



# 2010 East Coast TANF Directors' Meeting

October 19-21, 2010  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

## AGENDA

### Monday, October 18, 2010

5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.     **Registration**

### Tuesday, October 19, 2010

7:00 A.M. to 9:00 A.M.     **Registration and Networking**

9:00 A.M. to 9:15 A.M.     **Welcome**

*Kent J. Peterson*, Facilitator  
ICF International

*Eileen Friedman*, TANF Program Manager  
US Department of Health and Human Services  
Administration for Children and Families- Region III

*David Lett*, Regional Administrator  
US Department of Health and Human Services  
Administration for Children and Families- Region III

9:15 A.M. to 10:00 A.M.     **National Perspective**

*Earl S. Johnson, PhD*, Director  
United States Department of Health and Human Services  
Administration for Children and Families  
Office of Family Assistance

10:00 A.M. to 10:15 A.M.     **Break**

10:15 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.     **State Directors Information Sharing**

During these facilitated, solutions-focused roundtable updates, Regions I, II, III, and IV State TANF Directors will provide programmatic and policy updates as they relate to their TANF programs, their clients, and the families they serve. With an emphasis on innovative responses to the economy and strategies that can be replicated in sister states, attendees will interact with their peers and Federal representatives and seek to not only inform, but also learn.

*Kent J. Peterson*, Facilitator  
ICF International

12:30 P.M. to 1:45 P.M.     **Networking Lunch**

1:45 P.M. to 3:30 P.M.     **Continuation of State Information Sharing**

3:30 P.M. to 3:45 P.M.     **Break**

3:45 P.M. to 4:45 P.M.     **Continuation of State Information Sharing**

4:45 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.     **Day One Wrap Up and State Reflections**

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5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.     **Networking Reception**



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**Wednesday, October 20, 2010**

8:00 A.M. to 9:00 A.M.

## **Networking**

9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.

## **Developing and Sustaining Subsidized Employment Programs for TANF Participants**

Representatives will discuss the strategies used to begin or significantly ramp-up subsidized employment programs to create new job opportunities as a result of the enhanced federal TANF funds made available through the Emergency Contingency Fund. A range of participant outreach and employer engagement strategies will be discussed. Program administrators will highlight successful strategies as well as pitfalls to avoid. Conference participants will also discuss funding options to continue subsidized employment programs absent additional TECF.

Moderator:

*Russell Sykes*, Deputy Commissioner  
New York Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

Panelists:

*Cheryl Sparkman*, TANF Director  
Mississippi Department of Human Services  
Division of Economic Assistance

*Donalda Carlson*, Associate Director  
Rhode Island Department of Human Services  
Division of Economic Support

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

*Jeffrey Gabriel*, Federal Project Officer  
US Department of Labor  
Employment and Training Administration- Region II

*Wanda Franklin*, Families First Director  
Tennessee Office of Family Assistance

*Melissa Young*, Associate Director  
National Transitional Jobs Network

11:00 A.M. to 11:15 A.M.

## **Break**

11:15 A.M. to 12:45 P.M.

## **Strengthening Safety-Net Partnerships and Frontline Perspectives**

During these tough economic times families rely more and more on the social safety-net and the combined services meant to improve economic self-sufficiency. Building and maintaining strong partnerships among the various programs is essential to improving the available services for families and during this session representatives will discuss the importance of partnership and outline strategies for improving partnership. Panelists will provide real-world examples and research-based recommendations for streamlining processes and reducing duplication. Conference participants will be able to engage the panelists and peers on applicable topics and activities.

Moderator:

*Susan Curnan*, Director  
Center for Youth and Communities  
Brandeis University



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## Panelists:

*Bill Jenkins*, Coordinator  
US Department of Agriculture  
Food and Nutrition Services  
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)  
Pittsburgh Field Office

*Dave Gagliardi*, Coordinator  
US Department of Agriculture  
Food and Nutrition Services  
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)  
Mid-Atlantic Regional Office

*Leo Miller*, Grants Officer  
US Department of Labor  
Employment and Training Administration

*Matthew S. Rager*, Program Manager  
Youth Employment Services (YES) Program  
Indianapolis Private Industry Council (IPIC)

*Stanley Koutstaal*, Ph.D., Program Manager  
Health Profession Opportunity Grants Program  
US Department of Health and Human Services  
Administration for Children and Families  
Office of Family Assistance

*Monica A. Hawkins*, Division Director  
Office of Public Housing  
US Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Philadelphia Regional Office

12:45 P.M. to 1:45 P.M.

## **Networking Lunch**

1:45 P.M. to 3:15 P.M.

