



TANF at 15: Where Do We Go From Here? 2011 Tri-Regional TANF Directors' Meeting

Tuesday, November 1, 2011

Registration and Networking

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Welcoming Remarks

9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

Carol Monteiro, TANF Regional Program Manager
Office of Family Assistance, Region I
Administration for Children and Families

Mary Ann Higgins, Regional Administrator
Administration for Children and Families, Region I

Sandra M. Powell, Director
Department of Human Services

Open Forum: TANF National Perspectives and Priorities

9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Since 1996 the Temporary Assistance for Needy families (TANF) program has been the primary short-term cash assistance and employment program for low-income individuals. The Congress has extended the TANF program through December 31, 2011 at the current funding levels and with the current program requirements. This forum will include a discussion on flexibility, differential metrics, and technical assistance ideas for making the TANF program more responsive to its clientele. Discussion items will also include how states can increase engagement of TANF participants in work or work activities during these hard economic times and policy implications for state engagement (812 data).

Moderator: Damon Waters, Technical Specialist
ICF International

Mark H. Greenberg, J.D., Deputy Assistant
Secretary for Policy
Administration for Children and Families

Earl S. Johnson, PhD, Director
Office of Family Assistance
Administration for Children and Families

Lynn Wilder, Administrator
Division of Family Assistance
New Hampshire Department of Health and
Human Services

Barbara Guinn, Director
New York Office of Temporary and
Disability Assistance
Center for Employment and Economic Supports

Rosemary Malone, Executive Director
Family Investment Administration
Maryland Department of Human Resources

Break

10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

TANF/SSI Disability Transition Project

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

The TANF caseload includes low-income individuals with physical, mental, and emotions barriers to immediate employment. Sometimes these barriers prevent an individual from achieving higher levels of economic self-sufficiency, while at times limiting TANF programs from meeting Federal performance requirements. During this moderated discussion attendees will learn more about the process of applying for SSI benefits and the elements necessary to process an application. Attendees will also receive an overview of the TANF/SSI Disability Transition Project, an ongoing research effort that looks at the overlap between the two programs and is piloting ways to improve their interaction.

David Butler, Principal Investigator
TANF/SSI Disability Transition Project/MDRC

Matthew Borus, Presidential Management Fellow
Family Self-Sufficiency Research Dissemination
Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE)
Administration for Children and Families

Stephen Richardson, Deputy Regional Communications Director
Social Security Administration, Boston Region

Lunch on Your Own

12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.



TANF at 15: Where Do We Go From Here? 2011 Tri-Regional TANF Directors' Meeting

1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

While the Great Recession has caused serious challenges across the socioeconomic spectrum, low-income and working families have borne a disproportionate share of the burden. And, whether it's through rising unemployment or continued skill gaps, the US economy continues to face significant challenges. During this plenary attendees will get a macro-level review of the economy, the labor force, and the impact of the economic recession and jobless recovery on low-income and low-skilled workers. The session will provide a clearer perspective about the pace of the economic recovery, and outline key indicators of recovery important to low-income families.

Moderator: Damon Waters, Technical Specialist
ICF International

Pamela J. Loprest, PhD, Director
Income and Benefits Policy Center
The Urban Institute

Break

3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

The Online Work Readiness Assessment (OWRA) - Lessons from the Field

3:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

As TANF programs continue to strive to improve the work readiness and employment of low-income and working individuals with limited resources, integrated, automated, and virtual client services become increasingly important. By enhancing and streamlining client assessment and service coordination, the Online Work Readiness Assessment (OWRA) uses integrated technologies to improve the ability of TANF and social service programs to assess and triage clients into applicable work readiness services and employment placements. During this presentation and demonstration attendees will hear about the OWRA tool, be introduced to its four modules, and hear about outcomes from the three year pilot and implementation.

Moderator: Louisa Jones, Senior Project Manager
ICF International

Christina Techico, Senior Manager
ICF International

Daylan Beamon, Technical Specialist
ICF International

Wrap-up and Day One Discussion

5:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.



