

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BY HIS EXCELLENCY
JOHN H. LYNCH, GOVERNOR

Executive Order 2006-8
An Order Regarding Changes to the New Hampshire Temporary Assistance to Needy
Families (TANF) Program

WHEREAS, New Hampshire's TANF program has consistently won praise from the federal government for successfully moving individuals into employment and self-sufficiency, and New Hampshire must preserve those elements of the program that have allowed us to affect long-lasting change in the lives of New Hampshire families; and

WHEREAS, New Hampshire's TANF program has achieved its successful record of moving people from welfare to sustained work and financial stability through full and effective utilization of job readiness, workforce training, barrier resolution, child care assistance, and transportation allowances; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress recently passed the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, Public Law 109-171, which establishes new requirements for eligibility, verification and oversight of work participation rates and caseload reduction credits for the TANF program effective October 1, 2006; and

WHEREAS, no later than June 30, 2006, the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services shall promulgate regulations to ensure consistent measurement of work programs under State TANF programs, including regulations for determining what will be treated as a "work activity," for counting and verifying reported hours of work, and for determining who is a work-eligible individual under the TANF program; and

WHEREAS, New Hampshire is required to increase its TANF work participation rate under the new federal law; and

WHEREAS, New Hampshire must revise its work participation verification procedures no later than September 30, 2006 to comply with federal law; and

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2006, in response to the federal reauthorization of TANF, New Hampshire House Bill 1331, an Act relative to the New Hampshire Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program and making an appropriation therefore, will become law; and

WHEREAS, New Hampshire must measure the success of its TANF program by its progress in moving clients to self-sufficiency, and not just by its progress in meeting the federal work participation rate; and

WHEREAS, the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services must revise, update and improve its internal controls, data collection, monitoring, and TANF management systems in order to ensure that New Hampshire meets its federal work participation rate while fully serving the needs of TANF recipients; and

WHEREAS, a Governor's TANF Advisory Council is needed to monitor the implementation of House Bill 1331, the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 and this Executive Order, to advise the Governor on the need for additional changes to the TANF program, and to evaluate information provided by the Department;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN H. LYNCH, Governor of the State of New Hampshire, by the authority vested in me by part II, article 41 of the New Hampshire Constitution, do hereby order, the following:

1. New Hampshire shall meet the federal work participation rate by moving people into employment through full and effective utilization of job readiness, workforce training, barrier resolution, child care, and transportation, and not simply closing cases through sanctions and shifting clients to local programs.
2. The Department of Health and Human Services ("the Department") shall, maximizing the use of federal TANF funds, ensure access to child care for all eligible recipients by methods including, but not limited to, the payment of TANF child care co-pays and registration fees.
3. The Department shall, maximizing the use of federal TANF funds, ensure TANF clients can access transportation for work and child care purposes by methods including, but not limited to, paying for mileage, car repair and other transportation support services.
4. The Department shall increase, up to the federally allowable maximum, the number of individuals taking part in vocational training and education.
5. The Department shall continue to support job readiness, workforce training and barrier resolution programs, including programs such as LEAP, with proven records of success in ensuring that New Hampshire's TANF clients are truly prepared for the workforce and able to maintain self-sufficiency, even if those programs do not count toward the federal participation rate.
6. The Department shall develop, within 60 days of the date of this order, a plan for a post-employment program to reduce the TANF program recidivism rate, help families establish self-sufficiency, and meet the federal work participation rate.
7. The Department shall report monthly to the Governor, the Governor's TANF Advisory Council, the Senate President and the Speaker of the House, with the first report due on or before July 14th, information on the following:
 - a. Progress on implementing items 2 through 6 of this order;
 - b. The number of TANF cases closed from sanctions and the reason for the sanctions;
 - c. Local welfare caseloads and any information available regarding the impact of TANF cases in sanction or closed from sanction on localities;
 - d. Job retention and wage increases for those who leave TANF;
 - e. The number of, and reasons for, good cause waivers including:
 - i. The number of clients who cannot find child care, the town/city in which they live, and the ages of the child/children requiring care,
 - ii. The number of clients who cannot participate due to lack of transportation and the town/city in which they live,
 - iii. The number of clients unable to participate due to a domestic violence situation; and
 - f. Progress toward meeting the federally mandated work participation rate, including the type of work activities in which clients are involved.
8. The Department shall review with the Governor all proposed administrative rule changes related to the TANF program at least 30 days prior to submission to the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules. Any other

contractual changes or agreements related to the TANF program shall be reviewed with the Governor at least 30 days prior to implementation.

9. A Governor's TANF Advisory Council shall be established to monitor the implementation of House Bill 1331, the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 and this Executive Order, to advise the Governor on the need for additional changes to the TANF program, and to evaluate information provided by the Department.

10. The Governor's TANF Advisory Council shall, within 15 days of the issuance of the federal regulations regarding TANF reauthorization, report to the Governor, in writing, an assessment of their impact on New Hampshire's TANF program.

11. The Department shall provide to the Governor's TANF Advisory Council any information the Council deems necessary to evaluate the function and modification of the TANF program.

12. The Governor shall appoint a TANF Advisory Council with 7 members. Members of the Advisory Council shall have background in or knowledge of the TANF program, the business community, or education and training, and the Governor shall designate the chair.

Given under my hand and seal at the Executive Chambers in Concord, this 23rd day of June, in the year of Our Lord, two thousand and six.

Governor of New Hampshire