

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Children and Family Services Office of Family Support

Thrive: The Baby and Parent Network
(LAC 67:III.5507, 7101, 7103, 7105, 7117, and 7131)

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Division of Family Support, has exercised the provision of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:962 to adopt LAC 67:III, Subpart 15 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Initiatives, Chapter 55 TANF Initiatives, Section 5507 Thrive: The Baby and Parent Network; and Subpart 21 Thrive: The Baby and Parent Network, Chapter 71 Thrive: The Baby and Parent Network. This emergency rule shall be effective July 1, 2023 and shall remain in effect for a period of 180 days.

Pursuant to Louisiana's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant, adoption of Section 5507 and Subpart 21, Chapter 71 is required to adopt and administer a continuum of care program for certain pregnant women and parents, hereafter called the Thrive: The Baby and Parent Network. The purpose of the program is to facilitate the operation of a statewide telecare support network that provides community outreach, consultations, and care coordination for pregnant women and parents that encourage healthy childbirth, support childbirth as an alternative to termination of pregnancy, promote family formation, assist parents in establishing successful parenting techniques, and increase the economic and self-sufficiency of families.

The department considers emergency action necessary to facilitate the expenditure of State General Funds (SGF) from the Statutory Dedications/Continuum of Care Fund and/or TANF funds. The authorization to promulgate emergency rules to facilitate the expenditure of TANF funds is contained in Act 199 of the 2022 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

Title 67

SOCIAL SERVICES

Part III. Family Support

Subpart 15. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Initiatives

Chapter 55. TANF Initiatives

§5507. Thrive: The Baby and Parent Network

A. The department shall enter into contract(s) to facilitate the operation of a statewide telecare support network that provides community outreach and direct services including, but not limited to, consultations, supports, social services case management, referrals, and care coordination for pregnant women and parents.

B. These services meet TANF Goal 4, encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families, by providing care plans and case management to assist families in addressing the challenges of pregnancies and parenting.

C. Eligibility for services is limited to Louisiana resident(s) who are the parent of an unborn child or a child under two years of age.

D. Medical services are prohibited, including but not limited to the provision of medically accurate, pregnancy-related medical information to program participants.

E. Services are considered non-assistance by the agency.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 601 et seq., R.S. 36:474, and Act 561 of the 2022 Louisiana Regular Legislative Session.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Children and Family Services, Division of Family Support, LR 49:

Subpart 21. Thrive: The Baby and Parent Network

Chapter 71. Thrive: The Baby and Parent Network

Subchapter A. Program Administration

§7101. General Authority

A. From federal funds, state funds, and/or other funds made available for this purpose, the department is hereby authorized to establish a continuum of care program for certain pregnant women and parents, hereafter called the "Thrive: The Baby and Parent Network."

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with Act 561 of the 2022 Louisiana Regular Legislative Session.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Children and Family Services, Division of Family Support, LR 49:

§7103. Program Administration

A. The administration of the Thrive: The Baby and Parent Network will be administered by the department through contracts with outside entities in accordance with the Louisiana procurement code, R.S. 39:1605-1736.

B. To the extent that appropriations are available, the secretary may establish and make available to eligible families the Thrive: The Baby and Parent Network.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with Act 561 of the 2022 Louisiana Regular Legislative Session.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Children and Family Services, Division of Family Support, LR 49:

§7105. Eligible Organizations

A. In order to receive funding, an entity must:

1. be a public or private nonprofit organization;
2. have the capacity and provide assurances to deliver services exclusively through electronic means;
3. acknowledge and certify that they are not an entity that:

a. performs, refers for, or assists with termination of a pregnancy; or

b. sets appointments with or refers women or parents to any entity that performs or recommends for termination of a pregnancy.

4. allow and agree that:

a. department personnel will make annual on-site programmatic contract reviews. The department, at its discretion, may make more than one programmatic visit per year. These site visits will be conducted for compliance with contractual requirements; and

b. the entity grants to the Office of the Legislative Auditor, the Office of the Inspector General, the department's Bureau of Audit and Compliance Services, the federal government, and any other officially designated authorized representatives of the department the right to audit, inspect, and review all books and records pertaining to services rendered under their contract with the department and the right to conduct on-site monitoring.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with Act 561 of the 2022 Louisiana Regular Legislative Session.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Children and Family Services, Division of Family Support, LR 49:

Subchapter B. Eligibility

§7117. Conditions of Eligibility

A. Eligibility for services is limited to Louisiana residents who at the time of initial contact are the parent of either an unborn child or a child that is under two years of

age, including a program participant whose pregnancy is involuntarily ended due to medical reasons.

B. Any program participant who voluntarily terminates a pregnancy is eligible to continue receiving services through the program for a period of six months from the date of the pregnancy termination.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with Act 561 of the 2022 Louisiana Regular Legislative Session.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Children and Family Services, Division of Family Support, LR 49:

Subchapter C. Services

§7131. Services

A. Services include, but are not limited to:

1. outreach to at-risk populations eligible for the program;

2. utilization of registered nurses, who are licensed in accordance with R.S. 37:911 et seq., to perform the following functions:

a. assessment and evaluation of needs related to pregnancy or parenting; and

b. provision of medically accurate, pregnancy-related medical information to program participants.

3. utilization of social workers, who are licensed in accordance with R.S. 37:2701 et seq., or other licensed individuals with equivalent experience to perform the following functions:

a. development of a care plan, resources, and support for program participants to address identified needs;

b. referrals to appropriate local resources including, without limitation, state and federal benefits programs and local charitable organizations;

c. assistance in applying for state and federal benefits programs; and

d. assistance in accomplishing elements of the care plan.

4. coordination for pregnant women served by the telecare support network of appointments with in-person pregnancy resources centers or similar agencies in this state which provide information and services including, without limitation, counseling, ultrasound services, pregnancy tests, prenatal assistance, parenting classes, material support, and adoption information.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with Act 561 of the 2022 Louisiana Regular Legislative Session.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Children and Family Services, Division of Family Support, LR 49:

Terri Porche Ricks
Secretary