

# Survivor Pathways to Independence

## HB 2682

### ON PAPER

To guarantee safety and equity for survivors receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), the **Family Violence Option (FVO)** temporarily waives:

- work
- training
- education
- paternity establishment
- and child support

requirements for survivors of stalking and domestic or sexual violence. FVO waiver recipients may also have their 60-month TANF time limit paused.

To support families in emergency circumstances, TANF also issues capped payments from the **Crisis Assistance Fund** for eligible situations, including:

- domestic or sexual violence
- housing instability
- disasters

### IN PRACTICE

Although TANF applicants should be screened for FVO eligibility, in practice, **very few survivors actually access FVO waivers or associated Crisis Assistance funding.**

In 2023, 1,248 survivors working domestic violence service providers reported receiving TANF, but IDHS only reported issuing **55 FVO waivers**, suggesting that just 4% of eligible recipients received these benefits.

This data demonstrates a **complete failure to uniformly screen TANF recipients for qualifying abuse** and connect them to tools and services essential for safety.

### Representative Jimenez

#### THE SOLUTION

TANF's FVO waiver and crisis assistance funding are crucial tools for survivors. Estimates suggest that **50-60% of TANF recipients experience domestic violence** in their lifetime. To ensure that all TANF applicants are properly screened for domestic and sexual violence and connected to these resources, **HB 2682:**

- **streamlines** the domestic and sexual violence **screening process** by integrating the family violence option into the standard TANF application process
- **integrates crisis assistance funding applications** under existing qualifying conditions into the TANF application process
- **increases the dollar amount** associated with each eligible crisis assistance funding benefit,
- and allows for **self-attestation of survivorship** when applying for the family violence option.

In 2023, only an estimated

**4%**

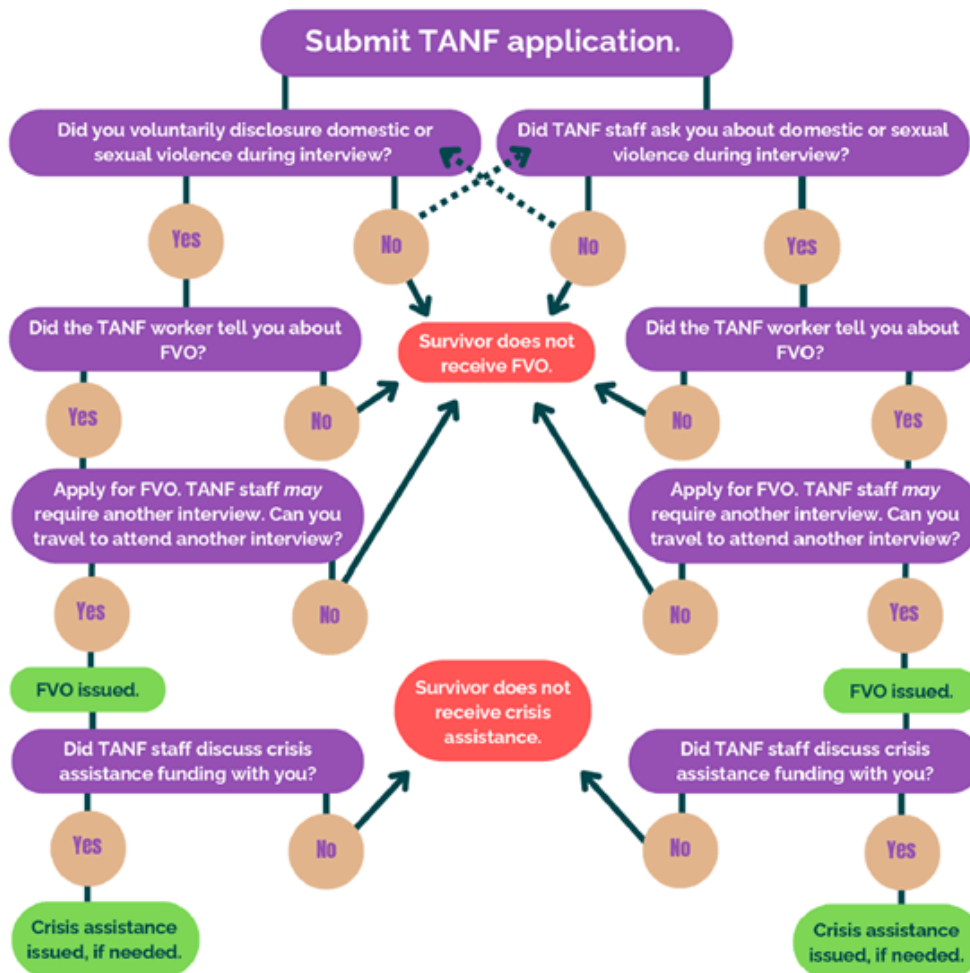
of eligible recipients received FVO protections.

"You know, I left for a reason. If things were good, I would have stayed. You know, what mother wants to take their children away from their father? I took it for too long and I had to go, you know, I had to get out! From what I hear he's trying to fish for an address. And I know with this child support order, [when the] IDHS office finds him, he's going to know where I'm at! That puts me in a compromising situation."

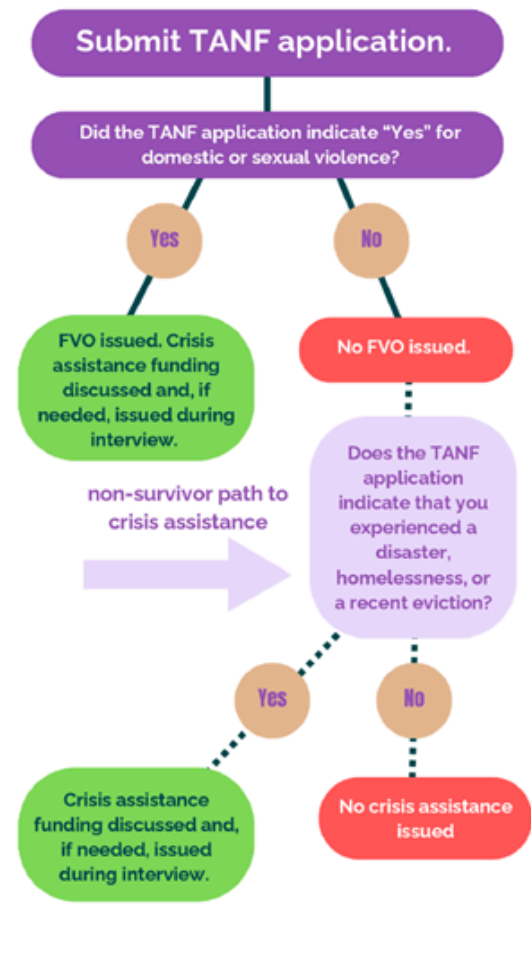
- TANF Applicant

## Survivor Process for Accessing TANF FVO and Crisis Assistance

### Current Process



### Proposed Process



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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## References

"In 2023, 1,248 survivors working domestic violence service providers reported receiving TANF" - InfoNet data provided to The Network in 2024

"but IDHS only reported issuing 55 FVO waivers" - FOIA data provided to The Network in 2024

"Estimates suggest that 50-60% of TANF recipients experience domestic violence in their lifetime" - Raphael, Jody. (2000). A Review of Research on Welfare and Domestic Violence. Journal of Social Issues. 56. 655 - 682. 10.1111/0022-4537.00190.