

**Temporary Assistance and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment Plan
January 1, 2014– December 31, 2015**

Section 1 Assurances/Signature

As a condition of the receipt of federal and State funds the **[Click here and type your county]** Department of Social Services submits this Temporary Assistance and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment Plan (Plan) to the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. The Plan outlines the administration of employment services for Temporary Assistance (TA) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) applicants and recipients for the period January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2015. As Commissioner of _____ County Department of Social Services, I hereby affirm that employment services programs will be administered in accordance with all applicable federal and State policies, laws, regulations and provisions of this Plan.

_____, Social Services Commissioner

Date **[Click here and type the date signed]**

Section 2 Administration

Section 2.1 Administrative Structure

This agency’s organizational chart is attached. It identifies the units and staff within the agency that are involved in the operation of the district’s employment program.

Following is a description of the office(s) in and/or outside of the Department of Social Services that are involved in the operation of the district’s employment program. The responsibilities of each office are described below.

[Click here and type the description]

Section 2.2 TA and SNAP E&T Provider Agencies

Table 1 lists the local contracts or agreements with agencies to provide employment services to TA and SNAP clients. These activities and services may include, but are not necessarily limited to, employability determinations, development of assessments and employment plans, conciliation and grievance activities, provision of work activities such as job readiness training, education and job skills training, monitoring and support for compliance with treatment plans for exempt individuals with the potential for restoration to self-sufficiency, job development, job placement and retention services, and other employment related activities.

Each contract listed in Table 1 contains an assurance that the activities are not otherwise available from that provider on a non-reimbursable basis and, if not a performance-based contract, a statement regarding use of a cost allocation methodology that satisfies Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, as well as the requirements of U.S. Office of Management and Budget Circulars A-122 for nonprofit organizations, A-21 for educational institutions, or A-87 for State and local governments.

Table 2 includes agencies/providers that offer services to participants and to which the district expects to refer participants but which have no direct financial agreement with the district (e.g., WIA programs, SED funded services, OTDA Wage Subsidy providers).

TABLE 1 - Contracts Associated with TA and SNAP Employment Programs and Services

Provider	Total Contract Cost (per yr.)	Funding Source(s)	Categories of Clients Served	Programs, Services or Activities Provided
	\$			
	\$			
	\$			
	\$			
	\$			
	\$			
	\$			
	\$			
	\$			
	\$			
Total	\$			

Section 2.3 OTDA Jobs Staff Agreement

OTDA Jobs Program Services – Target Groups

(“X” signifies those that apply in this district)

Services		Target Groups	
Assessment/Employment Plan	_____	Applicants	_____
Supervised Job Search	_____	FA & SN with children	_____
Job Readiness Training	_____	SN without Children	_____
Job Club	_____	SNAP	_____
Job Placement Services	_____	200% of Poverty	_____
Grant Diversion	_____		
Job Development (employer outreach)	_____		
WOTC pre-certifications	_____		

Other Services Requested

Described below are additional services/duties which will be requested of Jobs staff (e.g., WTWCMS data entry, case conferencing, job fairs)

Section 3 Engagement and Work Preparation

Section 3.1 Federal “Engaged in Work” Requirement (Reference 18 NYCRR 385.2 (f))

For purposes of satisfying the federal requirement which states that parents or caretakers must be engaged in work as soon as the district determines they are ready, but no later than within 24 months of receiving federally funded assistance, the district’s definition of “Engaged in Work” is:

Compliance with assessment, employment planning, all activities included in the individual’s Employment/Self-Sufficiency plan including any need to attend treatment/rehabilitation programs, or any of the work activities listed in Section 3.4. Also included is pursuit of other forms of income such as SSI and SSD.

[Click here and type the additional items included]

Section 3.2 Orientation (Reference 18 NYCRR 385.5)

Check one of the following:

-] The district provides orientation in accordance with Dept. Reg. 385.5 and no additional information is provided at orientation.
-] In addition to the requirements outlined in Section 385.5 of the regulations, the district’s orientation provides the following.

