



2013 Tri-Regional Technical Assistance Meeting Developing an Exit Strategy for Leaving TANF on the Pathway to Family Stability

Four Seasons Hotel Philadelphia, One Logan Square, Philadelphia, PA 19103-6933

*Please note: All sessions will take place in Ballroom South

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. **Registration (Ballroom Foyer)**

9:00 a.m. – 9:10 a.m. **Welcome Remarks**

Michael Rolish, Acting Regional Administrator,
Administration for Children and Families- Region III (*invited*)

Eileen Friedman, TANF Regional Program Manager, Office of Family Assistance,
Administration for Children and Families- Region III

9:10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **Identifying and Assessing the Needs of TANF Participants with Barriers to Stability**

Most families participating in the TANF program face barriers to employment and family stability. These barriers range from substance abuse to mental health and from domestic violence to housing stability; often these barriers go undiagnosed, unrecognized, and unaddressed. During this facilitated session presenters will discuss specialized strategies for identifying and assessing the needs of TANF participants. This opening session lays the foundation for the next two days as attendees discuss the 'roadblocks and potholes' along the pathway to family stability.

Facilitator: **Frank Ceruto**, TANF Regional Program Manager, Office of Family Assistance,
Administration for Children and Families- Region II

Presenters: **Ruthie Liberman**, Vice President of Public Policy, Crittenton Women's Union
Brian Campbell, Special Assistant, DC Income Maintenance Administrator, DC
Department of Human Services

Bret Barden, Research Assistant, MDRC

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. **Break**

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Understanding Learning Disabilities and the Intersection with TANF Families**

TANF participants with learning disabilities face unique challenges in progressing from welfare to financial independence. These individuals may have reading, writing or mathematical difficulties; lack organizational skills and executive functioning; and may be more likely to experience high unemployment or underemployment, all of which can hinder their ability to be successful and economically independent. During this facilitated session, attendees will gain a better understanding of the impact of learning disabilities on TANF families, learn strategies for screening and assessing TANF participants and their families, and gain peer-based knowledge of effective partnerships that have been created in order to respond to the various individual and family needs of those impacted by learning disabilities. National experts and program administrators will share their experiences and expertise in order to aid attendees in gaining a better understanding of screening and assessment strategies, procedures, and practices currently being utilized to improve participant outcomes.

Facilitator: **Jeanette Hercik**, Senior Vice President and Line of Business Leader, Family Self-Sufficiency, ICF International

Presenters: **Karina Ware**, Director, and **Cindy Seguin**, Coordinator, Vermont/Reach-Up
Program

Joseph M. Amoroso, Director, New Jersey Division of Disability Services

Agenda

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Lunch on your own

1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

State of the States Dialogue with ACF/OFA Leadership

During this dialogue with ACF/OFA leadership, attendees will have opportunities to engage in discussions on issues of national, regional, and local significance to the TANF program and ACF priorities. Topics for discussion will include an overview and guidance on the new ACF-196 among others. Additionally, attendees will provide specific updates on local program, policy, and practice changes within the TANF program and seek guidance/recommendations for improving program outcomes.

Mark Greenberg, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Administration for Children and Families

Earl Johnson, Director, Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families

Susan Golonka, Assistant Director, Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families

2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Break

3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Improving Child and Family Outcomes by Improving Non-Custodial Parent Engagement

States and localities are looking to improve the economic stability among TANF families by providing increased employment opportunities for non-custodial parents. Many localities have implemented innovative strategies that are strengthening partnerships between TANF and other agencies, resulting in increased employment and improved economic stability for non-custodial parents and their families. During this session, attendees will be able to interact with State-level program representatives and national responsible fatherhood experts about key strategies for increasing non-custodial parent programming, developing partnerships with stakeholders, and more strategically meeting the various needs of TANF families.

