



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

February 21, 2014

Honorable Representative Thomas Huntley
Chair, Health and Human Services Finance Committee
585 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55115

Honorable Senator Tony Lourey, Chair
Finance-Health and Human Services Division
120 Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chairs Huntley and Lourey:

In accordance with 2013 Session Law, Chapter 108, Article 3, Section 32, this letter is intended to update your Health and Human Service Finance Committees on the progress of Minnesota's pursuit of a TANF waiver or demonstration project.

On July 12, 2012, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) issued guidance ([TANF-ACF-IM-2012-03](#)) on the ability of states to pursue a Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) waiver. The waiver opportunity was specifically to test innovative approaches for more effective ways to meet the goals of TANF – in particular helping parents successfully prepare for, find, and retain employment.

The department has been working with various stakeholder groups, including counties, employment services providers, advocates, participants and TANF policy experts to prepare for the potential submittal of a waiver to ACF. Our effort has focused on developing metrics that will increase program effectiveness based upon Minnesota's supplemental TANF measurement, the Self-Support Index (SS-I). The self-support index identifies "success" when a Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) participant is working 30 or more hours per week or is off of MFIP three years after baseline.

Since their initial announcement, ACF has been tentative in their posture for waiver proposals from the states. At this time Minnesota has yet to submit an official waiver request. We are, however, proceeding with reforming and improving the effectiveness of our services to MFIP participants as they seek educational and employment opportunities that will enable them to leave our public assistance programs. We will keep you apprised of further developments in this area.

If you or any committee members should have any questions or concerns, please never hesitate to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lucinda Jesson".

Lucinda Jesson
Commissioner
Department of Human Services

cc: Legislative Reference Library