

AN ACT in relation to public aid.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,
represented in the General Assembly:

Section 5. The Illinois Public Aid Code is amended by changing Sections 4-2, 9A-3, 9A-5, 9A-7, 9A-8, 9A-9, 11-1, and 11-20.1 as follows:

(305 ILCS 5/4-2) (from Ch. 23, par. 4-2)

Sec. 4-2. Amount of aid.

(a) The amount and nature of financial aid shall be determined in accordance with the grant amounts, rules and regulations of the Illinois Department. Due regard shall be given to the self-sufficiency requirements of the family and to the income, money contributions and other support and resources available, from whatever source. However, the amount and nature of any financial aid is not affected by the payment of any grant under the "Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief and Pharmaceutical Assistance Act" or any distributions or items of income described under subparagraph (X) of paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of Section 203 of the Illinois Income Tax Act. The aid shall be sufficient, when added to all other income, money contributions and support to provide the family with a grant in the amount established by Department regulation.

(b) The Illinois Department may conduct special projects, which may be known as Grant Diversion Projects, under which recipients of financial aid under this Article are placed in jobs and their grants are diverted to the employer who in turn makes payments to the recipients in the form of salary or other employment benefits. The Illinois Department shall by rule specify the terms and conditions of such Grant Diversion Projects. Such projects shall take into

consideration and be coordinated with the programs administered under the Illinois Emergency Employment Development Act.

(c) The amount and nature of the financial aid for a child requiring care outside his own home shall be determined in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Illinois Department, with due regard to the needs and requirements of the child in the foster home or institution in which he has been placed.

(d) If the Department establishes grants for family units consisting exclusively of a pregnant woman with no dependent child or including her husband if living with her, the grant amount for such a unit shall be equal to the grant amount for an assistance unit consisting of one adult, or 2 persons if the husband is included. Other than as herein described, an unborn child shall not be counted in determining the size of an assistance unit or for calculating grants.

Payments for basic maintenance requirements of a child or children and the relative with whom the child or children are living shall be prescribed, by rule, by the Illinois Department.

Grants under this Article shall not be supplemented by General Assistance provided under Article VI.

(e) Grants shall be paid to the parent or other person with whom the child or children are living, except for such amount as is paid in behalf of the child or his parent or other relative to other persons or agencies pursuant to this Code or the rules and regulations of the Illinois Department.

(f) Subject to subsection (f-5), an assistance unit, receiving financial aid under this Article or temporarily ineligible to receive aid under this Article under a penalty imposed by the Illinois Department for failure to comply with the eligibility requirements or that voluntarily requests

termination of financial assistance under this Article and becomes subsequently eligible for assistance within 9 months, shall not receive any increase in the amount of aid solely on account of the birth of a child; except that an increase is not prohibited when the birth is (i) of a child of a pregnant woman who became eligible for aid under this Article during the pregnancy, or (ii) of a child born within 10 months after the date of implementation of this subsection, or (iii) of a child conceived after a family became ineligible for assistance due to income or marriage and at least 3 months of ineligibility expired before any reapplication for assistance. This subsection does not, however, prevent a unit from receiving a general increase in the amount of aid that is provided to all recipients of aid under this Article.

The Illinois Department is authorized to transfer funds, and shall use any budgetary savings attributable to not increasing the grants due to the births of additional children, to supplement existing funding for employment and training services for recipients of aid under this Article IV. The Illinois Department shall target, to the extent the supplemental funding allows, employment and training services to the families who do not receive a grant increase after the birth of a child. In addition, the Illinois Department shall provide, to the extent the supplemental funding allows, such families with up to 24 months of transitional child care pursuant to Illinois Department rules. All remaining supplemental funds shall be used for employment and training services or transitional child care support.