[Click here and type the additional items included]

Described below is the manner in which the district completes the required orientation for all applicants and recipients of Temporary Assistance (e.g., done in a group setting or individually or a combination of both), including the orientation procedure for exempt individuals and non-exempt individuals, if different.

[Click here and type the procedure]

Section 3.3 Assessment and Employment Planning

Temporary Assistance Assessment (Reference 18 NYCRR 385.6 and 385.7)

a. Check one of the following:

-] The district conducts assessments in accordance with 18 NYCRR 385.6(a) and 385.7(a) with no additional requirements.
-] In addition to the requirements outlined in 18 NYCRR 385.6(a) and 385.7(a), the district’s assessment also includes the following elements:

[Click here and type the elements]

- b. A copy of the assessment tool used by the district is attached. Additional assessment tool(s) used by the district is (are):

[Click **here** and type the selected assesment tools]

- c. Describe the local district procedure for the completion of an employment assessment:

[Click **here** and type local district procedure]

- d. The qualifications of the employees administering the assessment tool(s) are at minimum: (Refer to requirements listed in 18 NYCRR 385.6(c) and 385.7(c))

[Click **here** and type the qualifications of the employees administering the assessment tools]

- e. The district administrative unit or contractor responsible for conducting assessments is:

[Click **here** and type the administrative unit or contractor responsible]

- f. Applicants in households with dependent children are required to participate:

Yes No

Applicants in households without dependent children are required to participate:

Yes No

Temporary Assistance Employment Plans (Reference 18 NYCRR 385.6(b) and 385.7(b))

- a. A copy of the district's employment plan is attached and:

The district completes employment plans in accordance with 18 NYCRR 385.6(b) and 385.7(b) and no additional information is contained in the plan.

In addition to the requirements outlined in 18 NYCRR 385.6(b) and 385.7(b), the employment plan includes:

[Click **here** and type additional information]

- b. The district administrative unit or contractor that develops employment plans is (list only if different from those performing assessments):

[Click **here** and type **ONLY if different** from those performing assessments]

- c. The qualifications of the employees developing employment plans are (list only if different from the requirements for those performing assessments):

[Click **here** and type **ONLY if different** from those performing assessments]

Mental Health Screening and Assessment

a. The district is administering a screening tool for Temporary Assistance participants to help assess when a mental health condition may exist that warrants treatment? (This section is asking about screening in addition to screening for a disability that occurs as part of the application process or based on other instances of participant statements of work limitations/ inability to work or based on observed behavior.)

Yes No

b. If the district is administering a mental health screening tool, please identify the screening tool used.

[Click here and type the selected assesment tools]

c. If the district is administering a mental health screening tool, describe the district's policy for determining when a program participant is offered a mental health screen.

[Click here and type local district procedure]

d. If the district is administering a mental health screening tool, describe the district procedure for referring a participant for a mental health evaluation, when warranted by the screening result.

[Click here and type local district procedure]

Section 3.4 Participation Rates and Work Activities (Reference 18 NYCRR 385.8 and 385.9)

- a. Described below is how the district plans to meet federal and State Temporary Assistance participation rate requirements. Included is the weekly hours standard participation requirement for individuals in the different case and household types, along with the typical time period it takes for nonexempt individuals to be engaged in activities for both newly opened cases and individuals who status changed from exempt to nonexempt. Information regarding engaging exempt individuals is entered in Section 3.6

[Click **here** and type the description]

- b. Described below is a description of how the district uses work participation management reports available through Cognos or other reports and activities to monitor district progress toward meeting work participation requirements and ensuring full engagement by adults in work or work preparation activities.

