	Agency Name	Office of Family Support (OFS)			
	Chapter No./Name	07 - Administrative Procedures Manual			
	Part No./Name	A. ADMINISTRATION			
	Section No./Name	A-100 Introduction to the Office of Family Support			
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The constitutional and statutory provisions that authorize the establishment of the Department of Social Services, the Office of Family Support, and its program are as follows:

A-131 CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY

The Constitution of Louisiana, Art. 18, sec.7, subsec. 1, as amended, declares that the legislature may establish a system of economic security and social welfare for the state, which may include financial and other assistance to needy individuals.

A-132 ESTABLISHMENT OF SINGLE STATE AGENCY

The Louisiana Department of Public Welfare was established in 1936 as the initial single state agency to administer the program of Public Assistance. The creative act and its subsequent amendments are found complete in the Revised Statutes of 1950, Title 46.

Act 253 of 1972 (Louisiana Revised Statutes 42:1751 through 42:1767) consolidated the Louisiana Department of Public Welfare under the Louisiana Health and Social and Rehabilitation Services Administration, designating it as the single state agency authorized to receive and expend federal funds awarded or allocated to the State of Louisiana for carrying out the purposes of any federal law concerning the health, public welfare and hospitals of the state.


In 1977 the governing agency became the Department of Health and Human Resources. Then, in 1988, the agency was separated from health and hospital administration to become the Department of Social Services (DSS). The Department continues to operate under L.R.S. 36:471-478 with the Office of Family Support operating within that authority.

A-133 MANDATES/CONSTRAINTS OF OFS PROGRAMS

Programs in the Office of Family Support are mandated to process all applications to determine eligibility in a timely manner.

The Family Assistance Programs are operated in accordance with Title IV-A of the Social Security Act; the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981; the Refugee Act of 1980 (P.L. 96-212); R.S. 29:701-715; R.S. 46:51-60; R.S. 46:102-114.2; R.S. 46:156; R.S. 46:191-193; R.S. 46:231-237. The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996 (P.L. 104-193) amended Title IV-A of the Social Security Act to eliminate the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) Program, which was an entitlement to cash assistance, and the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Training Program (JOBS, or as named in Louisiana - Project Independence), and replaced them with the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant. The TANF Block Grant funds:

- a state-designed and state-named cash assistance program, Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program (FITAP)

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- the Strategies to Empower People Program (STEP) which is a result of the “Personal Responsibility and Universal Engagement Act of 2003 (Act 58) passed by the Louisiana Legislature. The program focuses on family outcomes and provides education, employment, training, and related services for families receiving FITAP benefits. The STEP program replaced the Family Independence Work Program (FIND Work) which was previously know as Project Independence and operated in accordance with the Family Support Act of 1988; Federal Regulations 45 CFR 205-256; La. Welfare Reform Act; and R.S. 46:451 et seq.
- the Kinship Care Subsidy Program (KCSP) was established under authority of R.S. 36:474 and R.S. 46:237 enacted by the 1999 Louisiana Legislature which created the Grandparent Subsidy Program.
- a number of programs known collectively as the TANF Initiatives which utilize a wide variety of community partners to provide a wide range of quality services to the citizens of the state.

The Child Care Assistance Program is operated in accordance with the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-508) and the Child Care and Development Block Grant Amendments of 1996.

The Food Stamp Program is operated in accordance with the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (P.L. 95-113), the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-193), and the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002.

Support Enforcement Services is operated in accordance with Title IV-D of the Social Security Act and R.S. 46:236, et. seq.

Disability Determinations Services is operated in accordance with Section 221 of the Social Security Act and R.S. 46:151.

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The Child Care Licensing and Regulatory Section is operated in accordance with R. S. 46:1401. **