Facilitator: **Juanita DeVine**, Region III Program Manager, Office of Child Support Enforcement

Presenters: **Carl Chadband**, Kanawha Institute for Social Research & Action

Raymond Singleton Jr., Deputy Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Social Services

Anthony Judkins, Program Manager, Connecticut Department of Social Services

Benidia Rice, IV-D, Director, Washington, DC Fresh Start Program

4:15 p.m. – 4:50 p.m.

State Team Time

During this independent team time, attendees will engage peers, attending experts, and ACF leadership on topics of interest while completing State and tri-regional 'pathway' activities.

4:50 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Wrap-up

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Informal Discussions with ACF/OFA Leadership

State attendees will have the opportunity when they register onsite to sign up to speak individually with ACF/OFA Leadership on topics of interest.



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Wednesday, September 18, 2013

8:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Day-One Reflections

During this session, attendees will discuss key items from day one and outline specific follow-up topics. This session will highlight day one feedback and lay the foundation for increased sharing and topical targeting.

Carol Monteiro, TANF Regional Program Manager, Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families- Region I

8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Strategies for Assisting Survivors of Domestic Violence

The TANF program provides States with significant flexibility to assist survivors of domestic violence achieve greater levels of economic self-sufficiency and safety. States have identified innovative strategies for providing enhanced TANF-funded programs to identify and service the needs of TANF participants impacted by domestic violence. During this discussion, attendees will learn about promising strategies for identifying and providing economic stability and safety services for TANF participants. Attendees will engage national experts and local programs in topics relating to workforce development and asset-development for TANF families impacted by domestic violence, and will have an opportunity to engage in dialogue on a variety of topics relating to TANF and domestic violence.

Facilitator: **Carol Monteiro**, TANF Regional Program Manager, Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families- Region I

Presenters: **Anne Menard**, Executive Director, National Resource Center for Domestic Violence

Kim Pentico, Economic Justice Specialist, National Network to End Domestic Violence

Jacquelyn Boggess, Co-Director, Center for Family Policy and Practice

9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Break

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Strengthening TANF Responsiveness and Improving Program Performance

The TANF program has responded inadequately to the needs of low-income, eligible families in the face of increased economic uncertainty and unemployment. In many States the TANF caseload has remained stagnant and in others the caseload has declined despite more families becoming eligible. During this session, national TANF experts will discuss the role of TANF in the overall safety-net and in the lives of low-income families. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage in discussions on how to strengthen TANF responsiveness and improve overall program performance. Presenters will highlight strategies for improving TANF performance measures, improving employment outcomes, achieving work requirements, and reaching more eligible families.

Facilitator: **Eileen Friedman**, TANF Regional Program Manager, Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families- Region III

Presenters: **Liz Schott**, Senior Fellow, Family Income Support Policy, Center for Budget and Policy Priorities

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

Michelle K. Derr, Senior Researcher, Mathematica Policy Research

Agenda

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch on your own

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Creating Strong Partnerships and Implementing Effective Programming to Promote Housing Stability

Housing stability is essential to the economic and social well-being of families and to their quality of life, but individuals and families participating in the TANF program often face multiple barriers to achieving housing stability. Although the TANF program is not specifically developed to improve housing stability, leveraging TANF funds and partnerships with other public and private programs are useful strategies for strengthening housing stability and economic well-being for TANF participants and other low-income families. During this peer-led workshop, attendees will explore the housing challenges facing TANF eligibles and participants, and will learn strategies for integrating program components designed to decrease homelessness and increase economic stability.

Facilitator: **Frank Ceruto**, TANF Regional Program Manager, Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families- Region II

Presenters: **Sharon McDonald**, Director for Families and Youth, National Alliance to End Homelessness

Ruthie Liberman, Vice President of Public Policy, Crittenton Women's Union

Frank Cirillo, Director, Mercer County, New Jersey, Board of Social Services

2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Break

2:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Developing Career Pathways for TANF Participants and TANF Eligible Clients

During this networking session, attendees will have the opportunity to engage ACF leadership, peers and national experts in a discussion on building and sustaining career pathways for TANF participants and other low-income individuals. Attendees will share updates on current policy and program changes and challenges and the information will be captured in the ACF Technical Assistance log for potential technical assistance follow-up.

