



### **Environmental Scan: Partnerships with TANF Agencies and Community Colleges**

**A representative from OFA's Region I-IV would like to learn about successful partnerships between TANF agencies and community colleges. *The OFA PeerTA Network conducted an environmental scan of programs in the field, which are listed below.***

- Ready to Work (RTW) ([http://www.kctcs.edu/System\\_Initiatives/Ready-to-Work/Ready-to-Work\\_About.aspx](http://www.kctcs.edu/System_Initiatives/Ready-to-Work/Ready-to-Work_About.aspx)) is a partnership between the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) (<http://kctcs.edu/>) and the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services (KCHFS), Department for Community Based Services (DCBS). RTW is designed to assist low-income parents participating in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)/Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (KTAP) to enroll and be successful students in Kentucky's community and technical colleges. The KCTCS/DCBS Ready to Work Program has received several state and national awards and recognitions including: The American Association of Women in Community College's Model Program Award for 2001, the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services Secretary's Quality of Life Award, the Department for Community Based Services 2007 Community Partner Award, and in 2012, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Family Assistance Promising Pathways Recognition.
- Atlanta Technical College (<http://www.atlantatech.edu/student/tanf-ged.php>) provides a comprehensive holistic approach to General Education Diploma training to clients of the Fulton County Department of Family and Children's Services, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. The program consists of several components in addition to GED training to assist the family with basic skills such as: life skills, parenting skills, financial management, anger management, creative and critical thinking, problem solving skills, job readiness, on-the-job skills training, job search and job placement services.
- Oklahoma TANF "Special Projects" (<http://www.clasp.org/resources-and-publications/files/Oklahoma-Special-Projects.pdf>) provide a comprehensive range of services to help TANF recipients successfully pursue postsecondary degrees and credentials at Oklahoma's community colleges and technology center campuses. In addition, Oklahoma's Work Prep ([https://peerta.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/public/uploaded\\_files/louannhargrave.pdf](https://peerta.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/public/uploaded_files/louannhargrave.pdf)) program is a partnership between the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS) and the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education (ODCTE), which jointly fund 20 TANF-funded workforce programs across the State at technology center campuses. Upon entering the program, TANF participants are given career assessments and then develop an education plan. An OKDHS caseworker and staff from other community partners including technology centers, two-year colleges, workforce centers, and community-based organizations are available to the TANF participants. Participants take part in vocational education, job search and job readiness activities, work-site learning, community service, education related to specific employment, and/or job skills training tied to employment depending on their specific needs. Supportive services are also provided for the TANF participants.



- California established the California Community College (CCC) CalWORKS Initiative (<http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/08/TANFWPR/1/#California>) shortly after the passage of The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA), just as Kentucky created a similar initiative in its state. (CalWORKs is the name of California's TANF program.) California Community Colleges (CCC) CalWORKs, a partnership between the CCC Chancellor's Office and the state's Department of Social Services (DSS), is a campus-based program focused on basic and technical skills development in fields with strong local labor market demand. It provides TANF recipients with comprehensive and coordinated support services that allow them to obtain the education and experience needed to transition off welfare and into a career.
- The Washington Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training ([http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/isis\\_ibest\\_profile\\_final\\_6\\_6\\_2014\\_005.pdf](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/isis_ibest_profile_final_6_6_2014_005.pdf)) (I-BEST) program at three colleges in Washington State is a statewide, multi-occupation career pathways program that targets individuals with low basic skills or limited English skills. By integrating basic skills instruction with occupational training and providing other support services, I-BEST aims to accelerate basic skills students' transition into and through a college-level occupational field of study.
- In March of 2012, the PeerTA Network collaborated with Arkansas's Career Pathways Initiative (CPI), a partnership between Arkansas's Department of Higher Education and Department of Workforce Services, to create a podcast (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qwAlpqb20Xs&list=PLypiJrod4Deh0o7XBilKwbcBPslusy706&index=4>) to learn more about their program's growth and the successes with workforce-ready adults. This podcast highlights CPI, which provides a comprehensive set of academic and support services designed to enable low-income, low-skilled individuals to acquire the degrees and/or credentials required to obtain and hold jobs in high-demand, high-wage industries. Staff from CPI explained the complexity of the collaborations necessary to provide services that enable low-income job seekers to receive educational services, as well as how to help participants understand the importance of education in addition to work activities and employment.
- Pennsylvania's Keystone Education Yields Success (KEYS) Program (<https://peerta.acf.hhs.gov/content/keystone-education-yields-success-keys-program>) serves participants enrolled in Pennsylvania's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) programs who are interested in obtaining a postsecondary certificate or associate's degree. KEYS assists low-income individuals in earning a career-specific, credit-bearing certificate or an associate's degree to enable them to secure jobs that provide family-sustaining wages with benefits and greater opportunities for advancement. The Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare (DPW) operates KEYS, which is designed to provide an opportunity and the corresponding support for Pennsylvania's TANF and SNAP participants to pursue a degree or credit or noncredit-bearing certificate at a community college in Pennsylvania. Working in partnership with Pennsylvania's Commission for Community Colleges, KEYS was developed in response to growing research that demonstrates that TANF participants who earn a certificate or degree are better able to get jobs with family-sustaining wages, benefits, and opportunities for advancement.