



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
Office of the Assistant Secretary, Suite 600  
370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20447

June 27, 2012

RECEIVED

JUL 05 2012

The Honorable Chris Gregoire  
Governor of Washington  
Olympia, Washington 98504-0002

Office of the Governor

Dear Governor Gregoire:

The 1996 welfare reform law includes a provision requiring each State's Chief Executive Officer to submit an annual statement of the State's child poverty rate to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) (42 U.S.C. §613(i)(1)). The provision specifies that if from one year to the next, a State's child poverty rate increases by 5 percent or more as a result of its Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program(s) (including Tribal programs), the State must submit and implement a corrective action plan to reduce the rate (42 U.S.C. §613(i)(2)). Accordingly, there are two steps before a corrective action plan is needed: there must be a determination that child poverty in the State increased by at least 5 percent, and the State must determine that the increase in child poverty was attributable to the State's TANF Program.

This letter concerns the first step in the process. HHS has made a determination that child poverty in your State increased by at least 5 percent between 2008 and 2009. You may accept this finding or submit an independent estimate. If, after review of your response, we determine that child poverty did increase by at least 5 percent in this period, we will notify you, by separate correspondence that the State must consider and address whether the growth in child poverty was attributable to the TANF program.

Since the Census Bureau's child poverty rate information is easily accessible to HHS, we specified in the final rule implementing this provision that we would send this information to each State's Chief Executive Officer, rather than requiring States to submit it to us (45 CFR §284.20(b)). I have enclosed with this letter a table showing the child poverty rate estimates for 2008 and 2009 for all States based on two Census Bureau methodologies. We are providing two estimates in order to provide the best available data for each State. One estimate is based on the Census Bureau's Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE), which we have provided in the past. The other set of estimates is drawn directly from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS). The Census Bureau's description of the method of deriving the SAIPE estimates is available on the SAIPE website at:

<http://www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/methods/statecounty/20062009state.html>. Additional information on the ACS can be found on the ACS website at: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>.

As noted, the enclosed table shows the estimated child poverty rates for 2008 and 2009. Since these are estimates based on samples, we applied statistical inference techniques to derive the 90 percent confidence intervals for each of the estimates, and to test for the statistical significance, at 90 percent confidence level, of the observed 5 percent or more increase in the child poverty rates from 2008 to 2009 (45 CFR §284.20(b)). Based on this test, we determined that in some States the increases were statistically significant. As shown in the last column of the enclosed table, your State has experienced an increase of 5 percent or more in your child poverty rate as measured by both the SAIPE and the ACS methodologies.

As per 45 CFR §284.20(c), as an alternative to the Census Bureau estimates, each State has the option of submitting an independent estimate of its child poverty rate within 45 days of the date that you receive the Census Bureau estimates we are providing with this letter. If you do not submit any independent estimates, we will determine that you have accepted the Census Bureau estimates that show your State has experienced an increase of 5 percent or more in your child poverty rate from 2008 to 2009.

Should you choose to submit independent estimates and we determine that your State's independent estimates of the child poverty rate are more reliable than the Census Bureau estimates, then we will accept these estimates. In such case, if the independent estimates you submit show that your State has not had an increase of 5 percent or more in your child poverty rate, no further information or action will be required for the 2008-2009 period.

If, however, the independent estimates you submit still show an increase of 5 percent or more in your State's child poverty rate, or you accept the Census Bureau estimates, or we determine that the State's independent estimates are not more reliable than the Census Bureau estimates, then you will be notified, in accordance with 45 CFR §284.21(b), that within 90 days from the receipt of our notification you must submit an assessment of the impact of the TANF program(s) in your State on the increase in the child poverty rate. The information to be included in this assessment is described in 45 CFR §284.30 and will be explained in further correspondence should it be necessary for you to submit an assessment.

After reviewing the assessment you send us, we will notify you whether your State needs to submit a corrective compliance plan in accordance with 45 CFR §284.35.

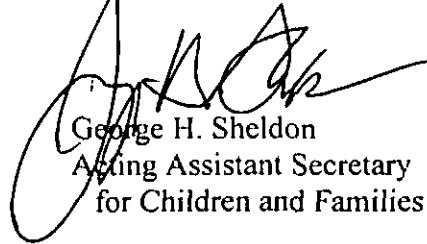
Please send your response, independent estimates, and/or questions to:

Dennis Poe  
Director, Division of Data Collection and Analysis  
TANF Bureau  
Office of Family Assistance  
Administration for Children and Families  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Telephone: 202-401-4053  
Email: [dennis.poe@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:dennis.poe@acf.hhs.gov)

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We look forward to receiving your response and your independent estimates, should you choose to submit them.