[Click **here** and type the description]

- c. Describe the extent to which the district requires Non-Temporary Assistance Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (NTA SNAP) applicants and recipients to participate in SNAP E&T work activities. If the district is not mandating SNAP E&T work activity assignments, please describe how NTA SNAP work registrants are informed of the services available, upon request, for assistance with job search activities. Please note: At a minimum, districts are required to make available job search as an SNAP E&T activity to SNAP applicants and recipients.

[Click **here** and type the description]

- d. The allowable work activities that are available in the social services district are listed and defined as follows. An “X” in the appropriate column indicates the activity is available for individuals receiving Family Assistance (FA), Safety Net Assistance for households with children (SNF), Safety Net Assistance for households without children (SNA), and/or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

If a column is blank it indicates that the activity is not available for that household/case type.

FA	SNF	SNA	SNAP	Activity	Definition
				Unsubsidized Employment	Full time or part time employment in the public or private sector that is not subsidized by TANF or any other public program (excluding employer tax credits). Unsubsidized employment includes self employment and/or paid internships.
				Subsidized Private Sector Employment	Employment in the private sector for which the employer receives a subsidy from TANF or other public funds (excluding tax credits) to offset some or all of the wages and costs of employing and training a recipient in accordance with New York State Social Services Law 336-e. Subsidized private sector employment will include positions subsidized through grant diversion/Transitional Employment Advancement Program (TEAP), supported employment programs, and paid college work study programs at private institutions. Individuals participating in subsidized private sector employment are paid wages and receive the same benefits as unsubsidized employees who perform similar work. An employment situation will be subsidized for up to the full amount of wages/benefits provided to the program participant and will be subsidized for the length of time as determined appropriate by the State or social services district.

			Subsidized Public Sector Employment	<p>Employment in the public sector for which the employer receives a subsidy from TANF or other public funds (excluding tax credits) to offset some or all of the wages and costs of employing and training a recipient. Subsidized public sector employment will include positions subsidized through grant diversion/TEAP, supported employment programs, and paid college work study programs at public institutions. Individuals participating in subsidized public sector employment, and work study unless otherwise permitted under a federal work study program, are paid wages and receive the same benefits as unsubsidized employees who perform similar work. An employment situation will be subsidized for up to the full amount of wages/benefits provided to the program participant and will be subsidized for the length of time as determined appropriate by the State or social services district.</p>
			Work Experience	<p>Unpaid work performed at a public or not-for-profit organization to enable a participant who cannot find unsubsidized employment to improve his or her employability. Work experience provides participants with an opportunity to acquire, training, knowledge, work habits, and work references necessary to obtain and retain employment. Participation in work experience includes training required for the participant to complete the work experience assignment. For example, an individual who is expected to provide clerical support in a government agency may be provided training to develop or refine filing and data entry skills as needed to perform the tasks required as part of the work activity assignment.</p> <p>In addition to those components noted above, work experience will include unpaid internships that are part of any non-graduate student's education curriculum. (Note: Paid internships are to be reported as employment.)</p>

			<p>On-the-Job Training (OJT)</p> <p>Training in a public or private sector employment setting during which the participant receives work-essential paid training while he or she is engaged in productive work that provides the knowledge and skills essential to attain full and adequate performance of the job.</p> <p>OJT will be unsubsidized (for which the employer does not receive a subsidy) or subsidized using TANF funds or other funds to offset the cost of the training provided to the participant. A subsidized OJT will be subsidized for up to the full cost of providing such training and wages/benefits provided to the program participant. Positions will be subsidized for the length of time determined appropriate by the State or social services district. OJT is distinct from subsidized employment due to the fact that the individual must participate in workplace training to attain full and adequate job performance and the subsidy provided is intended to offset the cost of such training.</p>
			<p>Community Service</p> <p>A structured program in which participants perform work for the direct benefit of the community under the auspices of public or nonprofit organizations. Community service placements must be projects that serve a useful community purpose in fields such as health, social services, environmental protection, education, urban and rural redevelopment, welfare, public recreation, public facilities, public safety, and childcare. Community Service programs are designed to improve the employability of participants not otherwise able to obtain unsubsidized employment. Participation in community service may include training that is directly required for the participant to complete the community service assignment. For example, an individual who is expected to provide clerical support to a food pantry may be provided training to develop or refine filing and data entry skills.</p> <p>Community service assignments will primarily be voluntary in nature including participation in VISTA, Americorps, and unpaid volunteer activities at a school, Head Start programs, religious or faith-based institutions, community organizations or a nonprofit or public agency but will also include such mandated participation when court ordered. Participation in activities to support these organizations is deemed to provide a service to the community. In those instances where the participation could meet the federal definition of work experience or community service and the district or program provider would like to have another recipient provide childcare for the community service individual, such hours of work may be reported as participation in community service.</p>

