

Helping TANF Recipients Find Employment and Advance in the Labor Market: Resources from OPRE's Employment Sector Analysis Project

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Overview

- Policy Context
- Project Purpose and Goals
- Resources
 - Resource Guide
 - Practitioner Brief on Using LMI
 - State-by-State Analyses of Promising Occupations





Policy Context

- To escape poverty, TANF recipients need good jobs that
 - Are in growing industries,
 - Are in high demand, and
 - Provide self-sufficient wages.
- Connecting TANF recipients and other low-income families with good jobs can be challenging
 - Good jobs require training, education, and credentials beyond the high school level
 - Determining which jobs are good can be difficult without the right tools and resources
- Labor market information (LMI) is one tool that can help improve the match between clients and good jobs



Project Purpose & Goals

- Identify, examine, and catalog resources that TANF agencies can use to help connect TANF recipients and other low-income families with good jobs
 - We created a resource guide and wrote a practitioner brief about using LMI
- Analyze labor market information to identify high-growth sectors of the labor market, focusing on those positions requiring short-term post-secondary training.



Resource #1: Resource Guide

- Conducted informal discussions with subject matter experts and telephone interviews with select states
- Conducted a scan of resources and literature
 - The resource scan uncovered 140 resources.
- The Resource Guide is the culmination of the literature review and environmental scan of available resources.

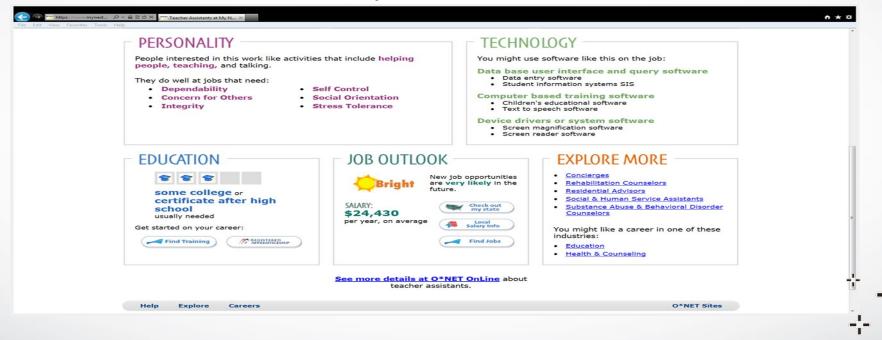
Resource #1: Resource Guide

- The resource guide is organized into four resource types across three topical areas:
 - Types:
 - Research studies
 - Technical assistance resources
 - Client assessments
 - Data sets related to education and employment
 - Topics:
 - Career exploration and assessment
 - Career pathways and sector strategies
 - LMI



Resource #1: Example Resource

My Next Move



Resource #2: Brief on Using LMI

What is LMI?

- Information about
 - Demand for jobs
 - Supply of skilled workers
 - Characteristics of growing and declining occupations and industries, including wages and benefits
 - Training required
 - Job openings (real-time)
- Traditional LMI is collected from employer surveys, interviews, and administrative records
- Real-time LMI is obtained from web-based job banks, classified advertisements, and company websites
- LMI helps identify available jobs with growth potential and self-sufficient wages, and the training and education required



Resource #2: Brief on Using LMI

- Practitioner Brief
 — Using Data to Connect TANF
 Clients to Good Jobs: An Opportunity to Foster
 WIOA Partnerships
 - Introduction to LMI
 - How TANF Agencies Can Use LMI
 - WIOA and Connecting with State Labor Agencies



- Which education and training opportunities are most likely to pay off for TANF clients and other low-income workers?
 - Emphasis on short-term education and training (that is, attainable in two years or less)



All occupations

Requires some training or education beyond high school, but less than a bachelor's degree

Employment projected to grow through 2022

At least 0.1% of all jobs

Promising occupations



United States	REQUIRED	OPENINGS	RATE	25th Percentile Median 75th Percentile
Registered nurses	BBB.	105,260	19.4%	\$54,620 \$66,640 \$81,080
Nursing assistants	B.B.	59,360	21.1%	\$21,340 \$25,100 \$30,020
Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers	AA OJI	46,470	11.3%	\$32,000 \$39,520 \$49,410
Teacher assistants	Ø.	38,260	8.6%	\$19,610 \$24,430 \$30,670





- National Results
 - Registered nurse and nursing assistant top the list
 - Many other occupations in health care industry
 - Many occupations require relatively little training and have good wage growth potential
 - Computer support specialist, medical records technician
 - Some occupations do not necessarily pay wages that will quickly lift families out of poverty
 - Teacher assistant, preschool teacher, hairdresser, nursing assistant



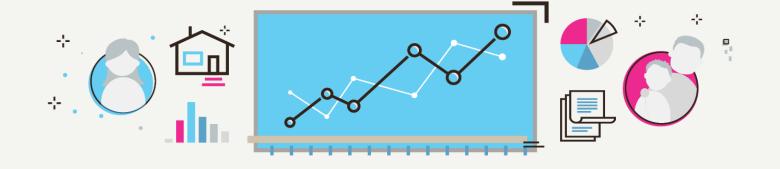
- State Results
 - Relative ordering of occupations varies
 - Generally echo national analysis: health care leads
 - Registered nurse, licensed practical and vocational nurse were identified in all states studied
 - Top non-health care occupations
 - Computer user support specialist
 - Paralegal and legal assistant
 - Teacher assistant



Where to Find these Resources

- OPRE Project Page:
 - http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/resource/promisingoccupations-achievable-through-short-term-education-ortraining-for-low-income-families
- Interactive map of Promising Occupations
 - https://www.mathematica-mpr.com/dataviz/tanfmap





Questions, Comments, Curiosity?

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