

**NOTICE OF INTENT**

**Department of Children and Family Services**

**Family Support**

**TANF Star Academy Program  
(LAC 67:III.5532)**

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Family Support, has exercised the provision of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(A)(1)(a) to adopt LAC 67:III, Subpart 15 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Initiatives, Chapter 55 TANF Initiatives, Section 5532 Star Academy Program.

Pursuant to Louisiana's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant, adoption of Section 5532 is required to fund the TANF Star Academy Program which provides core curriculum through project based learning grounded in a positive classroom culture, social-emotional learning strategies, and safe spaces to build relationships with fellow students and educators. The program promotes student-led decision making, accountability, and leadership skills. The program has a strong potential for fostering a new generation of self-sufficient individuals that choose to experience a new and better economic future.

This action was made effective by an Emergency Rule dated and effective January 1, 2023.

**Title 67**

**SOCIAL SERVICES**

**Part III. Family Support**

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

**Chapter 55. TANF Initiatives**

**§5532. Star Academy Program**

A. The department shall enter into agreement(s) to fund the Star Academy Program which provides core curriculum through project based learning grounded in a positive classroom culture, social-emotional learning strategies, and safe spaces to build

relationships with fellow students and educators. The program promotes student-led decision making, accountability, and leadership skills.

B. These services meet TANF Goal 3, to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies by helping teachers better understand the gaps in executive functioning and the effect of poverty on students, establishing community service-based learning for students so that they can accept the perspectives of others, and workforce development alignment to assist students in gaining employability skills to begin their career pathway.

C. Eligibility includes any student selected by the school to participate in the program regardless of income.

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

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 601 et seq. and R.S. 36:474.

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

#### **Family Impact Statement**

The proposed rule is not anticipated to have an adverse impact on family formation, stability, and autonomy as described in R.S. 49:972. This rule is anticipated to help improve family relationships because the student is learning decision making, accountability, and leadership skills.

#### **Poverty Impact Statement**

The proposed rule is not anticipated to have a significant negative impact on poverty as described in R.S. 49:973. This rule is anticipated to help foster a new generation of self-sufficient individuals that choose to experience a new and better economic future.

**Small Business Impact Statement**

The proposed rule is not anticipated to have an adverse impact on small businesses as defined in the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

**Provider Impact Statement**

The proposed rule is not anticipated to have an impact on providers of services funded by the state as described in HCR 170 of the 2014 Regular Legislative Session.

**Public Comments**

All interested persons may submit written comments through, March 28, 2023, to Ashley Sias, Assistant Secretary of Family Support, Department of Children and Family Services, P.O. Box 94065, Baton Rouge, LA 70804.

**Public Hearing**

A virtual public hearing on the proposed Rule will be held at 9:00 a.m. on March 28, 2023, by the Department of Children and Family Services. All interested persons will be afforded an opportunity to submit data, views, or arguments via PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android at <https://stateofladcfs.zoom.us/j/88609868002>; via telephone by dialing (713) 353-0212 and entering conference code 430033. To find local AT&T numbers visit <https://www.teleconference.att.com/servlet/glbAccess?process=1&ccessNumber=USA7133530212&accessCode=430033>. Individuals with disabilities who require special services should contact the DCFS Appeals Unit at least seven working days in advance of the hearing. For assistance, call (225) 342-4120 (Voice and TDD).



Terri Porche Ricks  
Secretary

February 9, 2023

**FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT  
FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**

Person Preparing Statement:	<u>Julie Starns</u>	Department:	<u>Children and Family Services</u>
Phone:	<u>(225) 342-0495</u>	Office:	<u>Family Support</u>
Return Address:	<u>627 N. 4th Street, P.O. Box 94065 Baton Rouge, LA 70804</u>	Rule Title:	<u>TANF Star Academy Program</u>
		Date Rule Takes Effect:	<u>June 1, 2023</u>

**SUMMARY**

(Use complete sentences)

In accordance with Section 953.1 of Title 49 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes, there is hereby submitted a fiscal and economic impact statement on the rule proposed for adoption, repeal or amendment. THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS SUMMARIZE ATTACHED WORKSHEETS, I THROUGH IV AND WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE LOUISIANA REGISTER WITH THE PROPOSED AGENCY RULE.

