



## Agenda

### August 9, 2022: Day One

#### 10:00 a.m. – 10:40 a.m. Welcome, Introductions, and Energizer Activity

The Regional Program Managers and new OFA Director Ann Flagg will welcome attendees and provide an opening address for the meeting. Attendees will participate in an ice breaker activity via the chat box. Following the icebreaker activity, attendees will hear about updates in TANF, especially related to race, equity, and inclusion, and re-authorization. Finally, Dr. Nicole Bossard of ICF will guide attendees through an energizer activity. A video on teamwork will highlight unexpected leaders in teamwork.

*Speakers:*

- **Shantel Mickens**, Regions I & II TANF Program Manager, Office of Family Assistance
- **Eileen Friedman**, Region III TANF Program Manager, Office of Family Assistance
- **LaMonica Shelton**, Region IV TANF Program Manager, Office of Family Assistance
- **Ann Flagg**, Director, Office of Family Assistance

*Introductions and Icebreaker Facilitator:*

- **Dr. Nicole Bossard**, Research Consultant, ICF

#### 10:40 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.

#### **Day One Feature: Overview and Updates on TANF Fundamentals**

Participants will be guided in this session through a presentation developed by the Office of Family Assistance that provides a foundational understanding of TANF programming. This includes topics such as an organizational overview of the Administration for Children and Families, TANF historical background, context and purposes, TANF key requirements, and resources and TANF partners that programs can glean support from. Participants will have time to engage in questions and answers at the end of the presentation.

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*Speakers:*

- **Sharon Rencsko**, Region I TANF Program Specialist, Office of Family Assistance
- **Sanje Dawdanow**, Region III TANF Program Specialist, Office of Family Assistance

**11:40 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. Camera Rolling: OFA Talk/Program Highlight Video and Break**

The break will include a pre-recorded video on the Arkansas Career Pathways Initiative. This Initiative is important to highlight as an example of a state strategy in connecting TANF and TANF-eligible populations to career pathways.

**11:50 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. Topic Session #1: Strategies for Connecting Individuals who Utilize TANF Programs with Living Wage Jobs**

The landscape of work and economic stability is rapidly changing. In the last two years alone, these changes have left economists, policymakers, and TANF providers grappling to find answers to several questions. What jobs are available, and to whom? How do we create a stable pipeline for TANF participants to working in an emerging high-quality job? What are those high-quality jobs? How has buying power diminished over time, and what can TANF programs do to help mitigate those impacts on families?

During this session, speakers will discuss the challenge of promoting long-term economic stability among clients with limited skills facing economic pressure to accept low-wage work. Speakers will highlight tangible strategies TANF programs can take to prepare workers for high-quality jobs. There will be time for peer reflections and questions and answers.

*Facilitator:*

- **Brent Orrell**, Senior Fellow, American Enterprise Institute

*State Speakers:*

- **Megan Nicholls**, Associate Commissioner of Family and Economic Assistance, Department of Transitional Assistance, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- **Erin Quinn**, Associate Commissioner of Employment and Training Programs, Department of Transitional Assistance, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- **Mark Golden**, Manager, Economic Assistance and Employment, Virginia Department of Social Services

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1:15 p.m. – 1:25 p.m. **Day One Wrap-up and Debrief**

During this Day One closing session, participants will preview the agenda for the next day and engage in a closing activity that will include the use of Mentimeter. The activity will invite participants to reflect on the content from the day and note a fact they took away, list an action they may take because of new discoveries, and suggest content they would like to see in future meetings.

*Facilitator:*

- **Steve McLaine**, Vice President, BLH Technologies, Inc.

*Mentimeter Operator:*

- **Hannah Reutter**, Research Data Analyst, ICF

## August 10, 2022: Day Two

10:00 a.m. – 10:10 a.m. **Welcome and Day Two Overview**

Jacqueline Jackson, Region IV TANF Program Specialist, Office of Family Assistance, will recap the first day and provide an overview of the agenda for the second day.

*Speaker:*

- **Jacqueline Jackson**, Region IV TANF Program Specialist, Office of Family Assistance

10:10 a.m. – 11:25 a.m. **Topic Session #2: TANF from Silos to Solidarity: Strategies and Partnerships TANF Agencies Can Use to Prevent and Respond to People Dealing with Homelessness**

TANF agencies are well-positioned to prevent and address homelessness and housing instability among families experiencing periods of economic or social disruption. Partnerships with local housing organizations, such as Continuums of Care, Local Housing Authorities, and state-administered housing departments, can augment TANF-provided services. Shared goals alone may not be enough to bridge policy and service delivery challenges. Tailoring administrative models to local needs, coordinating across employment and assistance services, and maximizing funding options can help bridge this gap.

During this session, speakers will explore three approaches TANF agencies can take to proactively support families facing homelessness and housing instability. This includes: 1) using TANF funds to directly provide temporary rental assistance, 2) building partnerships with local housing authorities, and 3) providing case management and funding services related

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to housing stability. Additional time has been provided for participant questions and answers.

*Facilitator:*

- **David Kassabian**, Region I TANF Program Specialist, Office of Family Assistance

*Subject Matter Expert:*

- **Lauren Dunton**, Senior Associate/Scientist, Social & Economic Policy, Abt Associates

*State/Localities Speakers:*

- **Marygrace Billek**, Director, Mercer County Human Services, New Jersey
- **Christina Harcar**, Administrative Supervisor of Social Work, Mercer County Board of Social Services, New Jersey
- **Noah Abraham**, Deputy Administrator, Families Division, DC Department of Human Services
- **Brian Campbell**, Senior Policy Advisor, DC Department of Human Services

### 11:25 a.m. – 11:35 a.m. **Camera Rolling: OFA Talk/Program Highlight Video and Break**

This will highlight a video on leadership and advancing race equity to tie into two topics covered during this meeting.