In making the transfers authorized by this subsection, the Illinois Department shall first determine, pursuant to regulations adopted by the Illinois Department for this purpose, the amount of savings attributable to not increasing the grants due to the births of additional children. Transfers may be made from General Revenue Fund

appropriations for distributive purposes authorized by Article IV of this Code only to General Revenue Fund appropriations for employability development services including operating and administrative costs and related distributive purposes under Article IXA of this Code. The Director, with the approval of the Governor, shall certify the amount and affected line item appropriations to the State Comptroller.

Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit the Illinois Department from using funds under this Article IV to provide assistance in the form of vouchers that may be used to pay for goods and services deemed by the Illinois Department, by rule, as suitable for the care of the child such as diapers, clothing, school supplies, and cribs.

(f-5) Subsection (f) shall not apply to affect the monthly assistance amount of any family as a result of the birth of a child on or after January 1, 2004. As resources permit after January 1, 2004, the Department may cease applying subsection (f) to limit assistance to families receiving assistance under this Article on January 1, 2004, with respect to children born prior to that date. In any event, subsection (f) shall be completely inoperative on and after July 1, 2007.

(g) (Blank).

(h) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Code, the Illinois Department is authorized to reduce payment levels used to determine cash grants under this Article after December 31 of any fiscal year if the Illinois Department determines that the caseload upon which the appropriations for the current fiscal year are based have increased by more than 5% and the appropriation is not sufficient to ensure that cash benefits under this Article do not exceed the amounts appropriated for those cash benefits. Reductions in payment levels may be accomplished by emergency rule under

Section 5-45 of the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act, except that the limitation on the number of emergency rules that may be adopted in a 24-month period shall not apply and the provisions of Sections 5-115 and 5-125 of the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act shall not apply. Increases in payment levels shall be accomplished only in accordance with Section 5-40 of the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act. Before any rule to increase payment levels promulgated under this Section shall become effective, a joint resolution approving the rule must be adopted by a roll call vote by a majority of the members elected to each chamber of the General Assembly.

(Source: P.A. 91-676, eff. 12-23-99; 92-111, eff. 1-1-02.)

(305 ILCS 5/9A-3) (from Ch. 23, par. 9A-3)

Sec. 9A-3. Establishment of Program and Level of Services.

(a) The Illinois Department shall establish and maintain a program to provide recipients with services consistent with the purposes and provisions of this Article. The program offered in different counties of the State may vary depending on the resources available to the State to provide a program under this Article, and no program may be offered in some counties, depending on the resources available. Services may be provided directly by the Illinois Department or through contract. References to the Illinois Department or staff of the Illinois Department shall include contractors when the Illinois Department has entered into contracts for these purposes. The Illinois Department shall provide each recipient who participates with such services available under the program as are necessary to achieve his employability plan as specified in the plan.

(b) The Illinois Department, in operating the program, shall cooperate with public and private education and

vocational training or retraining agencies or facilities, the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois Community College Board, the Departments of Employment Security and Commerce and Community Affairs or other sponsoring organizations funded under the federal Workforce Investment Job-Training-Partnership Act and other public or licensed private employment agencies.

(Source: P.A. 92-111, eff. 1-1-02.)

(305 ILCS 5/9A-5) (from Ch. 23, par. 9A-5)

Sec. 9A-5. Exempt recipients.

(a) Exempt recipients under Section 9A-4 may volunteer to participate.

(b) Services will be offered to exempt and non-exempt individuals who wish to volunteer to participate only to the extent resources permit.

(c) Exempt and non-exempt individuals who volunteer to participate become program participants upon completion of the initial assessment, development of the employability plan, and assignment to a component. An exempt individual who volunteers to participate may not be sanctioned for not meeting program requirements. ~~Volunteers who fail to attend the orientation or initial assessment meetings or both will not be sanctioned. Exempt and non-exempt individuals who attend the orientation meeting and become program participants by completing the initial assessment, development of the employability plan, and assignment to a component may be sanctioned if they do not meet program requirements without good cause.~~

(Source: P.A. 92-111, eff. 1-1-02.)

