

WORDS FOR GLOSSARY FOR SIDE-BY-SIDE CHARTS

Assignment of

Child Support: An agreement by a current or former recipient of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) that some or all of the child support collected by the state on her behalf from the non-custodial parent may be retained by the state to defray TANF costs and child support enforcement operating expenses.

Block Grant: Federal funds allocated to each state for a specified purpose, with flexibility allowed to states to determine the specific use and distribution of the funds.

CCDBG: Child Care and Development Block Grant, the fund providing for child care for low-income families, including current or former recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), as well as other low-income working families.

Contingency

Fund: A \$2 billion fund under the 1996 welfare law available to states that are defined as “needy” as a result of increases in state unemployment rates or food stamp caseload. In order to qualify to receive funds, a state’s TANF expenditures could not have been reduced from the level expended before the 1996 law’s enactment.

Discretionary

Spending: Federal funding requiring annual appropriations by Congress.

ESL: English as a Second Language.

FLSA: Fair Labor Standards Act – includes various worker protections, such as minimum wage and wage/hours rules.

Mandatory

Spending: Once authorized by Congress, an amount of federal funding (sometimes open-ended, sometimes capped) that will be spent without the need for annual appropriations.

MOE: Maintenance of Effort – the spending level required of states (from their own state funds) on programs replaced by TANF in order to receive federal TANF funds.

Reauthorization: Renewing federal legislation for a specified period of years.

SSBG: Social Services Block Grant (also known as Title XX). Funds allocated to states for a broad set of social services programs for low-income families or individuals of any age.

TANF: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, the welfare program that replaced Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) as part of the federal welfare law enacted in 1996.