				Job Search	The act of seeking or obtaining employment or preparing to seek or obtain employment and will include looking for suitable job openings in a group or individual setting, making contact with potential employers, learning appropriate workplace expectations and behaviors in preparation for submitting job applications and interviewing, preparing to or applying for and/or interviewing for jobs and related activities.
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				<p>Job Readiness Training (JRT) Activities</p>	<p>Participation in programs that include seeking and preparing for work. JRT includes two types of activities: (1) traditional activities of resume preparation, training in interviewing skills, and instruction in workplace expectations, training in effective job seeking, including life skills training; and (2) activities that improve an individual’s employability, such as substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, or rehabilitation activities in which a qualified medical or mental health professional has certified that such treatment is necessary.</p> <p>Traditional JRT activities will include: resume preparation, training in interview skills, instruction in workplace expectations, training in effective job seeking, life skills essential to workplace success, time management, goal setting, budgeting, basic math and literacy skills, household management, interpersonal skills, decision making skills, anger management, parenting skills when it has been determined that such training could help reduce unplanned work leave or apprehension toward entering employment.</p> <p>For TANF and SNA MOE families, JRT also includes substance abuse and other treatment and rehabilitative services that are required for individuals who are unable to work or individuals whose employability and employment retention requires such services. Such services, which should be reported on WTWCMS as such, will be deemed within WRTS participation rate logic to be JRT for recipients of TANF and SNA MOE but will be deemed to be Community Service for recipients of SNA non-MOE, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical health treatment and rehabilitation services including attending necessary physical therapy, and doctor appointments. Such treatment will include medical, behavioral and other treatment necessary for individuals suffering from substance abuse (current and former users) with such required treatment ranging from detoxification services to after care/abstinence maintenance. • Mental health services including therapy, counseling, and other services to address mental or emotional disorders that can interfere with an individual’s daily life functions, ability to work, looking for work or the ability to retain employment.
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				<p>Vocational Education</p> <p>Vocational education is defined as an organized educational program that directly relates to the preparation of individuals for current or emerging occupations that require training other than a baccalaureate or advanced degree. Vocational education does not generally include basic or remedial education or English as a Second Language (ESL) but may include work focused general education and language instruction that is a regular or integral part of a vocational education program. Social services districts are responsible for ensuring that any such remedial education or ESL is a regular part of the program for participants with similar skill sets as the TANF/SNA MOE client, is determined necessary by the program provider, and is limited in hours to less than one half of program participation. Vocational education programs include the completion of activities that provide individuals the knowledge and skills to perform a specific trade, occupation or vocation. Vocational education must be provided by an education or training organization.</p>
				<p>Job Skills Training</p> <p>Training or education in job skills to improve a participant's employability, to ensure clients have the basic skills competencies required by employers to support job entry and/or to advance or adapt to the changing demands of the workplace. Where identified as needed such training may include the development of basic workplace skills including professional workplace behaviors and decision making skills. Job skills training may include customized or technical training designed to provide participants with additional workplace skills, post secondary education courses leading to a bachelor's or other advanced degree or other training included under the definition of vocational education training. Job skills training may include literacy instruction, English language instruction or other basic education for an individual who has already obtained a high school diploma or equivalency when determined from a client's assessment that such instruction is needed to improve the participant's employability.</p>