(305 ILCS 5/9A-7) (from Ch. 23, par. 9A-7)

Sec. 9A-7. Good Cause and Pre-Sanction Process.

The Department shall establish by rule what constitutes

good cause for failure to participate in education, training and employment programs, failure to accept suitable employment or terminating employment or reducing earnings.

The Department shall establish, by rule, a pre-sanction process to assist in resolving disputes over proposed sanctions and in determining if good cause exists. Good cause shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) temporary illness for its duration;
- (2) court required appearance or temporary incarceration;
- (3) (blank);
- (4) death in the family;
- (5) (blank);
- (6) (blank);
- (7) (blank);
- (8) (blank);
- (9) extreme inclement weather;
- (10) (blank);
- (11) lack of any support service even though the necessary service is not specifically provided under the Department program, to the extent the lack of the needed service presents a significant barrier to participation;
- (12) if an individual is engaged in employment or training or both that is consistent with the employment related goals of the program, if such employment and training is later approved by Department staff;
- (13) (blank);
- (14) failure of Department staff to correctly forward the information to other Department staff;
- (15) failure of the participant to cooperate because of attendance at a test or a mandatory class or function at an educational program (including college), when an education or training program is officially approved by the Department;

(16) failure of the participant due to his or her illiteracy;

(17) failure of the participant because it is determined that he or she should be in a different activity;

(18) non-receipt by the participant of a notice advising him or her of a participation requirement, ~~if documented by the participant. Documentation can include, but is not limited to: a written statement from the post office or other informed individual; the notice not sent to the participant's last known address in Department records; return of the notice by the post office; other returned mail; proof of previous mail theft problems. When determining whether or not the participant has demonstrated non-receipt, the Department shall take into consideration a participant's history of cooperation or non-cooperation in the past.~~ If the documented non-receipt of mail occurs frequently, the Department shall explore an alternative means of providing notices of participation requests to participants;

(19) (blank);

(20) non-comprehension of English, either written or oral or both;

(21) (blank);

(22) (blank);

(23) child care (or day care for an incapacitated individual living in the same home as a dependent child) is necessary for the participation or employment and such care is not available for a child under age 13;

(24) failure to participate in an activity due to a scheduled job interview, medical appointment for the participant or a household member, or school appointment;

(25) the individual is homeless. Homeless individuals (including the family) have no current

residence and no expectation of acquiring one in the next 30 days. This includes individuals residing in overnight and transitional (temporary) shelters. This does not include individuals who are sharing a residence with friends or relatives on a continuing basis;

(26) circumstances beyond the control of the participant which prevent the participant from completing program requirements; or

(27) (blank).

(b) (Blank).

(c) (1) The Department shall establish a reconciliation procedure to assist in resolving disputes related to any aspect of participation, including exemptions, good cause, sanctions or proposed sanctions, supportive services, assessments, responsibility and service plans, assignment to activities, suitability of employment, or refusals of offers of employment. Through the reconciliation process the Department shall have a mechanism to identify good cause, ensure that the client is aware of the issue, and enable the client to perform required activities without facing sanction.

(2) A participant may request reconciliation and receive notice in writing of a meeting. At least one face-to-face meeting may be scheduled to resolve misunderstandings or disagreements related to program participation and situations which may lead to a potential sanction. The meeting will address the underlying reason for the dispute and plan a resolution to enable the individual to participate in TANF employment and work activity requirements.

(2.5) If the individual fails to appear at the reconciliation meeting without good cause, the reconciliation is unsuccessful and a sanction shall be imposed.

(3) The reconciliation process shall continue after it is determined that the individual did not have good cause for non-cooperation. Any necessary demonstration of cooperation on the part of the participant will be part of the reconciliation process. Failure to demonstrate cooperation will result in immediate sanction.

