

DSS ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER NO. ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE 05-2002

(Work First)

TO: County Directors of Social Services

ATTENTION: Work First Supervisors

SUBJECT: Counting Months of TANF From Other States

DATE: February 5, 2002

This letter is issued to clarify the process of verifying months of TANF assistance received from other states in order to track the 60-month time limit. The 60-month time limit is a federal limit on the receipt of assistance funded by TANF block grants to states. When someone who applies for Work First (TANF) in North Carolina has received TANF assistance from another state, we contact that state to verify the number of months of TANF assistance they have received. (See Section 105 of the Work First Manual.)

State TANF programs are funded with a combination of federal TANF funds and State Maintenance of Effort (MOE) funds. The 60-month time limit only applies to months of assistance that are paid, in whole or in part, with Federal TANF funds. If a state provides assistance that is funded only by MOE funds, with no TANF funds commingled, that assistance is not to be counted against the 60 month time limit.

Some states shift families between funding sources, effectively stopping the 60- month time clock for months when their assistance is funded by MOE only.

Because of this variability in funding, we need to be very clear when contacting other states to verify months of TANF assistance.

When you contact another state, always ask how many months of assistance have been counted on the family's 60-month federal time clock. This number could be less than the total number of months of assistance received, depending on the funding source.

If you have any questions, please contact your Work First Representative.

Sincerely,

Wilbert R. Morris, Chief

Economic Independence Section

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