			Education Training	Education directly related to employment for a recipient who has not received a high school diploma or equivalency must be related to a specific occupation, job or job offer or otherwise determined based on a client assessment as necessary to improve the participant's employability to support job entry, retention or advancement. Education directly related to employment may include courses designed to provide the knowledge and skills for general or specific occupations or work settings to ensure clients have the basic skills competencies required by employers and may also include adult basic education, ESL instruction and education leading to a high school equivalency diploma as determined as necessary to improve the participant's job opportunities in potential occupations. Where identified as needed such training may include the development of basic workplace skills including professional workplace behaviors and decision making skills.
			Secondary School	Regular attendance in accordance with the requirements of the secondary school or a course of study at a secondary school or other State accredited institution leading to a high school equivalence (HSE) diploma, in the case of a recipient who has not completed secondary school or received a certificate of general equivalence. Secondary school participation may include general adult basic education or ESL if it is linked to attending secondary school or leading to a HSE diploma as determined necessary by the educational institution. Secondary School or HSE programs that routinely include ESL, career training, alternative school, tutoring, dropout prevention, teen pregnancy or parenting programs as a requirement of program participation as determined by the educational institution will also be permitted.
			Provision of Childcare for Individual Participating in Community Service	Providing unpaid childcare to enable another Temporary Assistance (TANF/SNA MOE funded) recipient to participate in a community service program.
			Other	Any work activity that does not meet the criteria of any of the above countable activities constitutes participation that is not countable toward federal and state participation rates.

Local District Job Search Procedures:

The district assigns Temporary Assistance applicants to Job Search. Yes No

If yes, please describe the local district procedure for TA Applicant Job Search, including the required number of job search contacts and hours per week assigned. Also include a description of how often applicants are generally required to report job search outcomes and if activities other than job search are routinely expected of TA applicants during the application period.

[Click here and type local district procedure]

The district assigns TA recipients to Job Search. Yes No

If yes, please describe the local district procedures for TA Job Search, including the required number of job search contacts and hours per week assigned. Also include a description of how often recipients are generally required to report job search outcomes and who in the agency is responsible for monitoring the job search.

[Click here and type local district procedure]

Section 3.5 Job Development

Yes No The district conducts or accesses job development services to expand job opportunities for TA and SNAP clients.

If yes, the district participates in job development activities in the following manner:

District staff contact employers to solicit jobs for Temporary Assistance participants. Below is the description of how this is done, including number of staff, frequency of contacts, etc:

[Click here and type the description]

District contracts or has an agreement with another agency to contact employers and solicit jobs for Temporary Assistance and/or SNAP participants. Below is the description of how this is done, including number of staff, frequency of contacts.

[Click here and type the description]

OTDA Jobs Program staff are charged with job development as indicated in Section 2.3. Additional information, if any, is described below:

[Click here and type additional information]

Section 3.6 Training Approval and Activity Enrollment Policies (Reference 18 NYCRR 385.9)

- a. Describe how the district identifies appropriate education program providers for services of Adult Basic Education, High School Equivalency (HSE) diploma preparation, and English Language Instruction that are available to clients whose assessment indicates such services would be an appropriate work activity assignment:

[Click here and type additional information]

- b. Describe how the district identifies appropriate providers of Vocational Education and Job Skills Training programs that are available to clients whose assessment indicates such services would be an appropriate work activity assignment:

[Click here and type additional information]

- c. Describe the process and guideline workers follow to ensure that individuals who have not attained a basic literacy level and/or have not attained a high school diploma are offered the opportunity to participate in an educational activity:

[Click here and type additional information]

- d. Describe the district's process and policy, including the guideline workers follow, when determining whether participation in educational activities is approved for individuals who have not attained a high school diploma who are interested in participating in an educational activity. Include in this section instances when the agency would deny participation in education activities:

[Click here and type additional information]

- e. Education and training providers are evaluated by the following standards:

[Click here and type additional information]

- f. The district procedure for advising participants of approved training providers is:

[Click here and type the procedure]

- g. Describe the district's process and policy for determining whether or not a participant is approved/assigned to participate in job skills or vocational education activities:

[Click here and type the procedure]

- h. The district procedure for notifying participants of approval for training or enrollment in a work activity is:

[Click here and type the procedure]

- i. In accordance with 18 NYCRR 385.9 (b), regardless of whether the college program is approved for the participant as an employment work activity, the district will approve as a work activity a work-study, internship, externship or other work placement that is part of a non-graduate student's curriculum unless one or more of the following conditions applies as check below:

- It has been determined that the student voluntarily quit a job or reduced earnings to qualify for initial or increased Public Assistance.
- A job or on-the-job training position that is comparable to the work-study, internship, externship or other work placement cannot reasonably be expected to exist in the private, public or not-for-profit sector.
- The student is not maintaining a cumulative C average (or the equivalent). The district may disregard this provision if the student documents an undue hardship.
- The institution or student fails to monitor and report information regarding the student's attendance and performance as required.
- The student fails to progress toward the completion of a course of study without good cause, as determined by the district.
- The student has previously enrolled in a work-study, internship, or other work placement and failed to complete the work placement without good cause as determined by the district.
- Additional reasons as stated below:

[Click here and type the procedure]

- j. To verify continued exempt status, the local district will monitor the high school attendance of 16-18 year old students in the following manner:

[Click here and type the manner in which the local district will monitor the attendance]

- k. The district's procedure for ensuring that an individual's health related limitations are accommodated when assigning the individual to a work activity is:

[Click here and type the procedure]

Section 3.7 Work Verification

Consistent with New York State's approved Work Verification Plan (WVP), and in accordance with the requirements established by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, districts must develop a quality assurance plan to ensure that the data reported, from which their work participation rates are derived, are accurate. The plan must include the district's procedure for monitoring reported scheduled and actual attendance in paid employment and unpaid work activities and the controls in place to ensure that reported exemption statuses resulting in federal exclusions from the work participation rate calculation are accurately made, work eligible individuals are correctly identified, hours of attendance reported are accurate and documented, data entry is accurate and that the district and its providers adhere to the approved work activity definitions and the determination of countable excused absences and holiday reporting within federal limits. Each district must maintain the documentation to verify what is being reported to NYS OTDA.

Each district must describe how it will conduct periodic self audits to determine that system entries are consistent with documentation in case files. The district must also explain how it will choose the sample size, select sample cases and establish the review period (no less frequently than semi-annually). The plan must indicate the district will maintain documentation on all pertinent findings produced through its self audit process and that case records for all reviewed cases will be available for State and other auditors in their review of the local work verification system for the standard 6 year period associated with such reviews.

After each self audit is completed, the district must submit a summary of findings for State review including specific information on each of the errors identified. In addition, when monitoring reveals substantial problems, the district must describe the corrective action it will take.

The Quality Assurance plan must explain how staff will:

- Ensure that documentation of wages and actual hours of employment is verified and accurately projected/reported and present in the case file, is actual and is projected correctly;
- Ensure that the documentation for actual hours, supervision/attendance, excused absences, and holidays in other activities is present in the case file;
- Assess whether participation in the work activities reported for work eligible individuals meets the approved federal definition for the activity;
- Assess that the data entered into either WTWCMS, NYCWAY or other automated systems used for reporting work activities is accurate, including actual hours, excused absences and holidays; and is based on documentation in the case record; and
- Ensure that documentation necessary to determine an individual to be exempt due to being the caretaker of a disabled household member (Employability Code 38 or 48), and/or parent or caretaker relative of a child in the household under 12 months of age, (Employability code 31), is present in the case file and that individuals meet the exempt status based on the required documentation.