(4) For the first instance of non-cooperation, if the client reaches agreement to cooperate, the client shall be allowed 30 days to demonstrate cooperation before any sanction activity may be imposed. In any subsequent instances of non-cooperation, the client shall be provided the opportunity to show good cause or remedy the situation by immediately complying with the requirement.

(5) The Department shall document in the case record the proceedings of the reconciliation and provide the client in writing with a reconciliation agreement.

(6) If reconciliation resolves the dispute, no sanction shall be imposed. If the client fails to comply with the reconciliation agreement, the Department shall then immediately impose the original sanction. If the dispute cannot be resolved during reconciliation, a sanction shall not be imposed until the reconciliation process is complete.

(Source: P.A. 90-17, eff. 7-1-97.)

(305 ILCS 5/9A-8) (from Ch. 23, par. 9A-8)

Sec. 9A-8. Operation of Program.

(a) At the time of application or redetermination of eligibility under Article IV, as determined by rule, the Illinois Department shall provide information in writing and orally regarding the education, training and employment program to all applicants and recipients. The information

required shall be established by rule and shall include, but need not be limited to:

(1) education (including literacy training), employment and training opportunities available, the criteria for approval of those opportunities, and the right to request changes in the personal responsibility and services plan to include those opportunities;

(1.1) a complete list of all activities that are approvable activities, and the circumstances under which they are approvable, including work activities, substance abuse or mental health treatment, activities to escape and prevent domestic violence, caring for a medically impaired family member, and any other approvable activities, together with the right to and procedures for amending the responsibility and services plan to include these activities;

(1.2) the rules concerning the lifetime limit on eligibility, including the current status of the applicant or recipient in terms of the months of remaining eligibility, the criteria under which a month will not count towards the lifetime limit, and the criteria under which a recipient may receive benefits beyond the end of the lifetime limit;

(2) supportive services including child care and the rules regarding eligibility for and access to the child care assistance program, transportation, initial expenses of employment, job retention, books and fees, and any other supportive services;

(3) the obligation of the Department to provide supportive services;

(4) the rights and responsibilities of participants, including exemption, sanction, reconciliation, and good cause criteria and procedures, termination for non-cooperation and reinstatement rules

and procedures, and appeal and grievance procedures; and

(5) the types and locations of child care services.

(b) The Illinois Department shall notify the recipient in writing of the opportunity to volunteer to participate in the program.

(c) (Blank).

(d) As part of the personal plan for achieving employment and self-sufficiency, the Department shall conduct an individualized assessment of the participant's employability. ~~Except--as-to-participation-in-the-Get-A-Job-Program,~~ No participant may be assigned to any component of the education, training and employment activity prior to such assessment, ~~provided-that-a-participant-may-be-assigned-up-to-4-weeks-of-Job-Search-prior-to--such--assessment.~~ The plan shall include collection of information on the individual's background, proficiencies, skills deficiencies, education level, work history, employment goals, interests, aptitudes, and employment preferences, as well as factors affecting employability or ability to meet participation requirements (e.g., health, physical or mental limitations, child care, family circumstances, domestic violence, substance abuse, and special needs of any child of the individual). As part of the plan, individuals and Department staff shall work together to identify any supportive service needs required to enable the client to participate and meet the objectives of his or her employability plan. The assessment may be conducted through various methods such as interviews, testing, counseling, and self-assessment instruments. In the assessment process, the Department shall offer to include standard literacy testing and a determination of English language proficiency and shall provide it for those who accept the offer. ~~for-those-who-display-a-potential-need--for-literacy-or-language-services.--For-these-individuals-subject-to--a--job--search-demonstration, there may be an abbreviated~~

~~assessment, as defined by rule.~~ Based on the assessment, the individual will be assigned to the appropriate activity. The decision will be based on a determination of the individual's level of preparation for employment as defined by rule.

(e) Recipients determined to be exempt may volunteer to participate pursuant to Section 9A-4 and must be assessed.

