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Reference – Deficit Act of 2005 and TANF interim rules

AWI Communiqué

TO: Regional Workforce Board Executive Directors

FROM: Lois A. Scott, Program Manager, One Stop Program Support

SUBJECT: The Release of the Interim Final Rules Enacting the Statutory Changes

under for the Reauthorization of the Temporary Assistance for Needy

Families (TANF) Program

PURPOSE:

Provide direct access to the TANF interim final rules to the Regional Workforce Boards (RWBs) and TANF program providers.

REFERENCES:

The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 and the TANF interim final rules

BACKGROUND:

The Personal Responsibility Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) shifted welfare from cash receipt, an entitlement program, to a block grant designed to move families towards self-sufficiency through program participation, job preparation, reduction of out-of-wedlock pregnancies, and the encouragement of the maintenance and formation of two-parent families.

The PRWORA was scheduled to expire in 2002. The TANF block grant was not reauthorized originally. Instead a series of extensions were implemented to ensure state programs remained operational. On February 8, 2006, President George W. Bush signed the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, which reauthorized the welfare reform law through fiscal year (FY) 2010. In the Deficit Reduction Act, the United States Congress provided the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) the authority to issue regulations on an interim final basis. States must be in compliance with such rules by October 1, 2006, with certain exceptions. The interim final rules were released on June 28, 2006.

ACTION REQUIRED:

The RWBs and all TANF program providers should review the interim final rules and prepare for local application.

AUTHORITY:

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