

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Children and Family Services

Economic Stability

Strategies to Empower People (STEP) Program

(LAC 67:III.5721)

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Economic Stability, has exercised the emergency provision of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B) to amend LAC 67:III, Subpart 16 Strategies to Empower People (STEP) Program, Chapter 57 Strategies to Empower People (STEP) Program, Section 5721 Job Readiness. This emergency rule shall be effective July 1, 2015 and shall remain in effect for a period of 120 days.

Pursuant to Louisiana's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant, amendment of Section 5721 is necessary to give the department more flexibility in operating the STEP program by eliminating the work-eligible FITAP applicant requirement of registering for work during the application period and prior to certification with Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC). Work-eligible FITAP recipients will register for work when participating in Job Readiness activities. The proposed rule does not eliminate any work requirements as specified by law. Work activity requirements including job readiness activities are included in Section 5713 Work Activities.

The department considers emergency action necessary to facilitate the expenditure of TANF funds. The authorization to promulgate emergency rules to facilitate the expenditure of TANF funds is contained in Act 15 of the 2014 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

Title 67

SOCIAL SERVICES

Part III. Economic Stability

Subpart 16. Strategies to Empower People (STEP) Program

Chapter 57. Strategies to Empower People (STEP) Program

Subchapter C. STEP Program Process

§5721. Job Readiness

A. ~~A work-eligible applicant of FITAP shall register for work with the Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC). Registration for work shall be documented as a condition for certification of eligibility for FITAP. The applicant shall receive an initial employability assessment designed to determine their level of employability, immediate needs, and family circumstances.~~

B. DCFS will ensure job readiness services are provided through other state partners or through performance-based contracts.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with P.L. 104-193, R.S. 46:231, R.S. 46:460, and ~~Act 58, 2003~~ Act 285, 2013 Reg. Session.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Social Services, Office of Family Support, LR 30:499 (March 2004), amended by the Department of Children and Family Services, Economic Stability Section, LR 40:1678 (September 2014), LR 41:

Suzy Sonnier
Secretary