TANF at 15: Where Do We Go From Here? 2011 Tri-Regional TANF Directors' Meeting

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Networking

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

A Safety Net Built Around Work When There Is No Work

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

During these tough economic times where it is estimated that there are at least four jobs for each applicant, the TANF program's work first approach may need to be revisited so that low-income individuals are not left unemployed. During this plenary, attendees will hear from nationally-renowned welfare expert David Butler on the status of the US safety net and discuss strategies for reducing the most significant barriers to employing TANF participants.

Moderator: Damon Waters, Technical Specialist
ICF International

David Butler, Vice President and Director- Health and Barriers to Employment Policy Area
MDRC

Break

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Managing by Data—Strategies and Successes

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

State and local policy decisions and program management are influenced by and greatly affect caseload levels and dynamics. Managing caseload requirements and TANF data is an important component of effective engagement and improved outcomes. During this facilitated discussion, attendees will be provided a set of recommended strategies for collecting and analyzing client data and strategies for improving program outcomes by more effectively managing caseload information and data.

Moderator: Damon Waters, Technical Specialist
ICF International

John Maloney, Regional Program Manager
Region IV West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources

John Gahr, Program Manager
Technology/Systems Integration Deloitte Consulting LLP

Learning Lunch: Asset-based Approaches for Providing Services to Survivors of Domestic Violence

12:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Research has shown a strong correlation between domestic violence and extensive economic strain. TANF programs serve as a vital resource for many low-income women trying to escape violent situations and achieve greater levels of economic self-sufficiency. Attendees will hear presentations on asset-based approaches to overcoming domestic violence and engage with the speakers and peers on strategies for improving partnerships and service coordination between domestic violence programs and TANF.

Moderator: Louisa Jones, Senior Project Manager
ICF International

Kim Pentico, Economic Justice Specialist
Allstate Foundation Economic Empowerment for Domestic Violence Survivors Program

Plenary: Putting Families First—A Model for Sustainable Self-Sufficiency: The District of Columbia's Department of Human Services TANF Redesign Initiative

1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Recognizing that self-sufficiency is a continuum, Washington, DC is investing in a new TANF program delivery model designed to deliver a suite of services built around the unique needs of an individual family and each client. During this plenary, Washington, DC's Administrator will discuss the TANF program redesign taking place in the District and engage attendees in a discussion on achieving TANF program requirements and meeting the long-term needs of TANF families.

Moderator: Louisa Jones, Senior Project Manager
ICF International

Deborah Carroll, Administrator
District of Columbia Department of Human Services

Break

3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.



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3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

The US safety net is made up of various partners and programs and during these tough economic times at the Federal, State, and local levels, partnership and program integration has taken on a new meaning and greater significance. During this facilitated discussion, attendees will explore strategies for improving partnerships among various safety net programs and will interact with their peers and Federal representatives on the specific challenges of partnership and the strategies to reduce barriers.

Moderator: Louisa Jones, Senior Project Manager
ICF International

Tim Martin, Director
Office of State Systems
Employment and Training Administration, Region I
US Department of Labor

Bonnie Brathwaite, Director
Food and Nutrition Service
Northeast Regional Office
US Department of Agriculture

Bob Cavanaugh, Child Welfare Program Manager
Administration for Children and Families

Wrap-up and Day Two Discussion

4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Networking

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Fiscal Management

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

During this session attendees will gain a better understanding of the single state audit and related financial issues affecting the TANF program. Additionally, attendees will engage presenters and peers on issues relating to common audit findings, audit compliance supplement, and topics relating to the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Patty Fisher, Grants Officer
Administration for Children and Families, Region III

Break

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Plenary: TANF at 15 —Thinking Outside of the Box

10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

In this weakened economy TANF require vision, risk taking, strategic solutions and innovation to address the needs of the clients who look to TANF for support. During this *TANF at 15* plenary attendees will engage in a discussion on innovation in the era of “doing more with less.”

Moderator: Damon Waters, Technical Specialist
ICF International

Roberta Rehner Iversen, MSS, PhD, Director
Master of Science in Social Policy Program
University of Pennsylvania
Author, *Jobs Aren't Enough*

Wrap-up and Adjourn

11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Carol Monteiro, TANF Regional Program Manager
Office of Family Assistance, Region I
Administration for Children and Families