

**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:** December 19, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Impact Statement: "Public Assistance Amendment Act of 2009"

**REFERENCE:** Draft Bill: No Number Available

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**Conclusion**

Funds are sufficient in the 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 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.