2012 Special Session I

Budget Bill - HB1301 (Chapter 3)

Item 337

	First Year - FY2013	Second Year - FY2014
Financial Assistance for Self-Sufficiency Programs and Services (45200)	**$270,627,718**	**$271,369,252**
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Cash Assistance (45201)	$109,320,127	$109,841,887
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Employment Services (45212)	$19,657,832	$19,657,832
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training (SNAPET) Services (45213)	$1,017,742	$1,017,742
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Child Care Subsidies (45214)	$59,133,163	$59,668,072
At-Risk Child Care Subsidies (45215)	$71,837,914	$71,845,914
Unemployed Parents Cash Assistance (45216)	$9,660,940	$9,337,805
Fund Sources:		
General	$88,814,159	$88,499,024
Federal Trust	$181,813,559	$182,870,228

Authority: Title 2.2, Chapter 54; Title 63.2, Chapters 1 through 7, Code of Virginia; Title VI, Subtitle B, P.L. 97-35, as amended; P.L. 103-252, as amended; P.L. 104-193, as amended, Federal Code.

A. It is hereby acknowledged that as of June 30, 2011 there existed with the federal government an unexpended balance of $25,574,493 in federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant funds which are available to the Commonwealth of Virginia to reimburse expenditures incurred in accordance with the adopted State Plan for the TANF program. Based on projected spending levels and appropriations in this act, the Commonwealth's accumulated balance for authorized federal TANF block grant funds is estimated at $14,064,514 on June 30, 2012; $7,577,009 on June 30, 2013; and $32,835 on June 30, 2014.

B. The Department of Social Services (DSS) shall report annually on October 1 to the Governor, the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees, and the Director, Department of Planning and Budget regarding spending; program results; clients served; the location, size, implementation status, and nature of projects funded with TANF funds; results of all formal evaluations; and recommendations for continuation, expansion, and redesign of the projects. Such report shall be combined with the report required by § 63.2-619, Code of Virginia.

C. No less than 30 days prior to submitting any amendment to the federal government related to the State Plan for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services shall provide the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees as well as the Director, Department of Planning and Budget written documentation detailing the proposed policy changes. This documentation shall include an estimate of the fiscal impact of the proposed changes and information summarizing public comment that was received on the proposed changes.

D. To the extent permitted by federal law, the State Plan for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) shall provide that the eligibility for assistance of an alien who is a qualified alien (as defined in § 431 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Public Law Number 104-193) shall be determined without regard to alienage.

E. Notwithstanding any other provision of state law, the Department of Social Services shall maintain a separate state program, as that term is defined by federal regulations governing the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, 45 C.F.R. § 260.30, for the purpose of providing welfare cash assistance payments to able-bodied two-parent families. The separate state program shall be funded by state funds and operated outside of the TANF program. Able-bodied two-parent families shall not be eligible for TANF cash assistance as defined at 45 C.F.R. § 260.31 (a)(1), but shall receive benefits under the separate state program provided for in this paragraph. Although various conditions and eligibility requirements may be different under the separate state program, the basic benefit payment for which two-parent families are eligible under the separate state program shall not be less than what they would have received under TANF. The Department of Social Services shall establish regulations to govern this separate state program.

F. As a condition of this appropriation, the Department of Social Services shall disregard the value of one motor vehicle per assistance unit in determining eligibility for cash assistance in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program and in the separate state program for able-bodied two-parent families.

G. The Department of Social Services, in collaboration with local departments of social services, shall maintain minimum performance standards for all local departments of social services participating in the Virginia Initiative for Employment, Not Welfare (VIEW) program. The department shall allocate VIEW funds to local departments of social services based on these performance standards and VIEW caseloads. The allocation formula shall be developed and revised in cooperation with the local social services departments and the Department of Planning and Budget.

H. A participant whose Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) financial assistance is terminated due to the receipt of 24 months of assistance as specified in § 63.2-612, Code of Virginia, or due to the closure of the TANF case prior to the completion of 24 months of TANF assistance, excluding cases closed with a sanction for noncompliance with the Virginia Initiative for Employment Not Welfare program, shall be eligible to receive employment and training assistance for up to 12 months after termination, if needed, in addition to other transitional services provided pursuant to § 63.2-611, Code of Virginia.

I. The Department of Social Services, in conjunction with the Department of Correctional Education, shall identify and apply for federal, private and faith-based grants for pre-release parenting programs for non-custodial incarcerated parent offenders committed to the Department of Corrections, including but not limited to the following grant programs: Promoting Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Marriages, State Child Access and Visitation Block Grant, Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative Collaboration, Special Improvement Projects, § 1115 Social Security Demonstration Grants, and any new grant programs authorized under the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant program.

J. Included in this Item is funding to carry out the former responsibilities of the Virginia Council on Child Day Care and Early Childhood Programs. Nongeneral fund appropriations allocated for uses associated with the Head Start program shall not be transferred for any other use until eligible Head Start families have been fully served. Any remaining funds may be used to provide services to enrolled low-income families in accordance with federal and state requirements. Families, who are working or in education and training programs, with income at or below the poverty level, whose children are enrolled in Head Start wraparound programs paid for with the federal block grant funding in this Item shall not be required to pay fees for these wraparound services.

K. Out of this appropriation, $2,639,305 the first year and $2,647,305 the second year from the general fund and

$54,466,586 the first year and $54,466,586 the second year from federal funds shall be provided to support state child care programs which will be administered on a sliding scale basis to income eligible families. The sliding fee scale and eligibility criteria are to be set according to the rules and regulations of the State Board of Social Services, except that the income eligibility thresholds for child care assistance shall account for variations in the local cost of living index by metropolitan statistical areas. The Department of Social Services shall report on the sliding fee scale and eligibility criteria adopted by the Board of Social Services by December 15 of each year. The Department of Social Services shall make the necessary amendments to the Child Care and Development Funds Plan to accomplish this intent. Funds shall be targeted to families who are most in need of assistance with child care costs. Localities may exceed the standards established by the state by supplementing state funds with local funds.

L. The department shall report to the Governor, General Assembly, and Director, Department of Planning and Budget by October 15 of each year regarding the status of its child care assistance automation efforts. The annual report shall include system adequacy, programmatic and financial efficiencies gained and the need for any further actions.

M. Out of this appropriation, $600,000 the first year and $600,000 the second year from nongeneral funds shall be used to provide scholarships to students in early childhood education and related majors who plan to work in the field, or already are working in the field, whether in public schools, child care or other early childhood programs, and who enroll in a state community college or a state supported senior institution of higher education.

N. Out of this appropriation, $505,000 the first year and $505,000 the second year from nongeneral funds shall be used to provide training of individuals in the field of early childhood education.

O. Out of this appropriation, $300,000 the first year and $300,000 the second year from nongeneral funds shall be used to provide child care assistance for children in homeless and domestic violence shelters.