

CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON
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August 9, 2012

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
370 L'Enfant Promenade SW
Washington, DC 20447

Dear Mr. Poe:

I am writing in response to the letter dated June 27, 2012, from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) informing us of HHS's determination that Washington's child poverty rate increased by at least 5 percent between 2008 and 2009.

The state of Washington accepts this finding. Staff have reviewed the 2008 and 2009 American Community Survey One-Year Estimates and conclude the information is accurate. We are very concerned about the increase in poverty among all Washingtonians, especially our children. However, we would like to note that in 2009, children in Washington State were at less risk of living in poverty than children in 35 other states.

In anticipation of your request for an assessment of the impact of our state TANF program on the increase in child poverty, as required under 45 CFR §284.21(b), my Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) has initiated a comprehensive review of our TANF program as well as economic conditions in our state to determine whether the growth in child poverty rate was attributable to our TANF program. Enclosed is a letter from DSHS Secretary Robin Arnold-Williams sharing some initial key data points.

Washington looks forward to providing additional data and a more detailed analysis as soon as we receive further guidance on the content, timeframe and format for submittal.

Sincerely,

Christine O. Gregoire
Governor

Enclosure

cc: Robin Arnold-Williams, Secretary, Department of Social and Health Services

