



State of Florida
Department of Children and Families

Charlie Crist
Governor

George H. Sheldon
Secretary

DATE: May 29, 2009

TO: Regional Directors

THROUGH: Elwood McElhane, Acting Assistant Secretary for Administration
John K. Cooper, Acting Assistant Secretary for Operations
David L. Fairbanks, Assistant Secretary for Programs

FROM: Alan Abramowitz, State Director, Office of Family Safety

SUBJECT: 2009 Federal Poverty Levels Guidelines - **Effective July 1, 2009**

PURPOSE: This memorandum provides 2009-2010 federal poverty level guidelines that take effect July 1, 2009.

BACKGROUND: The United States Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services updates at least annually the poverty guidelines. The poverty guidelines are used as an eligibility criterion for a number of federal programs including the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

For many years, the Department has exercised the flexibility allowed under federal regulation on TANF uses. In child welfare, we use TANF to help pay for administrative costs of the hotline, child protective investigations, and case management staff. This necessitates an eligibility determination for the child and family at investigation and every 12 months thereafter. The TANF 200% of Eligibility must be determined every 12 months for children receiving protective services in their own home or in the home of a relative. The one-page form, TANF 200% of Eligibility, must be completed to document TANF eligibility.

Additionally, TANF helps fund maintenance adoption subsidy for (eligible) children who are not eligible under Title IV-E. Please refer to CFOP 175-93, TANF Uses in Child Welfare/Community Based Care.

We anticipate having the TANF 200% of Eligibility documentation process supported in FSFN with Release 2b. Until it is implemented, the manual forms and processes will continue.

New Information: Effective July 1, 2009, the 200 percent of the federal poverty levels will increase for TANF-funded programs in Family Safety.

1317 Winewood Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0700

Mission: Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency

2009 Federal Poverty Levels Guidelines

May 29, 2009

Page 2

ACTION REQUIRED: Please share this memorandum and attachments with all appropriate staff in your circuits, sheriff offices, and community-based care lead agencies. Effective July 1, appropriate staff must stop using the 2008 federal poverty level figures and related forms, and replace them with 2009 figures attached to this memorandum.

CONTACT INFORMATION: If you have any questions or need clarification regarding this memorandum, please contact Mukweso Mwenene of my staff at 850.488.8762. Mr. Mwenene's electronic mail address is Mukweso_Mwenene@dcf.state.fl.us.

Attachments

cc: Angie Boyer, Acting Comptroller
Walter Sachs, Staff Director, Contracts