



# Agenda

## Building Bridges to Self-Sufficiency: Tools for ACF Regions V and VII TANF Programs

### Day 1: Thursday, September 4, 2014

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

**Registration**

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

**State Leadership Meeting with ACF and OFA Leadership and Regional Office Staff**

This session will be an opportunity for State Commissioners and Secretaries to engage in an interactive dialogue with leadership from Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Family Assistance (OFA), and Regional Offices about national and State issues of significance related to the TANF program and Administration priorities for promoting economic and family stability. Some discussion points include challenges faced by human services agencies and how the federal government can be more helpful; how TANF can be used to support a “two-generation” approach to reducing poverty; challenges/successes in developing employment opportunities for TANF recipients; State successes in providing comprehensive, integrated services to families served by multiple systems; and how the growing knowledge about the role of executive functioning, and of the impact of toxic stress/adverse experiences in childhood can help stakeholders design programs that will achieve better outcomes for families.

**Mark Greenberg**, Acting Assistant Secretary, Administration for Children and Families

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

**Gary Allen**, TANF Regional Program Manager, Administration for Children and Families, Region VII

**Thomas Schindler**, TANF Regional Program Manager, Administration for Children and Families, Region V

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

**Policy Updates from the Office of Family Assistance**

This session will be focused around policy updates around EBT rules and ACF-196R reporting requirements and will allow participants to hear updates from ACF leadership.

**Mark Greenberg**, Acting Assistant Secretary, Administration for Children and Families

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

11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

**Break**

11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

### **Workforce Attachment Strategies: Subsidized and Sectoral Employment**

During this session, participants will learn specific strategies for using subsidized and sectoral employment for improving workforce participation and employment outcomes for TANF participants. Participants will hear from representatives from HPOG (Health Profession Opportunity Grants) Programs, as well as Nebraska's Subsidized Employment Pilot Project and Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island.

**Facilitator:** **Mary Roberto**, Senior Manager, ICF International

**Speakers:** **Betty Toelle**, TANF Program Manager, Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services, Nebraska Subsidized Employment Pilot Project

**Stan Koutstaal, Ph.D.**, Program Manager, Health Profession Opportunity Grants (HPOG) Program

**Kathleen Cloutier**, Executive Director, Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island

12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

### ***Lunch on your own***

1:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

### **The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)**

Passed by Congress with a wide bipartisan majority and signed into law by President Obama on July 22, 2014, WIOA is the first legislative reform of the public workforce system in more than 15 years. WIOA is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy. The effects on and benefits for TANF programs and their clients will be significant, including the addition of TANF as a mandatory partner in the American Job Center (AJC) system. This interactive session will feature information sharing on WIOA, a question and answer segment and an exploration of ways that ACF and Department of Labor (DOL) Regional Offices can work most effectively with states as regulations are developed and WIOA is implemented.

**Facilitator:** **Thomas Schindler**, TANF Regional Program Manager, Administration for Children and Families, Region V

**Speaker:** **Representative**, DOL-ETA Chicago Regional Office

3:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

### ***Break***

3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

### **Understanding the Importance of Executive Functioning and Soft Skills to Economic Success**

There is emerging understanding of the impact that poverty and interrelated stress have on decision-making, interpersonal relationships, and economic and financial independence. Various stresses have a tremendous impact on the cognitive development of individuals living in poverty and this situational stress causes a reduction in executive functioning and soft skill capacity. Many clients served by TANF programs have issues with goal setting, goal attainment, problem solving, and other key skills that are vital to navigating their way to economic independence. This session explores the importance of focusing on issues related to executive functioning and soft skills and provides practical resources for TANF programs to integrate assessment and service components that improve client outcomes. During this session, attendees will engage in peer strategic thinking and planning activities targeted to improving program responses to executive function and soft skill needs of clients.

**Facilitator:** **Damon Waters**, Program Specialist, Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families

**Speaker:** **LaDonna Pavetti, Ph.D.**, Vice President, Family Income Support, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

4:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

### **Day One Closing**

**Thomas Schindler**, TANF Regional Program Manager, Administration for Children and Families, Region V



## Building Bridges to Self-Sufficiency: Tools for ACF Regions V and VII TANF Programs

### Day 2: Friday, September 5, 2014

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

#### Homelessness Discussion

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 interactive session, 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. Participants will work through various case studies to understand and improve strategies for serving families at-risk for or experiencing homelessness.

**Facilitator:** **Gary Allen**, TANF Regional Program Manager, Administration for Children and Families, Region VII

**Speakers:** **Beverley Ebersold**, Regional Coordinator, United States Interagency Council on Homelessness

**Catherine Peterson**, Senior Management Analyst, HUD

**Deborah Schlick**, Project Manager, Office of Innovation, Economic Assistance and Employment Supports, Minnesota Department of Human Services

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

#### Break

10:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

#### State Dialogue and Topical Discussion

During this interactive session States will be given an opportunity to discuss pre-identified topics or ask questions and to share information and to engage with one another around these focused topics.

**Facilitators:** **Gary Allen**, TANF Regional Program Manager, Administration for Children and Families, Region VII

**Thomas Schindler**, TANF Regional Program Manager, Administration for Children and Families, Region V

12:00 p.m.

#### Day Two Closing and Meeting Adjournment

**Gary Allen**, TANF Regional Program Manager, Administration for Children and Families, Region VII