Please describe the process the district will use to review district worker collected documentation and data entry of the above listed elements (include a description of how a case sample for review will be selected, sample size and frequency of reviews):

[Click here and type the procedure]

Please describe the process the district will use to review provider collected documentation and data entry of the above listed elements (include a description of how a case sample for review will be selected, sample size and frequency of reviews):

[Click here and type the procedure]

Section 3.8 Requirements for Exempt Temporary Assistance Participants
(Reference 18 NYCRR 385.2 (e))

An exempt individual who has the potential to be restored to self-sufficiency through rehabilitation may be required to accept medical care to assist the individual in recovering from a mental or physical impairment, accept referral to and enrollment in a program of vocational rehabilitation, training, and/or other essential rehabilitation, and provide requested evidence that he/she is participating in the assigned program.

- a. Following is the district's procedure for determining if an individual who is unable to work due to a mental or physical impairment has the potential through treatment or other rehabilitative activities to improve the ability to work. This determination is different from the determination of the individual's disability exemption as covered in Section 6 of this plan. Included here is who (e.g., physician, employment worker, Temporary Assistance worker, local review team, etc.) makes or assists in this determination that an individual can restore or improve employability through treatment or other rehabilitative activities. Also included is the source and type of information used to make the determination (e.g., information from individual's physician, district contracted provider, specialist evaluation obtained as result of district referral, etc.):

[Click here and type the procedure]

- b. Following is the district's procedure for developing a treatment plan and for referring the participant to appropriate treatment, etc. Please be specific:

[Click here and type the procedure]

- c. Following is the district's procedure for tracking the participant's compliance with the treatment plan, including who in the district is responsible for monitoring compliance. Include elements such as monthly confirmation of attendance at rehabilitation or other factors to judge participation and progress, along with how often the treatment plan is updated.

[Click here and type the procedure]

Section 3.9 Strategies/Procedures for Increasing Program Attendance

Describe district policies and/or procedures in place to reduce the amount of time participants fail to participate in work activities, including absences that are with good cause:

[Click here and type the procedure]

Section 3.10 Strategies/Procedures for Engaging Sanctioned Temporary Assistance Participants

- [] District has no specific strategies to engage sanctioned participants.

[Click here and type the procedure]

- [] District attempts to engage sanctioned participants as soon as they are sanctioned using the following strategies:

[Click here and type the procedure]

- [] District attempts to engage sanctioned participants when the durational period of the sanction is completed using the following strategies:

[Click here and type the procedure]

- [] District attempts to engage sanctioned participants during different times in the sanction period using the following strategies:

[Click here and type the procedure]

Section 3.11 Diversion Strategies:

- [] District has no specific diversion strategies.
- [] District's diversion strategies are described below:

[Click here and type the description]

Section 4 Support Services (Reference 18 NYCRR 385.4)

Section 4.1 For Temporary Assistance and Non-Temporary Assistance Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Applicants and Recipients in Work Activities approved by the District

- a. The social services district will provide childcare in accordance with the childcare section of the district's Child and Family County Services Plan. The district will also provide for participants the following expenses which the district deems necessary for the individual to participate in orientation, assessment, employment planning, approved work activities and activities to restore self sufficiency:

[Click here and type what services will be provided]

- b. The district will use the following approach to assist those participants who need transportation to and from an approved work activity site, including any applicable mileage reimbursement rate, and the method used by the district to arrive at that reimbursement rate. OTDA policy establishes a mileage reimbursement rate of no less than the IRS established rate for medical/moving purposes. In all instances, should the actual cost of transportation needed to participate in an assigned work activity exceed the reimbursement rate determined by the district, the district will reimburse for the actual costs based on reasonable documentation submitted by the work activity participant.

