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Administration for Children and Families
Office of Family Assistance

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National Transitional Jobs Network

The National Transitional Jobs Network (NTJN) exists to ensure that policies account for the hard-to-employ, that programs are able to effectively serve as many individuals as possible, and that best practices and technical assistance are widely shared and implemented throughout the network. **The NTJN offers**

- Technical assistance
- State and federal advocacy
- Monthly newsletters – sign up at www.transitionaljobs.net
- National conference

Subsidized Employment in Supporting Transitions to Employment

- ❑ Long before welfare reform states experimented with subsidized employment & Transitional Jobs to transition individuals to employment
- ❑ Welfare to work grants spurred growth in TJ programs – Washington State *Community Jobs*/Georgia *Goodworks*
- ❑ The last recession spurred **unprecedented growth in the use of TANF funds for subsidized employment** – 39 states and DC over 260,000 placements in subsidized employment
- ❑ Even though influx of funding expired - many states are re-purposing a portion of their funds to support this activity

Looking Ahead: What did we learn from subsidized employment expansion?

- ❑ Subsidized employment and TJ programs could serve a **range of low-income, unemployed** populations
- ❑ States demonstrated ability to **scale-up and implement cost-effective programs** quickly
 - ❑ System partnerships varied
 - ❑ Structures/Implementation variations
 - ❑ Wage subsidy varied
 - ❑ Public/Private partnerships realized
 - ❑ Range of employers utilized

"It should definitely be a program that should be brought back," Washington said. "Especially when it's people out there that wants to work and that's willing to work and that's capable of working, but they just can't find something. That program is great."

said Tamara Washington, about LA's Transitional Subsidized Employment Program

Looking Ahead: What did we learn from subsidized employment expansion?

Subsidized employment programs **could positively impact individuals, communities and employers:**

- ❑ Stabilized individuals and families through earned income & increased total family earnings
- ❑ “Stimulus” effects in local communities
- ❑ Recouped federal and state income, Medicare and Social Security taxes
- ❑ Employers reported improved financial health, increased quality of work, and increased productivity

“Our business was able to service more clients, do more outreach, marketing and capacity building.”

*Chicago TJ
Employer*

Looking Ahead: What did we learn from subsidized employment expansion?

- ❑ Program goals & target populations must mirror program design
- ❑ Central data collection and 3rd party evaluation important
- ❑ Capacity of providers and knowledge of program implementation critical
- ❑ Federal, state and local flexibility matters

“Governor Cuomo didn’t answer his door today, but I hope he got our message that low income people need a job and are going to keep trying no matter what to make him see that we need to put money where it is really needed—the Transitional Jobs program.”

Illinois: Supporting Subsidized Employment Post-ARRA TANF ECF

2010: Approximately 27,000 Illinoisans went to work through Put Illinois to Work

September 2010: Governor Quinn extends program twice - using state general revenue funds

January 2011: Program ends

March 2012: Statewide subsidized employment and Transitional Jobs legislation passes Illinois General Assembly and signed by Governor Quinn (*subject to appropriations*)

Lessons Learned:

1. Data matters in making the case
2. Employer allies
3. Participants critical to face of efforts
4. Political landscape & opportunities

Wisconsin: Supporting Subsidized Employment Post-ARRA TANF ECF

2009: Amendment to Wisconsin budget introduced - biennial 2009-2011 budget

July 2010: DHS announces Transitional Jobs program (*federal TANF ECF by reporting increases in non-recurrent short term benefits and basic assistance expenditures*)

November 2010: Governor Walker elected

June 2011: 2011-2013 biennial budget signed - Transitional Jobs program restored and program extended to July 2013

Lessons Learned:

1. Mobilization matters
2. Media coverage critical
3. Political opportunities

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