



Administration for Children and Families
Office of Family Assistance, Region IX

Agenda

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Meeting Facilitators:

Julie Fong, TANF Program Manager
Office of Family Assistance
Administration for Children and Families- Region IX
US Department of Health and Human Services

Tracy Donovan, TANF Program Specialist
Office of Family Assistance
Administration for Children and Families- Region IX
US Department of Health and Human Services

Damon Waters
Technical Specialist
ICF International

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Registration and Networking

8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.

Welcome

Julie Fong, TANF Program Manager
Office of Family Assistance
Administration for Children and Families- Region IX
US Department of Health and Human Services

8:45 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

**Greetings and Updates from Administration for Children and Families, Region IX
and Office of Family Assistance**

Sharon Fujii, Regional Administrator
Administration for Children and Families- Region IX
US Department of Health and Human Services

Earl S. Johnson, Ph.D., Director
Office of Family Assistance
Administration for Children and Families
US Department of Health and Human Services



2011 Innovative Solutions Workshop

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9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

TANF Reauthorization, Administrative Flexibility and TANF Reporting Forum

The US Congress is scheduled to reauthorize the TANF program in 2011 and TANF programs are required to report additional data under the TANF extension of 2010. During this session, attendees will have the opportunity to interact with OFA leadership about policy priorities and program recommendations for TANF Reauthorization and seek additional guidance around specific reporting requirements and administrative flexibility.

Mark H. Greenberg, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy
Administration for Children and Families
US Department of Health and Human Services

Earl S. Johnson, Ph.D., Director
Office of Family Assistance
Administration for Children and Families
US Department of Health and Human Services

10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Break

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

TANF at 15: Policies, Progress, and Promise

In 1996, Congress passed the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program to aid low-income families in achieving greater levels of economic self-sufficiency. Although caseloads have declined and many families have moved into employment, there remain considerable challenges for many families with barriers to employment and limited access to employment. During this facilitated discussion, attendees will hear perspectives from national experts and researchers on the current status of TANF on a national level; on the prospective outlook for low-income families; and strategic recommendations for improving the effectiveness of TANF to respond to the economic self-sufficiency needs of low-income families.

Panelists: Liz Schott
Senior Fellow
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

Jeanette Hercik, Ph.D.
Vice President
Family Self-Sufficiency
ICF International

12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Working Lunch



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1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

State/Territory Roundtable

In this interactive roundtable session, State attendees will provide updates on specific challenges to be addressed in delivering services to TANF families during the present economic difficulties and discuss ideas on how they may be overcome. During this moderated discussion, attendees will share innovative strategies developed at the local level to improve program effectiveness, while increasing effective client programming. From utilizing data to monitor program outcomes to new worker requirements and workload management activities to linking TANF participants to outside service providers, attendees will discuss one key strategy that has been employed that has streamlined service delivery, increased worker productivity, reduced duplication, or enhanced the TANF program experience for clients.

Topics of discussion could include:

- Engaging eligible and hard-to-serve families (e.g. Case Management and Assessment)
- Potential partnerships and collaborations
- Improving work supports
- Managing caseload increases

2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Reshaping Intervention, Expanding Options—Innovative Strategies for Addressing the Needs of Domestic Violence Survivors in the TANF Caseload

During this moderated discussion, attendees will hear about and discuss innovative approaches for identifying and servicing domestic violence survivors in the TANF caseload. Attendees will have additional time to engage peers and presenters on how to link community partners and resources related to domestic violence and get a better understanding of how to access and use the Online Work Readiness Assessment to assess domestic violence among low-income clients.

Panelists: Kelly Goodall
Economic Empowerment Manager
Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Colsaria Henderson
Managing Advocate
Family Violence Law Center

Claire McCullough
Community Programs Director
La Casa De Las Madres

3:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Break



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3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Asset Development, Financial Fitness, and TANF—Strategies for Integrating Programs and Meeting the Long-term Economic Self-Sufficiency Needs of TANF Participants

During this moderated discussion, attendees will hear about and discuss innovative strategies for improving the ability of TANF participants to improve long-term economic self-sufficiency through asset development and financial fitness. Attendees will have additional time to engage peers and presenters on how to link community partners and resources related to asset building and financial fitness.

Panelists: Sierra Solomon
Associate
Assets for Independence Resource Center

Nicole Levine
Executive Director, North Bay and San Francisco
Women's Initiative for Self Employment

Lorne Needle
Chief Community Investment Officer
United Way of the Bay Area

5:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

Day One Wrap-Up and Evaluation



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Thursday, September 22, 2011

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Networking

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Day One Reflections and Day Two Visioning

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Strategies to Improve Career Pathways for Low-Income Workers

During this facilitated discussion, attendees will hear about and discuss strategies to increase/improve TANF work participation using innovative program strategies and services, including career pathway development, career laddering, and service coordination with community colleges and other partners. Whether it's achieving greater employment outcomes for hard to employ clients, engaging employers, or identifying additional countable activities, attendees will engage with peers and presenters on issues pertaining to work participation among TANF participants.

Panelists: Lauren Eyster
Research Associate
The Urban Institute

Diana Spatz
Executive Director
LIFETIME
University of California, Berkeley

Peter Simon
Senior Project Consultant
Career Ladders Project

Carin Zimmerman, Ph.D.
Biotechnology Instructor
City College of San Francisco, Bridge to BioTech

11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Break



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11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Welfare Research, Technical Assistance, and Program Development

In an effort to improve the effectiveness of various work readiness, employability, and barrier reduction strategies utilized by TANF programs, many TANF programs and stakeholders utilize research and technical assistance. During this facilitated discussion, attendees will engage panelists on developing a new framework for utilizing research and technical assistance as strategies for strengthening program activities and improving client outcomes. Attendees will learn about various research tools and methodologies, as well as technical assistance options and program/infrastructure development recommendations, and provide feedback on how to ensure technical assistance relevance, effectively turning research into practice, and improving program infrastructure.

Panelists: Lauren Eyster
Research Associate
The Urban Institute

Jeanette Hercik, Ph.D.
Vice President
Family Self Sufficiency
ICF International

Julie Gondry
Program Director, Tribal TANF Programs
The Center for Human Services, UC Davis Extension

Jann Donnenwirth
Program Director
The Center for Human Services, UC Davis Extension

12:45 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Wrap-up and Evaluation

Julie Fong, TANF Program Manager
Office of Family Assistance
Administration for Children and Families- Region IX
US Department of Health and Human Services