

The Purpose of TANF

Federal Regulation

§260.20 What is **the purpose** of the TANF program?

The TANF program has the following **four purposes**:

- (a) Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives;
- (b) End the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage;
- (c) Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and establish annual numerical goals for preventing and reducing the incidence of these pregnancies; and
- (d) Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

The Statute

Sec. 401. [42 U.S.C. 601] (a) In General.—**The purpose of this part is to increase the flexibility of States in operating a program designed to—**

- (1) provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives;
- (2) end the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage;
- (3) prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and establish annual numerical goals for preventing and reducing the incidence of these pregnancies; and
- (4) encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.