### 11:35 a.m. – 12:50 p.m. **Topic Session #3: Internal Controls and Monitoring**

Speakers will highlight common audit findings related to internal controls and monitoring, steps states take or have taken to strengthen their controls, and oversight and monitoring tips. There will be time for peer reflections and questions and answers.

*Speakers:*

- **Benita Turner**, Supervisory Auditor/Office of Inspector General Liaison, Office of Inspector General, Administration for Children and Families
- **Paul Humpfer**, Branch Management Specialist, Administration for Children and Families
- **Kristanya Knutsen**, Audit Resolution Manager/Office of Grants Management/Audit Resolution, Administration for Children and Families
- **Bedros Leon Boodanian**, Chief Accountability Officer, New York City Department of Social Services

*Facilitator:*

- **LaMonica Shelton**, Region IV TANF Program Manager, Office of Family Assistance

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**12:50 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Day Two Wrap-Up and Debrief**

To close Day Two, participants will preview the agenda for the following day and engage in a closing activity that will include the use of Mentimeter. The activity will reflect on the content from the day, and participants will note a fact they took away, a question they may still have, or an action they may take because of new discoveries.

*Facilitator:*

- **Steve McLaine**, Vice President, BLH Technologies, Inc.

*Mentimeter Operator:*

- **Hannah Reutter**, Research Data Analyst, ICF

## August 11, 2022: Day Three

**10:00 a.m. – 10:10 a.m. Welcome and Day Three Overview**

During this opening session, Shantel Mickens, Regions I & II TANF Program Manager, Office of Family Assistance, will recap the second day of the meeting and share an overview of the agenda for the third day.

*Speaker:*

- **Shantel Mickens**, Regions I & II TANF Program Manager, Office of Family Assistance

**10:10 a.m. – 11:40 a.m. Topic Session #4: Tangible Strategies and Data TANF Staff Can Use to Advance Race Equity in their Program/State**

*“Racial inequity is a problem of bad policy, not bad people.” – Ibram X. Kendi*

Historically, race and economic equity have been – and continue to be – inexorably linked. Research shows Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) are at greatest risk of facing obstacles to economic stability (e.g., poor health outcomes; workplace discrimination in hiring, pay, and promotions; housing instability; punitive laws; and policing, etc.).

The impacts of these obstacles are reflected in the disproportionate concentration of BIPOC people experiencing economic instability, and subsequently, relying on social supports like TANF to secure basic needs like shelter and childcare. Fortunately, this means as a touchpoint for BIPOC families impacted by racism, TANF programs have significant potential to advance race equity. Unfortunately, history demonstrates that TANF and other social safety net programs can also actively reinforce racial inequities.

This session will: 1) highlight policies and practices that TANF agencies can adopt to advance race equity and 2) examine policies that

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disproportionally and negatively impact BIPOC families. To do this, speakers will frame the foundations of equity as they relate to TANF (e.g., defining equity, discussing the cycle of dehumanization, walking through a visual map of disparities in benefits across states, etc.), unpack the impacts of various policies on BIPOC families, and provide tips and tools attendees at all program levels and political contexts can use to promote equity-centered TANF programs. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage in a Q&A session with panelists, followed by facilitated peer reflections using a word cloud on whiteboard/Mentimeter.

*Video:*

- **Dr. Nicole Bossard**, Research Consultant, ICF
- **Dr. Karla McCullough**, Founding Principal and Consultant, Tri-K Group
- **Dr. Rodney Washington**, Owner, Consulting Plus

*Speakers:*

- **Shantel Mickens**, Regions I & II TANF Program Manager, Office of Family Assistance
- **Tikki Brown**, Director, Economic Opportunity and Nutrition Assistance, Minnesota Department of Human Services

### 11:40 a.m. –11:50 a.m. **Camera Rolling: OFA Talk/Program Highlight Video and Break**

The break will highlight Amanda Renteria of Code for America's 2022 TED Talk discussing the importance of developing human-centered technology solutions for low-income families.

### 11:50 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. **Inspirational Speaker**

During this session, Dr. Terri Horton, Founder of FuturePath, LLC, author, and international and TEDx speaker will deliver insights, guidance, and actionable strategies for thriving in the unfolding of the future of work. Dr. Horton is a widely recognized thought leader on the future of work, an international speaker, and a subject matter expert with two global research consultancies.

*Facilitator:*

- **Eileen Friedman**, Region III TANF Program Manager, Office of Family Assistance

*Speaker:*

- **Terri Horton (EdD)**, Founder, FuturePath, LLC

### 12:30 p.m. – 12:40 p.m. **Meeting Closing and Adjourn**

During this final closing session, Regional Program Managers/OFA will reflect on ideas and reflections shared over the course of the three-day meetings. In a final Mentimeter activity, participants will be asked to share

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their own reflections, insights, and potential actions they may take based on what they learned.

*Speakers:*

- **Shantel Mickens**, Regions I & II TANF Program Manager, Office of Family Assistance
- **Eileen Friedman**, Region III TANF Program Manager, Office of Family Assistance
- **LaMonica Shelton**, Region IV TANF Program Manager, Office of Family Assistance

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