

ARKANSAS REGISTER

Transmittal Sheet



Sharon Priest
Secretary of State
State Capitol Rm. 01
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-1094

For Office Use Only: Effective Date 4/24/98 Code Number 016.20.98--009

Name of Agency Division of County Operations

Department Human Services

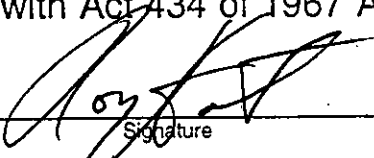
Contact Person Roy D. Kindle, Jr. Phone 682-8251

Statutory Authority for Promulgating Rules Title IV-A of the Social Security Act
Arkansas Act 1058 of 1997

		Date
Intended Effective Date	Legal Notice Published	<u>3/7/98</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency	Final Date for Public Comment	<u>4/5/98</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10 Days After Filing	Filed With Legislative Council	<u>3/4/98</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	Reviewed by Legislative Council	_____
	Adopted by State Agency	<u>4-24-98</u>

CERTIFICATION OF AUTHORIZED OFFICER

I Hereby Certify That The Attached Rules Were Adopted
In Compliance with Act 434 of 1967 As Amended.


Signature

682-8375
Phone Number

Director, Division of County Operations
Title

3/2/98
Date

FILED
IN REGISTER DIV.
98 APR 14 PM 2:05
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF ARKANSAS

6.5 Extended Support Services

For those families who become ineligible for continued TEA benefits due to employment, or who choose to no longer receive cash assistance due to employment, extended support services will be available as provided for by federal and state law. Such services will include one year of extended Medicaid coverage for those who meet the eligibility criteria under federal law for such coverage and one year of extended child care assistance at no cost with an additional two years of child care assistance based on a sliding fee scale.

6.5.1 Extended Support Services - Employment Bonus

For those families who become ineligible for continued TEA cash assistance benefits due to employment, or who choose to no longer receive cash assistance due to employment, an Employment Bonus cash payment will be made to such family provided a bonus payment has not already been made to the family in the preceding twelve (12) months. The purpose of such payment is to help the employed adult meet employment related expenses, such as transportation, clothing, and other miscellaneous work-related expenses, until he or she has received a full month's earnings. It is expected that this one-time bonus payment will help enable the adult to maintain his or her employment.

The Employment Bonus will not count toward the adult's maximum twenty-four month limit.

6.6 Diversion Payment

A diversion payment may be provided to an otherwise eligible TEA family in certain specified circumstances so that the family does not come on to regular TEA cash assistance. To qualify for diversion, the adult caretaker must meet the following conditions:

- (a) Have a minor child living in the home;
- (b) Be currently employed but having a problem that jeopardizes the employment; or
- (c) Be promised a job but needs help in order to accept the job (e.g., needs car repairs, uniforms, etc.)
- (d) Has never received a diversion payment;
- (e) Agree to forego any TEA benefits for a period of 100 days.

5130 *Employment Bonus*

An Employment Bonus cash payment will be made to any family who becomes income ineligible due to employment, or who requests the cash assistance case to be closed due to employment, unless such family has already received an Employment Bonus within the preceding twelve (12) months. The purpose of the payment is to help the employed adult meet work-related expenses during the first full month of employment following the termination of regular cash assistance to better enable him or her to retain the job.

The amount of the bonus payment will be equal to the amount of the last regular TEA cash payment and it will not count toward the adult's twenty-four month time limit.

When a case is closed for payment on ACES with one of the close codes specific to the Employment Bonus, the system will automatically issue the bonus payment to the family in the month following the effective month of closure. (Refer to the DCO Users' Manual for the appropriate closure codes.) If a system generated notice of closure is not sent, the county should include the information regarding the Employment Bonus in their manual notice of closure so that the adult will know its purpose and be expecting it. (The system generated closure notice for an Employment Bonus closure code will include that information.)

Only one Employment Bonus may be authorized to a family within a twelve (12) calendar month period. Therefore, if a family who received an employment Bonus returns to TEA cash assistance, such family cannot receive another Employment Bonus for at least twelve (12) months even if the case closes due to employment before then.

EXAMPLE: Ms. Jones started to work in January and requested her case be closed due to her new employment effective for February. Her case was closed on ACES on January 18 with an Employment Bonus close code. The bonus payment was issued to Ms. Jones in February. The following November, Ms. Jones loses her job, reapplies for TEA cash assistance, and is recertified in December. She finds another job in January and again her case is closed due to employment effective for February. However, she cannot receive an Employment Bonus this February because she received one within the twelve months preceding this month (i.e., the prior February).

12G • SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 1998 • •

NOTICE OF RULEMAKING

Pursuant to Arkansas Act 1058 of 1997 (the Arkansas Personal Responsibility and Public Assistance Reform Act) and Title IV-A of the Social Security Act (the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant program), the Director, Division of County Operations issues a proposed amendment to the Title IV-A state plan and policy for the Transitional Employment Assistance (TEA) program. The amendment is to provide an Extended Support Services - Employment Bonus to TEA families whose regular TEA cash assistance case closes due to employment. The purpose of the bonus payment will be to help the employed adult meet work-related expenses during the first month of employment following the termination of regular cash assistance.

Copies of the proposed change may be obtained by writing the Division of County Operations, P.O. Box 1437, Slot 1220, Little Rock, AR 72203. Attention: Office of Program Planning & Development. All comments must be submitted in writing to the address indicated above no later than 30 days from the date of this notice.

If you need this material in a different format, such as large print, contact our Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator at 682-8920 (voice) or 682-8933 (TDD).

The Arkansas Department of Human Services is in compliance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act and Operates, manages, and delivers services without regard to age, religion, disability, political affiliation, veteran status, sex, race, color or national origin.

Roy Hart
Director
8526427

DEPARTMENT of Human Services

DIVISION of County Operations

PERSON COMPLETING THIS STATEMENT Roy Kindle, Assistant Director

Office of Program Planning & Development

TELEPHONE: 682-8251

FAX NO. 682-1597

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

To comply with Act 884 of 1995, please complete the following Financial Impact Statement and file with the questionnaire and proposed rules.

SHORT TITLE OF THIS RULE - TEA Extended Support Services - Employment Bonus

1. Does this proposed, amended, or repealed rule or regulation have a financial impact?
Yes X No

This proposed rule will provide a bonus cash payment to families who leave the regular Transitional Employment Assistance (TEA) program due to employment of the adult.

2. If you believe that the development of a financial impact statement is so speculative as to be cost prohibited, please explain.
3. If the purpose of this rule or regulation is to implement a federal rule or regulation, please give the incremental cost for implementing the regulation.

1997-1998 Fiscal Year

General Revenue
Federal Funds
Cash Funds
Special Revenue
Other
Total *

1998-1999 Fiscal Year

General Revenue
Federal Funds
Cash Funds
Special Revenue
Other
Total *

This proposed rule is not required by federal rule or regulation.

4. What is the total estimated cost by fiscal year to any party subject to the proposed, amended, or repealed rule or regulation?

1997-98 Fiscal Year

None

1998-99 Fiscal Year

None

5. What is the total estimated cost by fiscal year to the agency to implement this regulation?

The total estimated fiscal year cost for this rule is \$1,101,600 of which \$292,237 is the estimated state share of the cost with the remaining \$809,363 being funded from our Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) federal block grant.

FILED
V.R. REGISTER DIV.
98 APR 14 PM 2:05
STATE OF ARKANSAS
BY _____