



Administration for Children and Families
Office of Family Assistance
Regions VI and VIII

Agenda

Improving Families' Well-Being During Challenging Times

2011 Bi-Regional State TANF and
Tribal TANF Directors' Conference

MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2011

- 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Registration
- 1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Welcoming Remarks and Overview
Felicia Gaither, PhD, TANF Program Manager
Administration for Children and Families- Region VIII
Larry Brendel, TANF Program Manager
Administration for Children and Families- Region VI
- 1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. **The Rocky Road Back: Prospects for Low-income Clients to Become Self-Sufficient (Impact on Clients of the Recent Recession)**
The recent recession has increased poverty, unemployment, and underemployment for low-income families and challenged states and localities to develop strategies to create jobs and improve the economic security for low-income families. During this presentation, participants will gain a better understanding of the key impacts of the recent recession on low-income families, as well as a more clear perspective about the pace of the economic recovery, and be able to determine indicators of recovery important for local families.
Moderator: Larry Brendel, TANF Program Manager
Administration for Children and Families- Region VI
Presenter: Richard Froeschle, Director of Labor Market and
Career Information, Texas Workforce Commission
- 2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Break
- 3:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. **State Policy Responses to the Recent Recession and their Impacts on Low-Income Families**
Meeting the needs of low-income families during the recent recession led to ingenuity at the state level. During this session we will talk about how states responded to high unemployment and increased poverty by allowing caseloads to rise and by providing TANF-funded subsidized employment. We also will examine opportunities to improve employment and self-sufficiency outcomes for low-income families. During the second part of this session, Ms. Schott will facilitate a discussion to seek ideas for making the TANF program more responsive to its clientele, particularly during economic hard times, and how states can increase engagement of TANF participants in work or in work-preparation activities.
Moderator: Damon Waters, Technical Specialist
ICF International
Presenter: Liz Schott, Senior Fellow
Welfare Reform and Income Support Division
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
- 4:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Wrap-up
Moderator: Damon Waters, Technical Specialist
ICF International



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TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2011

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

Registration and Networking

8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and its Impact on Low-Income Families and Workers

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPAC) was signed into law to improve access and affordability of health insurance for more than 32 million Americans. Once fully implemented, the bill is expected to cover nearly every American and increase the ability of low-income families to access Medicaid, CHIP, and new health insurance exchanges. Additionally, the PPAC provides additional funding for healthcare workforce development targeted to low-income individuals and unemployed workers. During this roundtable discussion, participants will get an update on the PPAC and gain a clearer understanding of its provisions relating to low-income families and workers.

Moderator: Felicia Gaither, PhD, TANF Program Manager
Administration for Children and Families- Region VIII

Discussant: Richard C. Allen, Associate Regional Director
Denver Division of Medicaid and Children's Health
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)- Region VIII

9:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Break

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Improving Economic Self-Sufficiency through Increased Program Efficiencies and Streamlined Services in the face of budgetary constraints and other challenges being faced by State TANF programs

States and localities are looking to improve the economic self-sufficiency outcomes of TANF families by providing increased employment opportunities and supports by designing and implementing streamlined services. By targeting services to the needs of clients these initiatives effectively reduce costs, encourage integration, and improve outcomes for programs and families. Highlighting the Work Support Strategies Initiative, this session will outline a set of promising practices integrated at the local level to enhance and streamline services. During this session, participants will have the opportunity to interact with State-level program discussants and national experts about key strategies for streamlining service delivery and more strategically meeting the various needs of TANF families. Participants will engage in discussions about how to improve program responsiveness to the needs of clients with limited resources and have an opportunity to hear about innovative strategies adopted by TANF programs from across the country and will learn how to apply this information to their own programs.