(f) As part of the personal plan for achieving employment and self-sufficiency under Section 4-1, an employability plan for recipients shall be developed in consultation with the participant. The Department shall have final responsibility for approving the employability plan. The employability plan shall:

- (1) contain an employment goal of the participant;
- (2) describe the services to be provided by the Department, including child care and other support services;
- (3) describe the activities, such as component assignment, that will be undertaken by the participant to achieve the employment goal; and
- (4) describe any other needs of the family that might be met by the Department.

(g) The employability plan shall take into account:

- (1) available program resources;
- (2) the participant's support service needs;
- (3) the participant's skills level and aptitudes;
- (4) local employment opportunities; and
- (5) the preferences of the participant.

(h) A reassessment shall be conducted to assess a participant's progress and to review the employability plan on the following occasions:

- (1) upon completion of an activity and before assignment to an activity;
- (2) upon the request of the participant;
- (3) if the individual is not cooperating with the

requirements of the program; and

(4) if the individual has failed to make satisfactory progress in an education or training program.

Based on the reassessment, the Department may revise the employability plan of the participant.

(Source: P.A. 90-17, eff. 7-1-97; 91-331, eff. 7-29-99.)

(305 ILCS 5/9A-9) (from Ch. 23, par. 9A-9)

Sec. 9A-9. Program Activities. The Department shall establish education, training and placement activities by rule. Not all of the same activities need be provided in each county in the State. Such activities may include the following:

(a) Education (Below post secondary). In the Education (below post secondary) activity, the individual receives information, referral, counseling services and support services to increase the individual's employment potential. Participants may be referred to testing, counseling and education resources. Educational activities will include basic and remedial education; English proficiency classes; high school or its equivalency (e.g., GED) or alternative education at the secondary level; and with any educational program, structured study time to enhance successful participation. An individual's participation in an education program such as literacy, basic adult education, high school equivalency (GED), or a remedial program shall be limited to 2 years unless the individual also is working or participating in a work activity approved by the Illinois Department as defined by rule; this requirement does not apply, however, to students enrolled in high school.

(b) Job Skills Training (Vocational). Job Skills Training is designed to increase the individual's ability to obtain and maintain employment. Job Skills Training

activities will include vocational skill classes designed to increase a participant's ability to obtain and maintain employment. Job Skills Training may include certificate programs.

(c) Job Readiness. The job readiness activity is designed to enhance the quality of the individual's level of participation in the world of work while learning the necessary essentials to obtain and maintain employment. This activity helps individuals gain the necessary job finding skills to help them find and retain employment that will lead to economic independence.

(d) Job Search. Job Search may be conducted individually or in groups. Job Search includes the provision of counseling, job seeking skills training and information dissemination. Group job search may include training in a group session. Assignment exclusively to job search cannot be in excess of 8 consecutive weeks (or its equivalent) in any period of 12 consecutive months.

(e) Work Experience. Work Experience assignments may be with private employers or not-for-profit or public agencies in the State. The Illinois Department shall provide workers' compensation coverage. Participants who are not members of a 2-parent assistance unit may not be assigned more hours than their cash grant amount plus food stamps divided by the minimum wage. Private employers and not-for-profit and public agencies shall not use Work Experience participants to displace regular employees. Participants in Work Experience may perform work in the public interest (which otherwise meets the requirements of this Section) for a federal office or agency with its consent, and notwithstanding the provisions of 31 U.S.C. 1342, or any other provision of law, such agency may accept such services, but participants shall not be considered federal employees for any purpose. A participant shall be reassessed at the end of assignment to

Work Experience. The participant may be reassigned to Work Experience or assigned to another activity, based on the reassessment.

(f) On the Job Training. In On the Job Training, a participant is hired by a private or public employer and while engaged in productive work receives training that provides knowledge or skills essential to full and adequate performance of the job.

(g) Work Supplementation. In work supplementation, the Department pays a wage subsidy to an employer who hires a participant. The cash grant which a participant would receive if not employed is diverted and the diverted cash grant is used to pay the wage subsidy.

