Work requirement violations are the most common reason for sanctions, often with no investigation or consideration of why the requirement was not met. Families in which an adult has not met a requirement get no TCA benefits at all for up to 30 days after that adult has resumed work without violation. Since the family is left without help resolving the problem that caused the violation, it often repeats, triggering repeated sanctions.

What are the impacts of TCA sanctions?

Work requirement violations are the most common reason for sanctions, often with no investigation or consideration of why the requirement was not met. Families in which an adult has not met a requirement get no TCA benefits at all for up to 30 days after that adult has resumed work without violation. Since the family is left without help resolving the problem that caused the violation, it often repeats, triggering repeated sanctions.

Sanctioned families are more likely to...
- be Black or African-American
- have limited access to transportation
- have limited education
- live in areas of concentrated poverty
- have fewer employment options

Since 1997...
Sanctions have increased by more than 500%
When my TCA was sanctioned, I was living in a homeless shelter where I had to leave each day by 7 a.m. and I could not return until 6 p.m. I had no money to take my kids to school on the bus or pay for food. I had an 11-month-old baby and we could not afford diapers or bottles. This was a very difficult time.

Maryland TCA recipient

What does sanctioning cause?

Simply put, CURRENT SANCTIONING PRACTICES HURT CHILDREN.

HOUSING INSTABILITY

FOOD INSECURITY

HEALTH CHALLENGES

TOXIC STRESS

What are the solutions?

SB 787 / HB 1313

If sanction is warranted, sanction

30% OF THE ADULT PORTION of TCA for noncompliance.

Designate

75% of the TCA grant as a CHILD-ONLY BENEFIT, which belongs to the child(ren) and cannot be sanctioned or reduced.

Illinois, California, Maine, New York and Washington DC have implemented this solution.

 Require a

30-day CONCILIATION PERIOD before issuing a sanction, to understand why an adult did not participate in a program requirement.

Apply established exemptions from sanction if found to be the cause of unmet requirement(s).

What does sanctioning cause?

CURRENT SANCTIONING PRACTICES HURT CHILDREN.

What are the solutions?

Illinois, California, Maine, New York and Washington DC have implemented this solution.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

CHERISHING THE DIVINE WITHIN ALL

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Inspired by the Gospel mandates to love, serve and teach, Catholic Charities provides care and services to improve the lives of Marylanders in need.

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