Facilitator: **Eileen Friedman**, TANF Regional Program Manager, Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families- Region III

Presenters: **Gayle Hamilton**, Senior Fellow, Low-Wage Workers and Communities Policy Area, MDRC

Stokes B. Carrigan, IV, Development Manager, Institutional Giving and Policy, Year Up- New York

Karon Rosa, Program Director, Arkansas Career Pathways Initiative, Arkansas Department of Higher Education

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

State Team Time

During this independent team time, attendees will engage peers, attending experts, and ACF leadership on topics of interest while completing State and tri-regional 'pathway' activities.

5:00 p.m.

Wrap-up

5:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.

TANF Listening Session on Homelessness

During this special State/ACF listening session, State attendees will have the opportunity to dialogue with ACF leadership about using TANF funds to serve homeless families and families at risk of experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity.

Facilitator: **Ali Sutton**, Policy Advisor to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Administration for Children and Families



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Thursday, September 19, 2013

8:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Day-Two Reflections

During this session, attendees will discuss key items from day two and outline specific follow-up topics. This session will highlight day two feedback and lay the foundation for increased sharing and topical targeting.

Frank Ceruto, TANF Regional Program Manager, Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families- Region II

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Understanding the Impact of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act on Low-Income Families, Human Services Programs, and Workforce Development

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) not only has a tremendous impact on the health insurance options for many Americans, but also has a potential impact on the modernization of health and human services agencies and the healthcare workforce. During this discussion, attendees will learn more about the impact of the ACA on health and human services agencies and the healthcare workforce and learn strategies for partnering with health insurance stakeholders. Attendees will engage national experts and local peer programs in topics relating to systems development, workforce development, and health insurance access for low-income families.

Facilitator: **Damon Waters**, Technical Specialist, Family Self-Sufficiency, ICF International

Presenters: **Rachel Morgan**, Health and Human Services Committee Director, National Conference of State Legislatures

Cynthia Woodside, Senior Policy Associate/NASTA Liaison, American Public Human Services Association

Maureen Hensley-Quinn, Program Manager, National Academy for State Health Policy

10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Break

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Strengthening Asset-Building Partnerships and Improving Asset-Building Outcomes for TANF Participants

Low-income families and TANF participants often struggle to achieve long-term economic stability due to a lack of assets and financial fitness. During this workshop, attendees will explore the issues related to asset-building among TANF participants and low-income individuals. Attendees also will learn strategies for forming collaborations between workforce development, human services, and asset-building stakeholders. National experts and peer presenters will provide attendees with resources and tools from the ASSET Initiative Partnership and other asset-building efforts targeted to low-income populations.

Facilitator: **Caterina Bummara**, Project Manager, ASSET Initiative Partnership (AIP), ICF International

Presenters: **Kori Hattemer**, Program Manager, Corporation for Enterprise Development (CFED)/ASSET Initiative Partnership (AIP)

Rachel Black, Senior Policy Analyst, Asset-Building Program, New America Foundation

Mariana Chilton, Associate Professor, Drexel School of Public Health/Director, Center for Hunger-Free Communities

Agenda

12:00 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.

State Team Time and Discussion

During this independent team time, attendees will engage peers, experts, and ACF attendees on topics of interest while completing state and tri-regional 'pathway' activities. Teams will provide rapid report-outs on outcomes of the meeting and discuss next steps.

12:45 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Carol Monteiro, TANF Regional Program Manager, Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families- Region I

Frank Ceruto, TANF Regional Program Manager, Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families- Region II

Eileen Friedman, TANF Regional Program Manager, Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families- Region III

1:00 p.m.

Adjourn