

REACH UP/TANF



The purpose of the Reach Up program is to:

- A. assist families, recognizing individual and unique characteristics, to obtain the opportunities and skills necessary for self-sufficiency;
- B. encourage economic independence by removing barriers and disincentives to work and providing positive incentives to work;
- C. support parental nurturing;**
- D. support parental responsibility and positive parental role models, both custodial and noncustodial;
- E. measure the success of the system by what is best for children;**
- F. improve the well-being of children by providing for their immediate basic needs, including food, housing and clothing;**
- G. respect the dignity of individuals and families receiving assistance by providing employment, education, and other services through social service delivery systems available to all Vermont citizens and by encouraging the private sector to integrate families receiving assistance into the mainstream of the employment market;
- H. recognize the challenges facing many families receiving assistance by minimizing structural financial disincentives to increased earnings and the abrupt termination of assistance before parents are fully integrated into the employment market;
- I. conserve state public financial resources by operating the system of aid in a manner that is efficient and avoids federal fiscal sanctions; and
- J. conform to the federal TANF law.

Improve the well-being of children by providing for their immediate basic needs, including food, housing and clothing.



Reach Up(dates)*



Voices is aware of two bills in the House, collectively they propose to:

- Increase benefits & allow more passthroughs
- Update case management language to create more opportunities for collaboration
- Remove work requirements
- Maintain housing for children and pregnant parents
- Remove DCF second review of medical status
- Allow both parents to seek post secondary education if desired in two parent households.

* Coined by Rep. Taylor Small

Measure the success of the system by what is best for children.

“TANF funding rules should be structured in a way that harnesses the program’s flexibility to help states invest in the essential programs and services families need to thrive.”

~American Public Human Services Association

