



What is Goal4It!?

➤ Goal4It! is model we follow to help you set and achieve your goals. Your Coach will help you plan for your goals and review your progress along the way.



➤ Your STEP Coach has access to services that can help you meet these goals, such as education, employment, and support services to help you along the way.

➤ If the STEP program does not have the resources you need to achieve success, your STEP Coach will identify other resources in the community to support you.

What happens if you do not participate in STEP but are eligible?

If you are required to participate in STEP but something is getting in your way of participating, talk to your STEP Coach and FITAP worker to see if you qualify for “Good Cause.” Your STEP Coach can help you with any challenges that may be getting in the way of you participating. If you do not have “Good Cause” and do not participate, DCFS will begin the sanction process which could impact your FITAP and Medicaid benefits.

YOUR RIGHT TO A FAIR HEARING

If you believe the action on your case is not correct, you may request and obtain a fair hearing. The local office will present the evidence on which its decision was made, and you will be expected to present evidence to support your claim at the hearing. If you wish to request a fair hearing, you should follow the instructions on the back of the notice you receive from the agency or contact the local office. Requests for fair hearings are mailed to the DCFS Bureau of Appeals, P. O. Box 2944, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821. The request must be made within 30 days after the local office decision.

CIVIL RIGHTS

If you believe that you have been discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, or on the basis of religion or political beliefs, you may email your complaint to [HYPERLINK “mailto:DCFS.BureauofCivilRights@LA.GOV”](mailto:DCFS.BureauofCivilRights@LA.GOV) DCFS.BureauofCivilRights@LA.GOV or obtain a Civil Rights Complaint form at any local DCFS Office. You may also write to Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Regional Office for Civil Rights, 1301 Young Street – Suite 1169, Dallas, TX 75202.

This public document is published at a unit cost of \$xxx.xx. xxx copies of this public document were published in this xxx printing at a total cost of \$xxx.xx. The total cost of all printings of this document including reprints is \$xxx.xx. This document was published by OTS-Production Support Services, 627 North 4th St, Baton Rouge, LA 70802 for the Department of Children and Family Services to inform the public about the Strategies to Empower People program. This material was printed in accordance with standards for printing by State Agencies established in R.S. 43:31. Printing of this material was purchased in accordance with the provisions of Title 43 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes.

STEP 5 ISSUED: 9/22

« **LEARN MORE ABOUT STEP AT** »
www.dcfsla.gov/STEP or by calling
1-888-LAHELP-U (1-888-524-3578).



Strategies to Empower People (STEP)

**WE ARE HERE TO
HELP YOU SET AND
REACH YOUR GOALS!**



Who participates in STEP?

All families in the Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program (FITAP) receive cash assistance. Some individuals who receive cash assistance are eligible for work activities and these work-eligible families participate in STEP.

Who is considered work-eligible?

- Adults under age 60 who receive FITAP
- Teen heads of household who receive FITAP

Who is not considered work-eligible?

- Adults and teen heads of household who are permanently disabled
- Adults and teen heads of household who are caring for a family member who is permanently disabled

What is STEP?

Strategies to Empower People (STEP) provides you with opportunities to receive education, job training, employment, and supportive services. You will be partnered with a STEP Coach who will support, guide, and prepare you for work activities using Goal4It!, a goal setting and achievement process. We will tap into what is important to you as we develop plans together that meet your goals and help you become financially independent.



What can you gain from participating in the STEP Program?

Depending on the goals you set, you might:

- Find employment
- Complete a High School Equivalency Test (HiSET)
- Brush up on skills to prepare you for work or education
- Become more stable in other areas of your life
- Get certified for the career you want
- Achieve your goals

What activities can STEP Participants do?

The following activities may count toward program participation requirements.

- Any paid employment.
- Vocational Education and Job Skills Training, which provide specific marketable job skills and credentials.

- Secondary school attendance, High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) preparation, and educational training that prepares you for your next job opportunity. This could include specific training for a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) certification or Phlebotomy certification.
- Job Readiness and Job Search, which provides assistance to help you gain employment.
- Unpaid work experience programs, which provides on-site experience and general job skills development.
- On-the-Job Training (OJT), which provides on-site training for a specific job skill with pay.

What supportive services are available?

As a STEP Program participant, you may access supportive services to help you to participate in various activities as you progress toward financial independence. Services may include:

- ✓ Child Care
- ✓ Transportation
- ✓ Uniforms/Clothing, Safety Equipment, Tools, and some other items needed for work or training
- ✓ Medical exams and drug tests required for employment
- ✓ Eyeglasses
- ✓ Hearing Aids