**I. ESTIMATED IMPLEMENTATION COSTS (SAVINGS) TO STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)**

This rule is anticipated to cost approximately \$801,704 in FY 23 and \$100,000 in FYs 24 and 25, for a total of \$1,001,704 Federal funds from TANF over three years.

The proposed rule adopts LAC 67:III, Subpart 15 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Initiatives, Chapter 55 TANF Initiatives, Section 5532 Star Academy Program, which provides core curriculum through project based learning activities for students. The change is anticipated to increase DCFS expenditures by approximately \$800,000 Federal from TANF in FY 23 and \$100,000 in FY 24 and FY 25 associated with the operation of the program. The cost of publishing this rule change is approximately \$1,704. A summary of projected expenditures is as follows:

FY 23  
 \$200,000 for acquisition of furniture, computers, equipment, and other materials for four classrooms  
 \$200,000 for curriculum design and development  
 \$200,000 for software and licenses  
 \$100,000 for professional development  
 \$100,000 for technical support  
 \$ 1,704 for rulemaking  
 \$801,704 total

FY 24  
 \$100,000 for continued professional development and technical support

FY 25  
 \$100,000 for continued professional development and technical support

**II. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)**

The proposed rule will not affect revenue collections for state or local governmental units.

**III. ESTIMATED COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS, SMALL BUSINESSES, OR NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS (Summary)**

Implementation of this proposed rule is not anticipated to have an economic cost or benefit to individuals, small businesses or non-governmental groups. This rule adopts the Star Academy Program, which is anticipated to help alleviate poverty for those participating in the program.

**IV. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT (Summary)**

Implementation of this proposed rule is not expected to have an effect on competition and employment.

Ashley Sias  
Signature of Agency Head or Designee

02/09/2023  
Date

*Evan Brassel, Interim Deputy  
Fiscal Officer*

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICER  
OR DESIGNEE

Ashley Sias, Assistant Secretary of Family Support  
Typed Name and Title of Agency Head or Designee

2/9/23  
DATE OF SIGNATURE

Eric Horant  
DCFS Undersecretary

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT  
FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

The following information is required in order to assist the Legislative Fiscal Office in its review of the fiscal and economic impact statement and to assist the appropriate legislative oversight subcommittee in its deliberation on the proposed rule.

- A. Provide a brief summary of the content of the rule (if proposed for adoption, or repeal) or a brief summary of the change in the rule (if proposed for amendment). Attach a copy of the notice of intent and a copy of the rule proposed for initial adoption or repeal (or, in the case of a rule change, copies of both the current and proposed rules with amended portions indicated).

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) proposes to adopt LAC 67:III, Subpart 15 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Initiatives, Chapter 55 TANF Initiatives, Section 5532 Star Academy Program, which provides core curriculum through project based learning grounded in a positive classroom culture, social-emotional learning strategies, and safe spaces to build relationships with fellow students and educators. The program promotes student-led decision making, accountability, and leadership skills. The program has a strong potential for fostering a new generation of self-sufficient individuals that choose to experience a new and better economic future.

- B. Summarize the circumstances, which require this action. If the Action is required by federal regulation, attach a copy of the applicable regulation.

Action is required in this matter to facilitate the expenditure of TANF funds.

- C. Compliance with Act 11 of the 1986 First Extraordinary Session

- (1) Will the proposed rule result in any increase in the expenditure of funds? If so, specify amount and source of funding.

Yes. In FY 23, this measure is anticipated to increase the operating expenses of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). The change is anticipated to increase DCFS expenditures by approximately \$800,000 Federal from TANF in FY 23 and \$100,000 in FY 24 and FY 25 associated with the operation of the program.

- (2) If the answer to (1) above is yes, has the Legislature specifically appropriated the funds necessary for the associated expenditure increase?

(a) \_\_\_\_\_ Yes. If yes, attach documentation.

(b)  X  NO. If no, provide justification as to why this rule change should be published at this time

Although the proposed revisions will result in an increase in the expenditure of federal funds for programmatic costs, these costs will be funded using the department's annual operating budget appropriated by the Legislature for the TANF program. The administrative cost of publishing rulemaking is routinely included in the department's annual operating budget appropriated by the Legislature.

**FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT  
WORKSHEET**

**I. A. COSTS OR SAVINGS TO STATE AGENCIES RESULTING FROM THE ACTION PROPOSED**

1. What is the anticipated increase (decrease) in costs to implement the proposed action?

<b>COSTS</b>	<b>FY 23</b>	<b>FY 24</b>	<b>FY 25</b>
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$0
Operating Expenses	\$801,704 (expenditures and	\$100,000	\$100,000
Professional Services	rulemaking)	\$0	\$0
Other Charges	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0
Major Repair & Constr.	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$0		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$801,704</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>
<b>Positions (#)</b>			

2. Provide a narrative explanation of the costs or savings shown in "A.1.", including the increase or reduction in workload or additional paperwork (number of new forms, additional documentation, etc.) anticipated as a result of the implementation of the proposed action. Describe all data, assumptions, and methods used in calculating these costs.

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) will enter into agreement(s) utilizing Federal Funds from TANF for the operation of the Star Academy Program associated with this rule change. The current cost to operate a Star Academy Program is \$1,000,000, which includes 4 classrooms with a total of 80 to 85 students per year for a 3-year period. The change is anticipated to increase DCFS expenditures by approximately \$800,000 Federal from TANF in FY 23 and \$100,000 in FY 24 and FY 25 associated with the operation of the program. The cost of publishing this rule change is approximately \$1,704.

3. Sources of funding for implementing the proposed rule or rule change.

<b>SOURCE</b>	<b>FY 23</b>	<b>FY 24</b>	<b>FY 25</b>
State General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agency Self-Generated	\$0	\$0	\$0
Dedicated	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$801,704	\$100,000	\$100,000
Other (Specify)	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$801,704</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>

4. Does your agency currently have sufficient funds to implement the proposed action? If not, how and when do you anticipate obtaining such funds?

Yes. The increase in the expenditure for programmatic costs will be funded using the department's annual operating budget appropriated by the Legislature for the TANF program. The administrative cost of publishing rulemaking is routinely included in the department's annual operating budget appropriated by the Legislature.

**B. COST OR SAVINGS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS RESULTING FROM THE ACTION PROPOSED.**

1. Provide an estimate of the anticipated impact of the proposed action on local governmental units, including adjustments in workload and paperwork requirements. Describe all data, assumptions and methods used in calculating this impact.

There are no estimated costs or savings to local governmental units resulting from this rule.

2. Indicate the sources of funding of the local governmental unit, which will be affected by these costs or savings.

There will be no impact on local governmental units.

**FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT  
WORKSHEET**

**II. EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS**

A. What increase (decrease) in revenues can be anticipated from the proposed action?

Revenue Increase/Decrease	FY 23	FY 24	FY 25
State General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agency Self-Generated	\$0	\$0	\$0
Dedicated Funds *	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0

\*Specify the particular fund being impacted.

B. Provide a narrative explanation of each increase or decrease in revenues shown in "A." Describe all data, assumptions, and methods used in calculating these increases or decreases.

Implementation of this rule will have no effect on state or local revenue collections.

**III. COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS, SMALL BUSINESSES, OR NONGOVERNMENTAL GROUPS**

A. What persons, small businesses, or non-governmental groups would be directly affected by the proposed action? For each, provide an estimate and a narrative description of any effect on costs, including workload adjustments and additional paperwork (number of new forms, additional documentation, etc.), they may have to incur as a result of the proposed action.

Implementation of this proposed rule is not anticipated to have a cost or direct economic benefit to small businesses or non-governmental groups. This rule is anticipated to help alleviate poverty for those participating in the program.

B. Also provide an estimate and a narrative description of any impact on receipts and/or income resulting from this rule or rule change to these groups.

This rule will not have a significant impact on receipts and/or income.

**IV. EFFECTS ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT**

Identify and provide estimates of the impact of the proposed action on competition and employment in the public and private sectors. Include a summary of any data, assumptions and methods used in making these estimates.

This rule will not have a significant impact on competition for employment in the public and private sectors.