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John Bel Edwards, Governor
Marketa Garner Walters, Secretary

November 10, 2021

The Honorable Fred H. Mills, Jr.
Chairman, Senate Committee on Health and Welfare
Via Email: apa.s-h&w@legis.la.gov

The Honorable Larry Bagley
Chairman, House Committee on Health and Welfare
Via Email: apa.h-hw@legis.la.gov

RE: Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Rulemaking

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) hereby announces its plan to proceed with rulemaking by finalizing the Notice of Intent titled "TANF NRST Benefits and Post-FITAP Transitional Assistance" that was promulgated and published on page 1363 of the September 2021 *Louisiana Register*. Copies of the notice and fiscal statement were provided to you on, or about, September 10, 2021.

The proposed rule will amend LAC 67:III, Sections 1229, 5329, 5551, and 5729 to allow TANF nonrecurrent, short-term (NRST) benefit payments to FITAP and KCSP recipients to mitigate the impact of a specific crisis situation or episode of need such as an economic crisis, disaster, pandemic, etc.; to change earned income eligibility for those services meeting TANF goals 1 and 2 from 200 to 250 percent of the federal poverty level; and to provide time-limited Post-FITAP transitional assistance to families who are leaving cash assistance when their FITAP case closes due to earned income to promote employment retention.

DCFS held a public hearing on October 26, 2021, and no comments were received on the proposal. At this time, the department intends to submit the Final Rule to the Office of State Register for publication in the December 2021 issue of the *Louisiana Register*. This Rule is effective January 1, 2022.

Please contact me at (225) 400-3311 if the department may be of any assistance to you concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

Shavana Howard

Shavana Howard
Assistant Secretary of Family Support

sh/vg

cc: The Honorable Patrick P. Cortez, President, Louisiana Senate
Office of the State Register

