

## TANF Strategic Plan

**FINAL Overarching Purpose Statement:** The purpose of the Montana TANF program is to meet the basic needs and maximize the well-being of children and families in order to provide them with the tools and education to move into sustainable financial independence.

*-Agreed upon by Steering Committee at August 13, 2014 meeting.*

***(Drafted by the facilitator for consideration by the steering committee, we will edit and revise on September 10<sup>th</sup>)***

**To achieve its overarching purpose, the Montana TANF program will operate according to the following Guiding Principles:**

- Provide direct services to families experiencing poverty, focusing the most resources on low or no income families with the greatest need while seeking to serve as many low income families as possible
- Address the needs of children in a developmentally appropriate way, prioritizing policies and programs that strengthen families
- Develop a client-oriented, customer service approach that helps families easily navigate the system, treats clients with dignity and respect, and acknowledges each individual's unique strengths and circumstances
- Allow flexibility for families to self-direct the services needed to remove barriers to physical and economic security
- Integrate with other safety net services so that family's real needs are effectively and efficiently addressed and services are not duplicated
- Provide services that strategically move families to sustainable financial independence, providing the tools to ensure long term stability after leaving the program
- Utilize a transparent, structured decision making process that prioritizes services that prove to be effective