STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

WASHINGTON'S TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF) STATE PLAN

CERTIFICATIONS

The State will operate a program to provide Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) so that the children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives; to end dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage; to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and establish annual numerical goals for preventing and reducing the incidence of these pregnancies; and encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

This program is known as the Washington Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program.

Executive Officer of the State: Christine O. Gregoire, Governor

In administering a program which provides Temporary Assistance for Needy Families with minor children under title IV-A of the Social Security Act, the State will:

1. Designate the Department of Social and Health Services as the State agency responsible for administering and supervising the program under part A in all political subdivisions of the State:

2. Assure that local governments and private sector organizations have:

   (a) Been consulted regarding the plan and design of welfare services in the State, so that services are provided in a manner appropriate to local populations; and

   (b) Had at least 45 days to submit comments on the plan and the design of such services (the public comment period began August 25, 2008, and ended on October 9, 2008);

3. Operate a Child Support Enforcement program under the State plan approved under part D;

4. Operate a Foster Care and Adoption Assistance program in accordance with part E, and certify that the State will take all necessary actions to ensure that children receiving assistance are eligible for medical assistance;

5. Provide each member of an Indian tribe, who is domiciled in the State and does not receive assistance under a Tribal Family Assistance plan approved under Section 412, with equitable access to assistance, under the State program funded under title IV-A, attributable to funds provided by the Federal Government;

6. Establish and enforce standards and procedures to ensure against program fraud and abuse, including standards and procedures concerning nepotism, conflicts of interest among individuals responsible for the administration and supervision of the State program, kickbacks, and the use of political patronage; and

7. Make available to the public a summary of the State plan.

OPTIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CERTIFICATION

The State has established and is enforcing standards and procedures to:

1. Screen and identify individuals receiving assistance under title IV-A with a history of domestic violence while maintaining the confidentiality of such individuals;

2. Refer such individuals to counseling and supportive services; and

3. Waive, pursuant to a determination of good cause, other program requirements such as time limits (for as long as necessary) for individuals receiving assistance, residency requirements, and child support cooperation requirements, in cases where compliance with such requirements would make it more difficult for individuals receiving assistance under this part to escape domestic violence or unfairly penalize such individuals who are or have been victimized by such violence, or individuals who are at risk of further domestic violence.

CERTIFIED BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE STATE:

12/28/11
Date

Chris Gregoire
CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE, Governor