



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Economic Services Administration
Post Office Box 45070, Olympia WA 98504-5070

August 24, 2026

Mary C. Jones, ACF PRA Lead
Administration for Children and Families
330 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20201

Re: Regulations.gov Posting: TANF Contingency Fund Application

Dear Ms. Jones:

The Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on the Administration for Children and Families' (ACF) proposed modification to the Contingency Fund Application, on behalf of Washington's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. DSHS has concerns regarding this notice.

ACF's proposed modifications to the Contingency Fund Application include minor changes to the MS Word application document and significant changes to the application process. If the proposed application process is finalized, states that are eligible for Contingency Fund awards will be required to apply every month for the funding, rather than once a year as was required in prior years. This proposed modification would add considerable administrative burden for states, particularly those that qualify for multiple months of Contingency Funding.

Washington estimates that the proposed application process will result in a yearly increase of over thirty hours of administrative workload. The time needed to process the Contingency Fund Application will take valuable staff time away from more meaningful work that has a direct impact on reducing poverty and supporting families in our state.

Washington respectfully requests that ACF reconsider the proposed requirement for states to apply monthly for Contingency Funding. Our state has no concerns with the proposed new application document per se, other than the instructions requiring the new monthly reporting cadence.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on this notice. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Brice Montgomery, Director
Community Services Division
Economic Services Administration
Washington Department of Social and Health Services

cc:

Carla Reyes, Assistant Secretary, Economic Services Administration
Matt Parascand, Government Relations Senior Advisor, Economic Services Administration