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**PART 284—METHODOLOGY FOR DETERMINING WHETHER AN INCREASE IN A STATE OR TERRITORY'S CHILD POVERTY RATE IS THE RESULT OF THE TANF PROGRAM**

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**§ 284.10 What does this part cover?**

(a) This part describes the methodology for determining the child poverty rates in the States and the Territories, as required by section 413(i) of the Social Security Act, including determining whether the child poverty rate increased by five percent or more as a result of the TANF program(s) in the State or Territory. It also describes the content and duration of the corrective action plan.

(b) The requirements of this part do not apply to any Territory that has never operated a TANF program.

**§ 284.11 What definitions apply to this part?**

The following definitions apply to this part:

*ACF* means the Administration for Children and Families.

*Act* means the Social Security Act, unless otherwise specified.

*Census Bureau methodology* means the various methods developed by the Census Bureau for estimating the number and percentage of children in poverty in each State. These methods may include national estimates based on the Current Population Survey; the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates; the annual demographic programs, including the American Community Survey; or any other programs or methods used by the Census Bureau to estimate poverty. "Children in poverty" means children that live in families with incomes below 100 percent of the Census Bureau's poverty threshold.

*Child poverty rate* means the percentage of all children in a State or Territory which live in families with incomes below 100 percent of the Census Bureau's poverty threshold.

*Date of enactment* means calendar year 1996.

*MOE* means maintenance-of-effort. This is a provision in section 409(a)(7) of the Social Security Act that requires States to maintain a certain level of spending based on historical (*i.e.*, FY 1994) expenditure levels.

*SAIPE* means the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, a methodology developed by the Census Bureau to obtain more accurate estimates of poverty and income (including the number and percentage of children in poverty) at the State and county level between decennial censuses.

*SSP-MOE* means a separate State program operated outside of the TANF program for which the expenditure of State funds may count for MOE purposes.

*State* means each of the 50 States of the United States and the District of Columbia.

*TANF* means the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program under sections 401 through 419 of the Social Security Act, as enacted by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, sections 101–116 of Pub. L. 104–193 (42 U.S.C. 601–619).

*Territories* means American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico,

Guam, and the United States Virgin Islands.

*Tribal TANF program* means a TANF program developed by an eligible Tribe, Tribal organization, or consortium of Tribes, and approved by us under section 412 of the Act.

*We (and any other first person plural pronouns)* means the Secretary of Health and Human Services or any of the following individuals and organizations acting in an official capacity on the Secretary's behalf: The Assistant Secretary for Children and Families, the Regional Administrators for Children and Families, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Administration for Children and Families.

**§ 284.15 Who must submit information to ACF to carry out the requirements of this part?**

(a) The Chief Executive Officer of the State, or his or her designee, is responsible for submitting to ACF the information required by this part.

(b) The State should obtain information from and work with the Indian tribe(s) and Tribal consortia) operating a Tribal TANF program in the State in preparing and submitting the assessment, as specified in § 284.30, and the corrective action plan, as specified in § 284.45.

**§ 284.20 What information will we use to determine the child poverty rate in each State?**

(a) *General.* We will determine the child poverty rate in each State based on estimates from either the Census Bureau or the State, as described in this section. Each year we will use these data to determine the change in the State's child poverty rate over a two-year period, beginning with calendar years 1996 and 1997.

(b) *Estimates from the Census Bureau.* (1) Annually, we will obtain from the Census Bureau and provide to each State the estimate of the number and percentage of children in poverty in each State. The estimate will be based on the Census Bureau methodology.

(2) In 2000, and annually thereafter, we will determine for each State, at the 90-percent confidence level, the percentage change in the child poverty

rate and provide this information to the State. The determination of percentage change in 2000 will cover the change between calendar years 1996 and 1997.

(c) *Estimates from the State.* (1) As an alternative to the Census Bureau estimates provided to the State under paragraph (b) of this section, the State may provide to us data on child poverty in the State derived from an independent source.

(2) If the State provides data on child poverty as described in paragraph (c)(1) of this section, it must:

(i) Provide an estimate of the child poverty rate for the same two calendar years as the Census Bureau estimates provided to the State under paragraph (b)(2) of this section;

(ii) Provide the change in the child poverty rate for the applicable two-calendar-year period at the 90-percent confidence level;

(iii) Use the official definition of poverty as used by the Census Bureau; and

(iv) Describe the methodology used to develop its independent estimates, the sources of data and methodology for collecting the data, any known problems associated with making estimates of this type, the estimate of the standard error, and the power of the sample to detect a five percent change in the child poverty rate.

(3) The State must submit its independent estimates and supporting information within 45 days of the date the State receives the Census Bureau estimates as described in paragraph (b) of this section.

(d) *Determination of the State's child poverty rate.* (1) If we determine that the State's independent estimates of the child poverty rate are more reliable than the Census Bureau estimates, we will accept these estimates.

(2) For all other States, we will determine the State's child poverty rate based on the Census Bureau's estimates.

**§ 284.21 What will we do if the State's child poverty rate increased five percent or more over the two-year period?**

(a) If we determine, based on § 284.20, that the State's child poverty rate did not increase by five percent or more