Please check all that apply:

- Bus pass/token
- Gas card/voucher
- mileage reimbursement at IRS Business rate, (effective 1/1/13 is 56.5 cents/mi)
- mileage reimbursement at IRS medical/moving rate, (effective 1/1/13 is .24 cents/mi)
- other mileage rate, (please explain methodology used to establish reimbursement rate)

[Click here and type local district procedure]

- c. The district will use the following approach for those individuals who reside in an area where public transportation is not available. OTDA policy establishes a distance not to exceed 2 miles as the maximum distance that the district can require a participant to walk to a work activity assignment. Please identify the maximum distance the participant would be expected to walk, if applicable:

[Click here and type the approach that the district will use]

- d. The district will provide the following services to assist individuals at risk of needing public assistance to improve their opportunities for employment or to maintain their employment:

[Click here and type what services will be provided]

- e. Following is a description of how the district accommodates the needs of non-English speaking participants in accessing employment activities and services (or see below):

[Click here and type the description]

- The district does not generally find the need to provide services to individuals who do not speak English (never or rarely have occasion to serve such individuals).

Section 4.2 Transitional Support Services

The district will provide the following supports and strategies to support job retention:

[Click here and type what services will be provided]

The district will provide the following support services, for up to 90 days after case closing, to individuals whose Temporary Assistance cases have closed due to employment:

[Click here and type what services will be provided]

Section 4.3 Extended Support Services

As long as funding is available (through FFFS, etc.), the district will provide the following supportive services for individuals who are eligible under the TANF Services 200% of poverty eligibility guidelines.

[Click **here** and type what services will be provided]

Section 5 Conciliation, Good Cause, and Dispute Resolution Procedures (Reference 18 NYCRR 385.11 and 385.12)

Section 5.1 Conciliation

The district's conciliation process for Temporary Assistance applicants and recipients is in accordance with 18 NYCRR 385.11(a). Conciliations are conducted (check all that apply, and describe the procedure.):

- in person
- by phone
- by mail, etc

[Click **here** and type the procedure]

The Temporary Assistance good cause/willfulness determination is made by:

- client's employment worker
- a supervisor
- separate entity

[Click **here** and type the process]

The district's procedure for allowing all SNAP applicants and recipients who fail to comply with a SNAP employment requirement the opportunity to document good cause or an exemption from participation in SNAP work activities is in accordance with 18 NYCRR 385.12(c). The good cause determination is made by:

- client's employment worker
- a supervisor
- separate entity
- other

[Click **here** and type the process]

Section 5.2 Sanctions

The district's procedure for determining compliance for those individuals who wish to end their employment sanction (18 NYCRR 385.11(b), 385.12), including the time period established for demonstrating compliance to the satisfaction of the district is:

[Click **here** and type the process]

Section 5.3 Dispute Resolution

The district's procedure for individuals who wish to dispute their work activity assignments, including individuals who dispute the district's response to their request for health-related accommodations is conducted in accordance with 18 NYCRR 385.11(b).

The grievance is mediated by:

- an agreement with an independent entity
- supervisory staff who are trained in mediation and who have no direct responsibility for the individual's case
- designated supervisory staff who have no direct responsibility for the individual's case and who are not trained in mediation

Section 6 Disability Determinations (Reference 18 NYCRR 385.2(d))

The district's process for determining an individual's disabilities and/or work limitations is in accordance with 18 NYCRR 385.2(d). Check all that apply, and describe the process:

- District participates in the OTDA managed contract for independent medical evaluations
- District contracts directly with a physician to provide independent medical evaluations
- District accepts physician's statement provided by participant
- District accepts physician's statement provided by participant but refers for an independent evaluation when deemed necessary
- Other process

[Click here and type the process]

The local process for reviewing the medical documentation to determine if the individual is exempt, nonexempt, or work limited is as follows:

- District directs the contracted physician or individual's physician to determine status
- District review team reviews and determines status (described below)
- Specialized disability/medical staff or unit reviews and determines status (described below)
- Other

[Click here and type the process]