Moderator: Liz Schott, Senior Fellow
Welfare Reform and Income Support Division
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

Discussants: Arturo Serrano, Economic Assistance Manager
Work Support Strategies Initiative, El Paso County Colorado
Helen Thatcher, Program Manager
Utah Department of Workforce Services
Vida Tapia-Sanchez, Chief, Policy Bureau – Income Support Division
New Mexico Human Services Department



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- 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch on your own
- 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. **Enhancing Career Pathways through Community College Connections and the Affordable Care Act (ACA)/Health Professions Opportunities Grants Program**
During this forum participants will engage presenters and peers in discussions around innovative approaches to improving access to education and training opportunities and will learn strategies for improving partnerships with community colleges, while understanding methods for placing TANF participants in education and training activities. Additionally, during this session participants will receive an update on the Health Professions Opportunity Grants Initiative, healthcare career pathways, and learn strategies for integrating career pathway development into TANF programs with a specific emphasis on the healthcare workforce.
- Moderator: Damon Waters, Technical Specialist
ICF International
- Discussants: Gilda Kennedy, Program Coordinator II
South Carolina Department of Social Services/Project Healthcare
Occupations Preparation for Employment (HOPE)
Lauren Eyster, Research Associate
The Urban Institute
Shauna King-Simms, Director of Transitions Programs
Kentucky Community and Technical College System
- 2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. Break
- 2:45 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. **TANF Reauthorization/Flexibility Discussion (Part II)**
This facilitated discussion is designed to gather input from States on program priorities and challenges, culminating in ideas administrators would like to see as part of a TANF reauthorization effort.
- Moderator: Felicia Gaither, PhD, TANF Program Manager
Administration for Children and Families- Region VIII
- Discussants: Mark Greenberg, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy
Administration for Children and Families
Earl S. Johnson, PhD, Director
Office of Family Assistance
Administration for Children and Families



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4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

Concurrent Regional Meetings

Region VI	Region VIII
<p>The ASSET Initiative: Status of Asset-building Strategies in Region VI States</p> <p>The ASSET Initiative is a collaborative effort that brings together the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) offices and their partner agencies and organizations to extend the benefits of Individual Development Accounts (IDAs), financial education, and related services to improve the economic status of working individuals and families. During this session, our Regional Consultant for the AFI project will provide an overview of the initiative and share asset-building strategies being employed by Regions around the country. Region VI TANF Directors will have the opportunity to share their states' innovative strategies and engage in an interactive discussion regarding next steps that are available to provide for even more robust asset-building practices within our respective communities.</p> <p>Presenter: Angela Duran, Regional Consultant Assets for Independence (AFI)</p>	<p>Region VIII Discussion Forum</p> <p>During this discussion, Region VIII attendees will have the opportunity to share specific program updates and/or policy challenges they are facing in delivering services to TANF families. Region VIII participants will also have an opportunity to reflect on the conference and discuss ideas for further technical assistance.</p>

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Registration for Tribal Participants

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

State/Tribe Networking Reception



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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2011

- 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Registration for Tribal Participants and Networking
- 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Tribal TANF Forum (for Tribal participants only)
Moderator: Felicia Gaither, PhD, TANF Program Manager
Administration for Children and Families- Region VIII
Mark Greenberg, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy
Administration for Children and Families
Earl S. Johnson, PhD, Director
Office of Family Assistance
Administration for Children and Families
- 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Registration for State Participants and Networking
- 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Effective Assessment and Service Options for Domestic Violence Survivors
Identifying, assessing, and servicing TANF participants surviving domestic violence remain challenges for many TANF programs. Although State TANF programs have a variety of options for addressing the needs of domestic violence survivors, there still remain specific challenges relating to identifying victims and delivering appropriate services. During this session, participants will engage with presenters and peers on successful strategies for addressing the needs of domestic violence survivors in the TANF caseload. With a specific emphasis on assessment and service provision, participants will learn innovative approaches for ensuring that TANF participants are provided the comprehensive services needed to improve individual outcomes.
Moderator: Carol Sedanko, TANF Program Specialist
Administration for Children and Families- Region VI
Discussant(s): Anne Menard, Director of the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence at the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Karen Gaddis, LCSW, Director
Department of Safe and Stable Families, Chickasaw Nation
Peggy Butcher, Program Administrator
Family Support Services Division
Oklahoma Department of Human Services
Ruth M. Glenn, MPA, Director
Colorado Department of Human Services
Domestic Violence Program
- 10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Break



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10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Concurrent Child Welfare and Kinship Care Sessions

