

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 55th Legislature (2016)

HOUSE BILL 2900

By: Inman

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to child care; amending 56 O.S. 2011, Section 230.50, which relates to the Statewide Temporary Assistance Responsibility System; updating statutory citations; adjusting child care subsidy rates for specified household incomes; setting minimum reimbursement rate threshold for licensed child care facilities; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 56 O.S. 2011, Section 230.50, is amended to read as follows:

Section 230.50 A. Sections ~~±~~ 230.50 through ~~±~~ 230.73 of this ~~act~~ title shall be known and may be cited as the "Statewide Temporary Assistance Responsibility System (STARS)".

B. 1. There is hereby established the Statewide Temporary Assistance Responsibility System (STARS) which shall consist of programs and services to be offered by the state with funds provided by the temporary assistance for needy families block grant authorized by Section 103 of the federal Personal Responsibility and

1 Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, P.L. 104-193, in  
2 addition to other monies appropriated by law.

3 2. The STARS shall consist of integrated and coordinated  
4 programs and services that will provide recipients with the  
5 necessary tools to enable them to make the transition from reliance  
6 on public assistance programs to becoming independent, self-  
7 sufficient citizens who are capable of supporting themselves and  
8 their families. Such programs and services include but are not  
9 limited to: career guidance and employment preparation, job  
10 referral, vocational and technical training, child care initiatives,  
11 literacy development, adult basic education, and medical assistance.

12 3. The Oklahoma Legislature further recognizes the importance  
13 of encouraging establishment of statewide, One-stop  
14 Career/Employment Centers that would link existing resources and  
15 federal and state programs for utilization by persons receiving  
16 temporary assistance, and underemployed and unemployed persons.

17 C. The Department of Human Services shall be responsible for:

18 1. Implementing the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy  
19 Families Act (TANF);

20 2. Carrying out the projects and programs specified in the  
21 STARS. The Department shall implement the provisions of the STARS  
22 to the fullest extent permitted by law and in accordance with the  
23 terms and conditions specified by the federal government;

1           3. Expediting the acquisition of any federal waivers necessary  
2 to implement the provisions of STARS through amendments, combined  
3 waivers, requests and in any other such manner authorized by federal  
4 law and regulations; and

5           4. Working in close and continuous coordination with  
6 appropriate federal officials and preparing and submitting  
7 completely and in a timely manner all forms and data required by  
8 federal officials to implement STARS.

9           D. In administering the STARS, the Department shall collaborate  
10 with the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission, the Department of  
11 Commerce, the State Department of Health and the State Department of  
12 Education and any other state or federal agency necessary to  
13 implement the provisions of the STARS.

14           E. In submitting any state plan or amendments to the state plan  
15 to the federal government in order to obtain a temporary assistance  
16 for needy families block grant or child care and development block  
17 grant, the Department shall seek the maximum block grant funding and  
18 federal contingency fund allocations that are available pursuant to  
19 the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity  
20 Reconciliation Act of 1996, P.L. 104-193. Beginning November 1,  
21 2016, the Department shall adjust eligibility for the child care  
22 subsidy program funded through the child care and development block  
23 grant to include families with household incomes that do not exceed  
24 two hundred percent (200%) of the federal poverty level.

1 F. The Commission for Human Services shall promulgate rules for  
2 developing any projects and programs to implement the STARS.

3 G. 1. The Department of Human Services is directed to file  
4 with the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President  
5 Pro Tempore of the Senate a copy of any waiver application or  
6 request for amendment or exemption filed with the federal  
7 government, copies of correspondence to and from the federal  
8 government explaining and elaborating upon said applications, and  
9 final documentation of any waivers, amendments, and exemptions  
10 granted by the federal government pursuant to the STARS.

11 2. On or before February 1, 1998, for the previous six-month  
12 period, and on or before February 1 of each year, for the previous  
13 fiscal year, the Department shall provide a written report on each  
14 project and program specified in the STARS to the Legislature and  
15 the Governor which identifies:

- 16 a. total number of new applications received by the  
17 Department for TANF, food stamps and child care, and  
18 the number of cases actually certified,
  - 19 b. number of recipients who signed a personal  
20 responsibility agreement pursuant to the TANF program,
  - 21 c. number of cases closed by the Department and the  
22 reasons for the case closures,
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- 1 d. the number of persons who reapplied for benefits  
2 pursuant to the TANF program after a case had been  
3 closed,
- 4 e. number of recipients who completed an employability  
5 assessment by level of education,
- 6 f. the total number of recipients who completed an  
7 employability assessment, and the number who were  
8 initially referred for:
- 9 (1) literacy assessment,
  - 1 0 (2) adult basic education or remediation classes,
  - 1 1 (3) job skills development or vocational training,
  - 1 2 (4) employment,
  - 1 3 (5) other,
- 1 4 g. of the total number of recipients assessed for  
1 5 literacy skills, the number who scored:
- 1 6 (1) at or below 6th grade level,
  - 1 7 (2) at 7th or 8th grade level,
  - 1 8 (3) at 9th or 10th grade level,
  - 1 9 (4) above 10th grade level,
- 2 0 h. number of sanctions imposed for violations of the  
2 1 provisions of the STARS or rules promulgated pursuant  
2 2 thereto or any other provision of law or rule relating  
2 3 to receipt of benefits by a recipient and the reasons  
2 4 for imposing the sanction,

- i. percentage of recipients in allowable work activities,
- j. number of recipients in each allowable work activity and the length of time spent in that activity,
- k. number of recipients employed by state agencies and contract service providers,
- l. number of recipients entering the workforce by occupation types,
- m. estimated average monthly earnings for employed aid recipients,
- n. average monthly number of hours worked by recipients,
- o. number of qualified aliens applying for assistance pursuant to the STARS and number of applications certified by the Department, and
- p. such other information deemed necessary by the Department.

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 421 of Title 10, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The Department of Human Services shall increase the child care reimbursement rate for licensed child care facilities to a minimum of the seventy-fifth percentile of the market rate for child care facilities in the state.

1 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2016.

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