Sincerely,



George H. Sheldon  
Acting Assistant Secretary  
for Children and Families

Enclosure

## Combined Methodologies of SAIPE and American Community Survey

State	State Estimates for Children Under 18 in Poverty for US: 2008 and 2009								Significant 5% or more increase in both SAIPE and ACS data
	SAIPE Estimates				American Community Survey Estimates				
	2008	2009	2008-2009		2008	2009	2008-2009		
	Point Estimate %	Point Estimate %	1.05 z-statistic	Significant 5% or more increase	Point Estimate %	Point Estimate %	1.05 z-statistic	Significant 5% or more increase	
United States									
Alabama	22.1	24.6	*2.08	Yes	21.7	24.7	*2.24	Yes	Yes
Alaska	12.5	12.3	-0.89	No	10.9	12.8	0.89	No	No
Arizona	21.2	23.3	*1.48	Yes	21.4	23.4	1.09	No	No
Arkansas	24.7	26.6	0.81	No	24.8	27.2	1.00	No	No
California	18.7	19.9	1.00	No	18.7	19.9	0.87	No	No
Colorado	14.5	16.6	*2.17	Yes	15.0	17.4	*1.93	Yes	Yes
Connecticut	11.9	12.0	-0.89	No	12.6	12.1	-1.32	No	No
Delaware	14.5	16.7	*1.79	Yes	14.1	16.5	0.90	No	No
District of Columbia	26.9	29.0	0.47	No	26.7	29.4	0.41	No	No
Florida	18.5	21.5	*4.64	Yes	18.4	21.3	*4.06	Yes	Yes
Georgia	20.1	22.7	*2.79	Yes	19.9	22.3	*2.30	Yes	Yes
Hawaii	11.0	13.7	*2.54	Yes	10.2	13.8	*2.30	Yes	Yes
Idaho	16.1	18.5	*2.02	Yes	16.3	18.1	0.73	No	No
Illinois	17.0	18.7	*1.89	Yes	17.1	18.9	*1.94	Yes	Yes
Indiana	17.7	19.9	*2.15	Yes	18.0	20.0	*1.50	Yes	Yes
Iowa	14.2	15.6	1.08	No	14.4	15.7	0.68	No	No
Kansas	14.6	17.1	*2.57	Yes	14.4	17.6	*2.39	Yes	Yes
Kentucky	23.4	25.3	1.01	No	23.5	25.6	0.95	No	No
Louisiana	25.2	24.8	-2.26	No	24.8	24.2	-2.01	No	No
Maine	16.5	17.5	0.26	No	16.0	17.1	0.21	No	No
Maryland	10.4	11.8	*1.66	Yes	10.1	11.6	*1.63	Yes	Yes
Massachusetts	12.3	13.3	0.64	No	12.0	13.1	0.91	No	No
Michigan	19.6	22.2	*3.26	Yes	19.8	22.5	*3.12	Yes	Yes
Minnesota	11.7	13.9	*3.21	Yes	11.7	14.1	*3.31	Yes	Yes
Mississippi	29.6	30.7	-0.51	No	30.6	31.0	-0.93	No	No
Missouri	18.9	20.7	*1.47	Yes	18.5	20.7	*1.61	Yes	Yes
Montana	18.9	20.9	*1.28	Yes	19.5	21.4	0.47	No	No
Nebraska	13.8	15.3	1.15	No	13.5	15.2	1.05	No	No
Nevada	15.3	17.6	*2.02	Yes	15.5	17.6	1.03	No	No
New Hampshire	9.3	11.0	*1.54	Yes	8.8	10.8	1.28	No	No
New Jersey	12.5	13.3	0.50	No	12.7	13.5	0.30	No	No
New Mexico	24.2	25.8	0.44	No	24.2	25.3	-0.07	No	No
New York	19.7	20.2	-1.27	No	19.5	20.0	-1.30	No	No
North Carolina	20.0	22.5	*2.66	Yes	20.0	22.5	*2.46	Yes	Yes
North Dakota	14.2	14.1	-0.97	No	15.0	13.0	-1.80	No	No
Ohio	18.6	21.6	*4.05	Yes	18.7	21.9	*4.13	Yes	Yes
Oklahoma	22.1	22.1	-1.50	No	22.6	22.2	-1.57	No	No
Oregon	17.6	19.4	1.17	No	17.6	19.2	0.74	No	No
Pennsylvania	16.8	17.1	-1.31	No	17.0	17.1	-1.76	No	No
Rhode Island	16.7	17.9	0.46	No	15.7	16.9	0.28	No	No
South Carolina	21.7	24.4	*2.42	Yes	21.6	24.4	*2.01	Yes	Yes
South Dakota	17.5	18.9	0.65	No	16.9	18.5	0.41	No	No
Tennessee	21.9	24.0	*1.55	Yes	22.0	23.9	1.01	No	No
Texas	22.7	24.3	*1.40	Yes	22.7	24.4	*1.54	Yes	Yes
Utah	11.0	12.9	*2.03	Yes	10.6	12.2	*1.35	Yes	Yes
Vermont	12.7	14.0	0.82	No	13.0	13.3	-0.20	No	No
Virginia	13.7	14.0	-0.69	No	13.9	13.9	-1.14	No	No
Washington	14.4	16.2	*1.78	Yes	14.4	16.2	*1.48	Yes	Yes
West Virginia	23.8	24.1	-1.09	No	22.8	23.6	-0.25	No	No
Wisconsin	13.7	16.7	*4.13	Yes	13.4	16.7	*4.31	Yes	Yes
Wyoming	12.1	13.2	0.62	No	12.0	12.6	0.00	No	No

\* The 1.05 change is statistically significant at the 10-percent significance level critical value of 1.28