

**Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer**



Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Vincent C. Gray
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer 

DATE: JUN 30 2008

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement: "Public Assistance Amendment Act of 2007"

REFERENCE: DRAFT: No Bill Number Available

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2008 budget and the proposed FY 2009 through FY 2012 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation. The proposed legislation is not anticipated to have a fiscal effect on the District's budget and financial plan.

Background

The proposed legislation would amend the D.C. Official Code to eliminate many of the non-financial requirements for participation in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. Specifically, the proposed legislation would eliminate:

1. the requirement that children be "deprived" due to the death, absence, unemployment or medical incapacitation of a parent;
2. all special conditions for eligibility for two-parent households, except that the primary wage earner must be referred to job search, or other work activities;
3. the mandatory exclusion of the stepparent from the dependent child's assistance unit and allow inclusion by parental choice;
4. the requirement that the assistance unit include all dependent children living in the same household who are related by blood, half-blood or legal adoption to any other member of the assistance unit by a relationship that could qualify an adult as a caretaker relative; and

5. the requirement to include the stepparent's income as an available resource to the applicant for the care and maintenance of the children.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2008 budget and the proposed FY 2009 through FY 2012 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation. It is estimated that the proposed legislation would have no fiscal impact. Although the legislation may have an impact on the number of TANF cases that are eligible for benefits, any fiscal impact is estimated to be nominal.