(h) Post Secondary Education. Post secondary education must be administered by an educational institution accredited under requirements of State law. ~~The Illinois Department may not approve an individual's participation in any post-secondary education program, other than full-time, short-term vocational training for a specific job, unless the individual also is employed part-time, as defined by the Illinois Department by rule.~~

(i) Self Initiated Education. Participants who are attending an institution of higher education or a vocational or technical program of their own choosing and who are in good standing, may continue to attend and receive supportive services only if the educational program is approved by the Department, and is in conformity with the participant's personal plan for achieving employment and self-sufficiency and the participant is employed part-time, as defined by the Illinois Department by rule.

(j) Job Development and Placement. Department staff shall develop through contacts with public and private employers unsubsidized job openings for participants. Job interviews will be secured for clients by the marketing of

participants for specific job openings. Job ready individuals may be assigned to Job Development and Placement.

(k) Job Retention. The job retention component is designed to assist participants in retaining employment. Initial employment expenses and job retention services are provided. The individual's support service needs are assessed and the individual receives counseling regarding job retention skills.

(l) (Blank).

(1-5) Transitional Jobs. These programs provide temporary wage-paying work combined with case management and other social services designed to address employment barriers. The wage-paying work is treated as regular employment for all purposes under this Code, and the additional activities, as determined by the Transitional Jobs provider, shall be countable work activities. The program must comply with the anti-displacement provisions of this Code governing the Work Experience program.

(m) Pay-after-performance Program. A parent may be required to participate in a pay-after-performance program in which the parent must work a specified number of hours to earn the grant. The program shall comply with provisions of this Code governing work experience programs.

(n) Community Service. Community service includes unpaid work that the client performs in his or her community, such as for a school, church, government agency, or nonprofit organization. A-partieipant-whose-youngest-child-is-13-years-of-age-or-older-may-be-required-to-perform-at-least-20--hours-of--community--service-per-week-as-a-condition-of-eligibility-for-aid-under-Article-IV.--The-Illinois-Department-shall-give-priority-to-community-service-placements-in--public--schools, where--partieipants-can-serve-as-hall-and-lunchroom-monitors, assist-teachers, and-perform-other-appropriate-services.

(Source: P.A. 89-289, eff. 1-1-96; 90-17, eff. 7-1-97;

90-457, eff. 1-1-98; 90-655, eff. 7-30-98.)

(305 ILCS 5/11-1) (from Ch. 23, par. 11-1)

Sec. 11-1. No discrimination). There shall be no discrimination or denial of financial aid and social services on account of the race, religion, color, national origin, sex, marital status, or political affiliation of any applicant or recipient. This paragraph shall not prevent the Department from treating individuals differently as a result of the rights and responsibilities that arise under law from marital status.

Participation in any marriage promotion or family formation activity is voluntary. Non-participation shall not affect any person's eligibility for or receipt of financial aid or social services in any program under this Code.

Where financial aid or social services are granted to certain classes of persons under a program for which federal funds are available, nothing in this Section shall require granting of financial aid or social services to other persons where federal funds would not be available as to those other persons.

(Source: P.A. 80-354.)

(305 ILCS 5/11-20.1) (from Ch. 23, par. 11-20.1)

Sec. 11-20.1. Employment; Rights of recipient and obligations of Illinois Department when recipients become employed; Assistance when a recipient has employment or earned income or both.

(a) When a recipient reports employment or earned income, or both, or the Illinois Department otherwise learns of a recipient's employment or earned income, or both, the Illinois Department shall provide the recipient with:

(1) An explanation of how the earned income will affect the recipient's eligibility for a grant, and

whether the recipient must engage in additional work activities to meet the recipient's monthly work activities requirement and what types of activities may be approved for that purpose, and whether the employment is sufficient to cause months of continued receipt of a grant not to be counted against the recipient's lifetime eligibility limit.