## **TANF and Domestic Violence: Building Opportunities for Victim Safety and Economic Stability**

Domestic violence and poverty are intersecting issues in the lives of too many families. Violence can make the climb out of poverty unattainable and poverty often makes it more difficult to escape violence or deal with its effects. For victims to be safe, they need to be free from their partner's violence and control and be able to meet their family's basic human needs. TANF can play an important role as an economic bridge to greater safety. Conference participants will engage in peer to peer questions and answers in an effort to improve strategies for assessing and serving victims of domestic violence.

## Moderator:

*Anne Menard*, Director  
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence

## Panelists:

*Janet Fender*, Director  
Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance  
Domestic Violence Unit

*Carolyn Stevens*, Welfare Specialist  
Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence

*Stephanie Brown*, Assistant Commissioner for Policy and Programming  
Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance



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*Terrie Reid*, Interim TANF Director/Deputy Commissioner for Family Resources  
Alabama Department of Human Resources  
Family Assistance Division

3:15 P.M. to 3:30 P.M.

## **Break**

3:30 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

## **ASSET Initiative: Improving Economic Independence**

This afternoon session will focus on the Administration for Children and Families' ASSET Initiative, which is bringing financial literacy education, matched savings projects, access to federal tax credits, and other asset-building strategies to more families throughout the nation. The asset building approach is enabling families with low incomes to move from paycheck to paycheck and toward financial stability and security. The panel will feature Christa McMichael, former TANF participant from Kentucky, who used a variety of financial asset building tools to become self-sufficient. Other presenters will provide an overall asset building framework and perspectives on working with TANF agencies.

Moderator:

*James Gatz*, Manager  
Assets for Independence Program  
US Department of Health and Human Services  
Administration for Children and Families  
Office of Community Services

Panelists:

*Denise Devaan*, Senior Consultant  
AFI Resource Center

*Mary O'Doherty*, Project Director  
Economic Empowerment Program  
Kentucky Domestic Violence Association

*Christa McMichael*, Former TANF Participant  
Owensboro, Kentucky

5:00 P.M. to 5:15 P.M.

## **Day Two Wrap Up and State Reflections**

*Kent J. Peterson*, Facilitator  
ICF International

**Thursday, October 21, 2010**

8:00 A.M. to 9:00 A.M.

## **Networking**

9:00 A.M. to 10:45 A.M.

## **Selected Topics Forum**

*Kent J. Peterson*, Moderator  
ICF International

### CMS - Express Lane Eligibility

The use of automated enrollment strategies has gained more attention with the increased focus on service integration among safety-net programs. Many states are taking steps to integrate automated enrollment systems in SCHIP, TANF, SNAP, and other service areas and they are finding that these systems assist in achieving program objectives essential to client success. This presentation focuses on the use of Express Lane Eligibility and automated enrollment strategies to improve intake services for social service clients. Key discussion items include increased participation of eligible individuals, improved efficiency, and reduced errors.



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*Stacy McQuillin*, Director of Operations  
Louisiana Children's Health Insurance Program (LaCHIP)

*Rosemary Feild*, SCHIP Coordinator  
US Department of Health and Human Services  
Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services

## Employer Resource Networks (ERNs)

This presentation focuses on Employer Resource Networks (ERNs), an innovative, employer-based model that pulls together a consortium of small-to mid-size businesses to provide job retention services, works supports, and training opportunities for entry-level employees, many of whom are receiving public assistance. ERNs also include strong partnerships with other service delivery systems and organizations such as social service agencies, workforce development agencies, chambers of commerce, and community and technical colleges. Examining the key features of the ERN model may encourage TANF administrators to develop new services or enhance existing ones within their communities.

*Michelle Derr*, PhD, Researcher  
Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.

10:45 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.

**Break**

11:00 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.

**Meeting the Needs of Diverse TANF Participants**

The TANF program provides states with tremendous flexibility to assist low-income individuals and families obtain and maintain employment and improve economic self-sufficiency. This presentation outlines strategies for meeting the needs of legal immigrants and refugee families and highlights frontline experiences working with diverse immigrant groups. Also, attendees will hear from the Office of Refugee Resettlement and gain a better understanding of ways to improve interoperability between TANF programs and programs that serve immigrant groups.

*Kenneth Tota*, Deputy Director  
US Department of Health and Human Services  
Administration for Children and Families  
Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR)

11:30 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

**A New Vision for a New Decade: Meeting the Needs of Low-Income Families and TANF Participants after ARRA and Beyond**

*Elizabeth Lower-Basch*, Senior Policy Analyst  
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), Inc.

12:00 P.M.

**Adjourn**

