

Agenda

2014 OFA Training and Technical Assistance Region VIII State Meeting Collaboration and Innovation: Keys to Engaging TANF Customers

Thursday , September 18, 2014

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Registration

8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.

Welcome Remarks

Thomas F. Sullivan, Regional Administrator, Administration for Children and Families

Kisha Russell, TANF Regional Program Manager, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

State of the States Discussion with ACF/OFA Leadership

During this discussion, TANF Directors will have the opportunity to discuss with ACF/OFA leadership on issues of national, regional, and local significance to the TANF program and ACF priorities. Attendees will have an opportunity to provide specific updates on local programs, policy, and practice changes within the TANF program and seek and/or offer guidance and recommendations for improving program outcomes. The following discussion topics will be covered:

- Challenges and successes in developing employment opportunities for TANF recipients;
- Successful performance measures in gauging family self-sufficiency;
- Toxic stress and executive functioning;
- TANF program redesign; and
- Striving to provide comprehensive, integrated services to families.

Facilitator: **Susan Golonka**, Acting Director, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance

Presenter: **Levetta Love**, Director, Office of Economic Security, Colorado Department of Human Services

10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Break

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Improving Program Performance By Strengthening TANF Responsiveness, Part 1

During this session, national TANF and family stability experts will discuss the role of TANF in the overall safety-net and in the lives of low-income families. Presenters will highlight strategies and resources for improving employment outcomes, TANF performance measures, and building pathways to family stability. This session will allow for a facilitated dialogue and also engage states in dialogue on how to strengthen TANF programs and improve overall program performance.

Facilitator: **Geneva Ware-Rice**, Expert Consultant, ICF International

Presenters: **Michelle Derr**, Senior Researcher, Mathematica Policy Research
Liz Schott, Senior Fellow, Center for Budget and Policy Priorities

11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. **Lunch on your own**

12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. **Improving Program Performance by Strengthening TANF Responsiveness, Part 2**

This session will be a more detailed look at program performance, zeroing in on what specific tactics and strategies can be used to improve program performance. Using existing research and tools, this session will describe some promising practices around incorporating evidence-based research and strategies into programs.

Facilitator: Geneva Ware-Rice, Expert Consultant, ICF International

Presenters: Michelle Derr, Senior Researcher, Mathematica Policy Research

Liz Schott, Senior Fellow, Center for Budget and Policy Priorities

1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. **Improving Employment Outcomes: Job Sector Training, Workforce Planning, and Career Pathways Strategies**

Meeting participants will learn of new and different strategies for connecting low-income workers and TANF participants into pathways for employment. Presenters during this session will highlight their strategies that focus on long-term career growth opportunities, growing job sectors, and wraparound case management and supports to provide program participants guided transitions into the workforce.

Facilitator: Kisha Russell, TANF Regional Program Manager, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance

Presenters: Stan Koutstaal, Program Manager, Health Profession Opportunity Grants, Administration for Children and Families

Amanda Abens, Director, Center for Training and Development, Pima Community College

2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. **Break**

3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. **Improving Child and Family Outcomes by Strengthening Kinship Care Support Programs and Home Visiting Programs**

This session will highlight different resources and programs that provide Kinship Care and Home Visiting services to individuals receiving TANF. Participants will learn innovative, practical strategies that programs can use to support families, and improve child outcomes.

Facilitator: Geneva Ware-Rice, Expert Consultant, ICF International

Presenters: Suzy MacKenzie, Director, Family Tree Program

Carla Snodgrass, National Director of Operations, Healthy Families America

4:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Creating Strong Partnerships and Implementing Effective Programming to Promote Housing Stability

Housing stability is essential to the economic and social well-being of families and to their quality of life, but individuals and families participating in the TANF program often face multiple barriers to achieving housing stability. Although the TANF program is not specifically developed to improve housing stability, leveraging TANF funds and partnerships with other public and private programs are useful strategies for strengthening housing stability and economic well-being for TANF participants and other low-income families. During this workshop, attendees will explore the housing challenges facing TANF participants, and will learn strategies for integrating program components designed to decrease homelessness and increase economic stability.

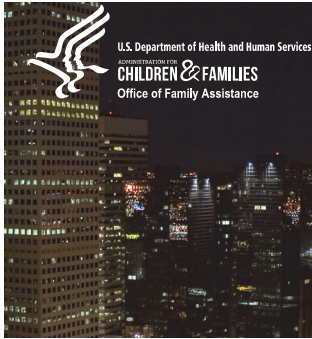
Facilitator: Janelle Jones, TANF Program Specialist, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance

Presenters: Bennie L. Milliner, Executive Director, Denver's Road Home

Nora Gilligan, Special Assistant to the Director, Administration for Children & Families, Office of Family Assistance

5:30 p.m.

Adjourn



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Friday, September 19, 2014

8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.

Day-One Reflections

During this session, attendees will discuss key items from day one and outline specific follow-up topics. This session will highlight day one feedback and lay the foundation for increased sharing and topical targeting.

Kisha Russell, TANF Regional Program Manager, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Spotlight on Refugee Resettlement and How TANF Can Assist in the Process

In States and communities across the country, TANF programs, ORR-funded refugee programs, and community-based refugee service providers are collaborating to most effectively help refugees attain employment and self-sufficiency. During this session, participants will hear from programs working with refugees and will learn practical recommendations on how TANF programs can assist with refugee resettlement.

Facilitator: Louisa Jones, Technical Assistance Specialist, Bridges for Refugees and Asylees, Office of Refugee Resettlement Technical Assistance Initiative and Principal, ICF International

Presenters: Sisifo Taatiti, Utah State TANF Program Manager, Utah Department of Workforce Services

Dee Daniels Scriven, Office of Refugee Resettlement Regional Representative, ACF Region VIII

10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Break

10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Strategies for Assisting Victims/Survivors of Human Trafficking

This session will provide strategies on identifying victims of human trafficking, and how to connect these individuals with the proper services. It will discuss how states should go about creating partnerships and networks with Human Trafficking organizations, to effectively address the unique needs of victims and survivors.

Facilitator: Marjorie Hudspeth, TANF Program Specialist, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance

Presenters: Candace Joice, Education Manager, iEmpathize

Kathryn Kurtz, Deputy District Attorney, Special Victim's Unit, First Judicial District Attorney's Office, Colorado

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch on your own

1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Employment Engagement Strategies in Rural Communities

TANF participants in rural areas have unique needs related to employment barriers. Presenters will discuss key barriers and effective strategies for connecting TANF participants to programs and services in rural areas. Participants will learn practical engagement strategies for engaging and strengthening relationships with employers in rural areas.

Facilitator: Vicky Herring, TANF Program Specialist, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance

Presenters: Corrine Livers, TANF Program Manager, Wyoming Department of Family Services

Beth Ward, Statewide Director of Programs, CLIMB Wyoming

Stephanie Wilkins, TANF Program Manager, Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services

2:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Wrap-Up, Closing Remarks and Technical Assistance Updates

This session will cover Technical Assistance updates on EBT regulations and the ACF-196R.

Presenter: Kisha Russell, TANF Regional Program Manager, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

State One-on-One Time with Regional Staff

4:30 p.m.

Adjourn