(2) An explanation of the Work Pays budgeting process, and an explanation of how the first month's income on a new job will be projected, and how the recipient should report the new job to avoid the Department overestimating the first month's income.

(3) An explanation of how the earned income will affect the recipient's eligibility for food stamps, whether the recipient will continue to receive food stamps, and, if so, the amount of food stamps.

(4) The names and telephone numbers of all caseworkers to whom the recipient's case or cases are assigned or will be transferred, an explanation of which type of case each worker will be handling, and the effective date of the transfer.

(5) An explanation of the recipient's responsibilities to report income and household circumstances, the process by which quarterly reporting forms are sent to recipients, where and to whom the reports should be returned, the deadline by which reports must be returned, instructions on how to fill out the reports, an explanation of what the recipient should do if he or she does not receive the form, advice on how to prove the report was returned by the recipient such as by keeping a copy, and an explanation of the effects of failure to file reports.

(6) If the recipient will continue to receive a grant, an explanation of the recipient's new fiscal month

and a statement as to when the recipient will receive his or her grant.

(7) An explanation of Kidcare, Family Assist, Family Care, and the 12 month extension of medical assistance that is available when a grant is cancelled due to earned income.

(8) An explanation of the medical assistance the person may be eligible for when the 12 month extension expires and how to request or apply for it.

(9) An explanation of the availability of a child care subsidy to all families below the child care assistance program's income limit, how to apply for the benefit through the Child Care Resource and Referral or site-administered child care program or both, the nature of the child care program's sliding scale co-payments, the availability of the 10% earned income disregard in determining eligibility for child care assistance and the amount of the parent co-payment, the right to use the subsidy for either licensed or license exempt legal care, and the availability of benefits when the parent is engaged in an education and training program.

(10) (Blank).

(11) (Blank).

(11a) (Blank).

(12) (Blank).

(13) An explanation of the availability of payment for initial expenses of employment and how to request or apply for it.

(14) An explanation of the job retention component and how to participate in it, and an explanation of the recipient's eligibility to receive supportive services to participate in education and training programs while working.

(15) A statement of the types of assistance that

will be provided to the person automatically or continued and a statement of the types of assistance for which the person must apply or reapply.

(16) If the recipient will not continue to receive a cash grant and the recipient has assigned his or her right to child support to the Illinois Department, an explanation of the recipient's right to continue to receive child support enforcement services, the recipient's right to have all current support paid after grant cancellation forwarded promptly to the recipient, the procedures by which child support will be forwarded, and the procedures by which the recipient will be informed of the collection and distribution of child support.

(17) An explanation of the availability of payments if the recipient experiences a decrease in or loss of earned income during a calendar quarter as to which the monthly grant was previously budgeted based upon the higher income.

(18) If the recipient will not continue to receive a cash grant, an explanation of the procedures for reapplying for cash assistance if the person experiences a decrease in or loss of earned income.

(19) An explanation of the earned income tax credit and the procedures by which it may be obtained and the rules for disregarding it in determining eligibility for and the amount of assistance.

(20) An explanation of the education and training opportunities available to recipients.

(b) The information listed in subsection (a) shall be provided to the recipient on an individual basis during an in-person meeting with a representative of the Illinois Department. The individual in-person meeting shall be held at a time which does not conflict with the recipient's work

schedule within 30 days of the date the recipient begins working. If the recipient informs the Illinois Department that an in-person meeting would be inconvenient, the Illinois Department may provide the information during a home visit, by telephone, or by mail within 30 days of the date the recipient begins working, whichever the client prefers.

(c) At the conclusion of the meeting described in subsection (b), the Illinois Department shall ensure that all case transfers and calculations of benefits necessitated by the recipient's employment or receipt of earned income have been performed, that applications have been made or provided for all benefits for which the person must apply or reapply, and that the person has received payment for initial expenses of employment.

(Source: P.A. 91-331, eff. 7-29-99.)

Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon becoming law.