

August 16, 2024

Ms. Janie Cole Commissioner Division of Family Support Department of Human Services 350 Capitol Street, Room 730 Charleston, West Virginia 25301-3711

Dear Commissioner Cole:

The Office of Family Assistance (OFA) has reviewed the amended Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Work Verification Plan, submitted in accordance with 45 CFR 261.63(c). This amendment provides updates as of November 1, 2023.

The amended plan includes a change in the name of West Virginia's Department Health and Human Resources to the Department of Human Services, changes to excused absences by correcting the number of excused holidays from eleven to ten and clarified that the JOIN work experience program is a planned, structured learning experience that takes place in a workplace for a limited period of time, as per the Fair Labor Standards Act.

We have determined that the amended plan meets the requirements of section 407(i)(2) of the Social Security Act, 45 CFR 261.62(b), and applicable guidance issued by OFA. We are approving the plan with an effective date of November 1, 2023, as you requested, with the understanding the plan was implemented on that date. We remind you of the state's obligation to adhere to the procedures at 45 CFR 261.65(a)(2), including "adequate documentation, verification, or internal control procedures to ensure the accuracy of the data used in calculating the work participation rates."

If we have misconstrued or overlooked some provision of the plan and subsequently find that is inconsistent with provisions in the Social Security Act, other federal law, federal regulations, or guidance issued by OFA, we reserve the right to require the state to amend this plan.

We look forward to continuing to work together with West Virginia to serve TANF families.

Sincerely,

Ann Flagg Director Office of Family Assistance

cc: Eileen Friedman, TANF Program Manager, ACF Region III Kent Nowviskie, Deputy Commissioner for Programs Tina Faber, Director