling,
  - f. job skills training which is directly related to employment in a specific occupation for which there is a written commitment by an employer to offer employment to a recipient who successfully completes the training. Job skills training includes, but is not limited to, customized training designed to meet

1                   the needs of a specific employer or a specific  
2                   industry,

3                   g. community service programs which are job-training  
4                   activities provided in areas where sufficient public  
5                   or private sector employment is not available. Such  
6                   activities are linked to both education or training  
7                   and activities that substantially enhance a  
8                   recipient's employability,

9                   h. literacy and adult basic education programs,  
10                  i. vocational-educational programs, not to exceed twelve  
11                  (12) months for any individual, which are directed  
12                  toward vocational-educational training and education  
13                  directly related to employment,

14                  j. education programs which are directly related to  
15                  specific employment opportunities, if a recipient has  
16                  not received a high school diploma or ~~General~~  
17                  ~~Equivalency Degree~~ General Educational Development  
18                  certificate, and

19                  k. child care for other STARS recipients. The recipient  
20                  must meet training and licensing requirements for  
21                  child care providers as required by the Oklahoma Child  
22                  Care Facilities Licensing Act;

1       5. Single, custodial parents with a child up to one (1) year of  
2 age may be exempt from work activities for a lifetime total  
3 exemption of twelve (12) months;

4       6. In order to receive assistance, unmarried teen parents of a  
5 minor child at least twelve (12) weeks of age must participate in  
6 educational activities or work activities approved by the state;

7       7. For single-parent families, except for teen parents,  
8 educational activities, other than vocational-technical training, do  
9 not count toward meeting the required twenty (20) hours of work  
10 activity. For two-parent families, educational activities, except  
11 vocational-technical training, do not count toward meeting the  
12 required thirty-five (35) hours of work activity;

13       8. A teen parent must live at home or in an approved, adult-  
14 supervised setting as specified in Section 230.55 of this title to  
15 receive TANF assistance;

16       9. An applicant or recipient with an unborn child and who does  
17 not have children living in the home qualifies for TANF to the same  
18 extent as a parent with minor children living in the home;

19       10. A recipient must comply with immunization requirements  
20 established pursuant to the TANF program;

21       11. The following recipient resources are exempt from resource  
22 determination criteria:

- 1           a. an automobile with an equity allowance of not more  
2           than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) pursuant to  
3           Section 230.53 of this title,
- 4           b. individual development accounts established pursuant  
5           to the Family Savings Initiative Act, or individual  
6           development accounts established prior to November 1,  
7           1998, pursuant to the provisions of Section 230.54 of  
8           this title in an amount not to exceed Two Thousand  
9           Dollars (\$2,000.00),
- 10          c. the equity value of funeral arrangements owned by a  
11           recipient that does not exceed the limitation  
12           specified by Section 165 of this title, and
- 13          d. monthly child support payments not to exceed One  
14           Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per month for one child or  
15           Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) per month for two or  
16           more children, and
- 17          e. earned income disregards not to exceed One Hundred  
18           Twenty Dollars (\$120.00) and one-half (1/2) seventy-  
19           five percent (75%) of the remainder of the earned  
20           income;
- 21          12. An applicant who applies and is otherwise eligible to  
22          receive TANF benefits but who has resided in this state less than  
23          twelve (12) months shall be subject to Section 230.57 of this title;
- 24

1       13. The recipient shall enter into a personal responsibility  
2 agreement with the Department for receipt of assistance pursuant to  
3 Section 230.65 of this title;

4       14. The Department shall, beginning November 1, 2023, screen  
5 all adult TANF recipients as part of the required TANF employability  
6 plan to determine if they are engaged in the illegal use of a  
7 controlled substance or substances. If the Department has made a  
8 determination that the recipient is engaged in the illegal use of a  
9 controlled substance or substances, the recipient's TANF  
10 employability plan will include substance abuse treatment and/or  
11 mental health counseling as a part of the assigned work activities  
12 as set out in paragraph 4 of this subsection. The ~~Department of~~  
13 ~~Human Services Director~~ shall adopt rules to implement the  
14 requirements of this paragraph consistent with the following:

15       a.     the Department shall create a controlled substance  
16 screening process to be administered during the  
17 assessment process that determines the TANF  
18 employability plan. The process shall, at a minimum,  
19 include a Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory  
20 (SASSI) or other similar screening methods. If  
21 necessary to establish a reasonable expectation of  
22 certainty, the Department is authorized to use further  
23 screening methods, which may include, but are not  
24 limited to, a clinical interview and consideration of

1                   the Department's history with the applicant. If the  
2                   Department has reasonable cause to believe that the  
3                   recipient is engaged in the illegal use of a  
4                   controlled substance or substances, the Department is  
5                   authorized, though not required, to request  
6                   administration of a chemical drug test. The cost of  
7                   all such initial screenings shall not be borne by the  
8                   recipient,

9                   b. if at any time during the controlled substance  
10                  screening process, the recipient refuses to  
11                  participate without good cause, that refusal shall  
12                  lead to a closure of TANF benefits;

13                 15. a. As a condition of participating in the STARS, all  
14                  recipients are deemed to have given authorization for  
15                  the release of any and all information necessary to  
16                  allow all state and federal agencies to meet the  
17                  program needs of the recipient.

18                 b. The recipient shall be provided a release form to sign  
19                  in order to obtain the required information. Failure  
20                  to sign the release form may result in case closure;  
21                  and

22                 16. The recipient shall comply with all other conditions and  
23                  requirements of the STARS, and rules of the Commission Director  
24                  promulgated pursuant thereto.

1       B. 1. Agencies of this state involved in providing services to  
2 recipients pursuant to the STARS shall exchange information as  
3 necessary for each agency to accomplish objectives and fulfill  
4 obligations created or imposed by the STARS and rules promulgated  
5 pursuant thereto.

6       2. Information received pursuant to the STARS shall be  
7 maintained by the applicable agency and, except as otherwise  
8 provided by this subsection, shall be disclosed only in accordance  
9 with any confidentiality provisions applicable to the agency  
10 originating the information.

11      3. The various agencies of the state shall execute operating  
12 agreements to facilitate information exchanges pursuant to the  
13 STARS.

14      C. In implementing the TANF program, the Department shall:

15       1. Provide assistance to aliens pursuant to Section 230.73 of  
16 this title;

17       2. Provide for the closure of the TANF case when the adult  
18 recipient refuses to cooperate with agreed upon work activities or  
19 other case requirements pursuant to the TANF program;

20       3. Provide for the sanctioning of parents who do not require  
21 their minor children to attend school; and

22       4. Deny temporary assistance to fugitive felons.

23      D. In order to ensure that the needy citizens of this state are  
24 receiving necessary benefits, the Department shall maintain a

1 listing of all recipients receiving public assistance. The listing  
2 shall reflect each recipient's income, ~~social security~~ Social  
3 Security number, and the programs in which the recipient is  
4 participating including, but not limited to, TANF, food stamps,  
5 child care, and medical assistance.

6 E. The Department is hereby authorized to establish a grant  
7 diversion program and emergency assistance services.

8 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

9 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
10 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
11 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
12 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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