

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT [441]

Notice of Intended Action

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 239B.4, the Department of Human Services proposes to amend Chapter 47, “Diversion Initiatives,” Iowa Administrative Code.

The proposed amendments eliminate the FIP Diversion Program. The Department and the General Assembly have agreed that funding previously used for the FIP Diversion Program will better serve the overall interests of the state and the families the Department serves by being redirected to other initiatives that have the potential to lead to self-sufficiency, such as basic needs grants, PROMISE JOBS allowances, and Family Self-Sufficiency Grants.

The amendments also make technical changes to clarify that Family Self-Sufficiency Grants are targeted toward PROMISE JOBS participants and to update a form number.

These amendments do not provide for waivers in specified situations, since no funds have been appropriated to continue this program.

Any interested person may make written comments on the proposed amendments on or before September 15, 2009. Comments should be directed to Mary Ellen Imlau, Bureau of Policy Analysis and Appeals, Department of Human Services, Hoover State Office Building, 1305 East Walnut Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0114. Comments may be sent by fax to (515)281-4980 or by E-mail to policyanalysis@dhs.state.ia.us.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code section 239B.11.

The following amendments are proposed.

ITEM 1. Amend **441—Chapter 47**, preamble, as follows:

PREAMBLE

This chapter describes the department of human services diversion ~~initiatives~~ initiative. ~~The purpose of these programs is to provide immediate, short-term assistance to families in lieu of ongoing assistance under the family investment program (FIP diversion) or to meet needs of FIP participants not currently met by existing PROMISE JOBS services family self-sufficiency grants. Assistance under this chapter is intended to enable families to become or remain self-sufficient by removing barriers to obtaining or retaining employment. While the diversion~~ initiative ~~are~~ initiative is available statewide, local areas may exercise flexibility in program design, within the overall confines of these rules.

ITEM 2. Rescind and reserve **441—Chapter 47, Division I.**

ITEM 3. Amend rule 441—47.24(239B), introductory paragraph, as follows:

441—47.24(239B) Assistance available in family self-sufficiency grants. Family self-sufficiency grants shall be authorized for removing an identified barrier to self-sufficiency when it can be reasonably anticipated that the assistance will enable PROMISE JOBS participant families to retain employment or obtain employment in the two full calendar months following the date of authorization of payment. For example, if a payment is authorized on August 20, it should be anticipated that the participant can find employment in September or October.

ITEM 4. Amend subrule 47.25(2), introductory paragraph, as follows:

47.25(2) Notification process. PROMISE JOBS shall use Form ~~SS-1104-0~~ 470-0602, Notice of Decision: Services, to notify the candidate of the PROMISE JOBS decision regarding the family self-sufficiency grant. Decisions shall be in accordance with policies of this division and the local plan.