



FRAMING THE CRITICAL ISSUES: TANF REAUTHORIZATION

*Presentation by Grant Collins, Deputy Director, Office of Family Assistance, ACF, HHS
at the Urban Leadership Forum – Looking Back, Moving Forward
March 2, 2005 * Baltimore, MD*

The Urban Partnerships Initiative is an HHS project designed to improve outcomes for low-income families by facilitating peer exchange between TANF stakeholders in urban centers. The Initiative grew out of a recognition that TANF caseloads were increasingly concentrated in urban areas and an understanding that low-income families in urban areas face specific challenges on their journey to self-sufficiency.

The Urban Leadership Forum was a two-day meeting designed to bring together the leaders of the original partner cities to engage in peer dialogue, exchange lessons learned, and provide feedback to OFA regarding the project and how the initiative can continue to be valuable for future participants. Additionally, the Forum provided OFA an opportunity to share formal remarks on TANF Reauthorization.

Mr. Collins' PowerPoint provides a framework for considering the critical issues associated with TANF Reauthorization. Central to this discussion is the GAO's report on the need for HHS to provide guidance on measuring work participation. Within the context of the PowerPoint, Mr. Collins references extant research and other resources that may be useful to cities. The remainder of this document provides a brief summary and point-and-click access to these resources. Resources are listed in the order in which they appear in the presentation.

Questions about these materials should be directed to Mr. Collins at 202-401-6953 or via Email at grcollins@acf.hhs.gov.

The Achieving Common Goals Conference

The Achieving Common Goals conference illustrated ACF's commitment to encouraging employment and the journey to self-sufficiency, while remaining mindful of the impacts of drug and alcohol addiction on families.

http://peerta.acf.hhs.gov/pdf/common_goals.pdf

UPI and Big Five

Understanding the disproportionate share of TANF families concentrated in urban settings –and the unique challenges facing the urban poor – ACF has invested in the Urban Partnerships Initiative and a subset of that initiative for the largest five cities in the country. The UPI and "Big Five" are focused on several important aspects relative to TANF Reauthorization including full engagement, diversion, employment, EITC, and special populations (e.g. child only cases). Several reports are available:

Improving Performance and Participation in Large Urban Centers (Big Five)

http://peerta.acf.hhs.gov/pdf/big_five_final_report.pdf

Urban Academy Final Report (Dallas)

http://peerta.acf.hhs.gov/policies/pdf/urban_Academy.pdf

Urban Academy Final Report (St. Louis)

<http://peerta.acf.hhs.gov/pdf/Academy3.pdf>

EITC Initiatives

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a powerful support for families on the journey to self-sufficiency. Relevant work on the EITC includes:

Awareness and Use of the EITC Among Current and Former TANF Recipients
http://peerta.acf.hhs.gov/pdf/Maximus_Awareness.pdf

EITC Online Forum
http://peerta.acf.hhs.gov/pdf/eitc_moderated_forum.pdf

Benton Harbor PowerPoint
http://peerta.acf.hhs.gov/ppts/Grants_EITC.ppt

Work Participation Rates Regional Conference

Work participation is a key emphasis of TANF Reauthorization. ACF has supported regional conferences on this topic.

Regions II and III TANF Directors Meeting Philadelphia, Pennsylvania April 26 - 27, 2005
http://peerta.acf.hhs.gov/pdf/Phila_WPR.pdf

Performance Management

Managing performance and reaching desired outcomes is a key component to serving families effectively. Resources on this topic include:

TANF and Work Data (NDNH) Hearing House Ways and Means
<http://waysandmeans.house.gov/hearings.asp?formmode=view&id=3206> (transcript)

PARIS Conference PowerPoint
<http://peerta.acf.hhs.gov/policies/program.htm>

GAO's Report

The GAO cited in the presentation can be accessed here: www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-05-821

Caseload Data

ACF makes available recent TANF caseload information:

Total TANF Families
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov//programs/ofa/caseload/2005/family05tanf.htm2004>

FY04 SSP-MOE
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/caseload/monthly/1204ssp.htm>

FY04 State-by-State Profiles showing Work Participation Rate and No Participation Rates
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov//programs/ofa/annualreport6/chapter14/chap14giflinks.htm>

FY04 Average Monthly Number of Adults with Hours of Participation in Work Activities, Including Waivers
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/particip/indexparticip.htm>

Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood Information

National Healthy Marriage Resource Center
www.healthymarriageinfo.org

ACF's Healthy Marriage Initiative
www.acf.hhs.gov/healthymarriage/

CFDA information on Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood
http://12.46.245.173/pls/portal30/CATALOG.PROGRAM_TEXT_RPT.SHOW?p_arg_names=prog_nbr&p_arg_values=93.086