Tribal TANF, Child Welfare, and Kinship Care	State TANF, Child Welfare, and Kinship Care
<p>Ensuring the health, safety, and general well-being of our families is one critical step to building self-sufficiency among any TANF participant. In Tribal communities, this is essential. During this session, participants will discuss strategies for managing kinship care cases and developing services to better serve these populations.</p> <p>Moderator: Jennifer Rackliff Manager ICF International</p> <p>Discussants: Teri Haymond Child Welfare Supervisor/Social Worker Denver Indian Family Resource Center</p> <p>Patty LaPlant Technical Assistance Specialist for Tribes and States on Family and Child Well-Being</p> <p>Arlene Templar Department Head Department of Human Resource Development (DHRD), Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes</p>	<p>TANF State administrators will have the opportunity to discuss their policies, and procedures regarding how they service kinship care cases. State administrators will be given information on opportunities for collaboration with child welfare staff, leading to successful partnerships to service their population.</p> <p>Moderator: Damon Waters Technical Specialist ICF International</p> <p>Discussants: Tim Battreall Kinship Caseworker Youth and Family Services Division, El Paso County</p> <p>Sheryl Sablan, Family Services Team Supervisor Employment and Family Support Division, El Paso County</p> <p>Cheryl Schnell Manager Employment and Family Support Division, El Paso County</p> <p>Myron Berzas TANF Director Division of Economic Stability, Louisiana Department of Children & Family Services</p>

12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Networking Lunch



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1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Improving State/Tribal Relations

This session will highlight strategies for developing effective partnerships as both States and Tribes work towards the goal of building self-sufficiency among TANF participants. Communication between Tribes and States needs to be effective and open in order to ensure that successful collaboration around building self-sufficiency among Tribal TANF participants can come to fruition.

Moderators: Felicia Gaither, PhD, TANF Program Manager
Administration for Children and Families- Region VIII

Larry Brendel, TANF Program Manager
Administration for Children and Families- Region VI

Discussants: Karen Quigley, Executive Director
Oregon Legislative Office on Indian Affairs

Lesa Evers, Acting Director
Governor's Office of Indian Affairs, State of Montana

3:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Break

3:45 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Small State/Tribal Group Discussions

States and Tribes will have an opportunity to use the techniques and strategies learned in the previous session to discuss the delivery of services to Tribal TANF participants.

Moderator: Jennifer Rackliff, Manager
ICF International

4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Wrap-up/Closing

Moderator: Jennifer Rackliff, Manager
ICF International



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THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 2011

8:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Welcome

Felicia Gaither, PhD, TANF Program Manager
Administration for Children and Families- Region VIII
Larry Brendel, TANF Program Manager
Administration for Children and Families- Region VI
Earl S. Johnson, PhD, Director
Office of Family Assistance
Administration for Children and Families

8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Preventing Fraud, Waste, and Abuse

This presentation will provide information that will assist attendees in analyzing their internal controls and programs to ensure that they are not at risk of fraud, waste or abuse of Federal funds. Participants will have potential resources and strategies identified by Office of Inspector General Staff.

Moderator: Felicia Gaither, PhD, TANF Program Manager
Administration for Children and Families- Region VIII

Presenter: Leslie Hollie, Special Agent In Charge
Office of Inspector General- Office of Investigations, US Department
of Health & Human Services, Kansas City Regional Office
Curt L. Muller, Special Agent
Office of Inspector General - Office of Investigations
US Department of Health & Human Services

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Break

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Tribal TANF Program Accountability: Challenges and Strategies for Success

Effectively managing Tribal TANF programs requires a set of internal controls, policies, and procedures. During this session participants will gain a better understanding of policies and procedures that can be put in place to ensure successful program implementation and reporting.

Moderator: Claude Endfield, Chair of Early Childhood Program
Northland Pioneer College

Discussant: Geene Felix, TANF Coordinator
South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency

12:15 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Working Lunch - Individual Technical Assistance Discussion of Putting Accountability Process in Place

Discussants: Claude Endfield, Chair of Early Childhood Program
Northland Pioneer College
Geene Felix, TANF Coordinator
South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency

2:00 p.m.

Adjourn and Evaluations

Felicia Gaither, PhD, TANF Program Manager
Administration for Children and Families- Region VIII
Larry Brendel, TANF Program Manager
Administration for Children and Families- Region VI