



# Technical Assistance Options for Tribal TANF Programs



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## What is the Welfare Peer TA Network?

- A Federal initiative through the Office of Family Assistance (OFA), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
  - Facilitates the sharing of information about promising practices in implementing the TANF program.
  - Establishes linkages among TANF agencies, low-income families, and their partners at the State, County, local, and Tribal level.



## Building a PEER TA Network State by State



### Welfare Peer TA Goals

- Serving as a central outreach and dissemination vehicle for OFA, ACF.
- Providing onsite and virtual training and technical assistance to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program offices.
- Strengthening OFA's documentation of evidence-based programs and outcomes.
- Connecting and creating an environment of interoperability among programs, offices, and contacts across the United States.



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## Did You Know?

In partnership with the American Public Human Services Association/National Association of State TANF Administrators (NASTA), the Welfare Peer TA Network designed a Roundtable session at the NASTA Annual Meeting in Charleston, South Carolina on September 13, 2010. This Roundtable was designed to engage State TANF Directors in dialogue



The Welfare Peer Technical Assistance Network (Welfare Peer TA) is a technical assistance initiative sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Family Assistance (OFA).

Welfare Peer TA facilitates the sharing of information between and among States, counties, localities, Tribal organizations, and community-based organizations working

with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) families. Welfare Peer TA encourages the establishment of linkages between these organizations on the belief that guidance and instruction are best delivered by professionals who have achieved results and outcomes similar to those desired by other related social service organizations. Welfare Peer TA supports federal, State, local, Tribal, and community-based stakeholders by bridging gaps between research and practice, highlighting promising practices and service innovations in the field, and fostering strong peer-to-peer relationships that promote improved service delivery to low-income families.

Various technical assistance strategies and formats are available through Welfare Peer TA, depending on the specific needs of the requesting organization. These organizations can solicit the Welfare Peer TA Network for a technical assistance intervention that shares information on innovative strategies and programs for effectively serving TANF participants, and for purposes of building linkages within and among States and their agencies. Types of technical assistance delivered include Roundtable meetings, site visits, Webinars, promising practice reviews, and moderated teleconferences. Since its inception in 1997, Welfare Peer TA has reached every State in the United States with at least one technical assistance intervention and responded to over 170 requests over the life of the

## Request Technical Assistance

"Thank you again for the excellent workshop here - as usual, it was a pleasure working with Welfare Peer TA, and I look forward to future opportunities."  
- South Carolina Welfare Peer TA Event Participant

To find out how we can help you plan your Welfare Peer TA event: site visit, teleconference, workshop, [click here](#).

## A Look at Welfare PeerTA Impact



E-mail Alert Sign-Up

## Web Site Features

### Innovative Outreach and Dissemination

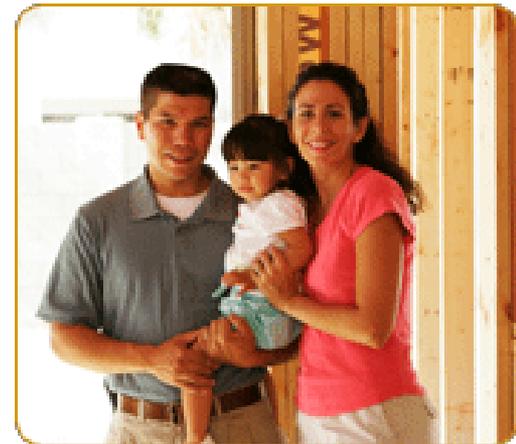
- ❖ Web-based Innovative Program Nomination form and listing
- ❖ Interactive U.S. Map demonstrating technical assistance delivered since the inception of the Welfare Peer TA Network (including access to reports, resources, handouts, and other related peer-to-peer needs)
- ❖ Online Technical Assistance Request Form
- ❖ Interactive question- and-answer area
- ❖ E-mail alert registration
- ❖ Search tool
- ❖ Share this Page feature (allows e-mail, Facebook, Twitter, and other social media sharing by end users)
- ❖ More than 3,000 welfare resources
- ❖ Virtual webinars
- ❖ RSS feeds

## Web Site Outcomes and Statistics

- The Welfare Peer Technical Assistance Network has provided technical assistance for every State, some Tribes, and most Territories.
- More than 2,200 *welfare resources* are available on our site.
- To date, there have been 392 relevant questions (290 currently live on our site), 504 responses to questions (495 currently live on our site), 87 innovative programs, and more than 200 technical assistance requests submitted to the Web site.
- The total number of contacts in our database is 7,084 with 4,574 receiving weekly e-mail alerts.
- On average per month—from January to June 2011—the Web site received 15,965 visitors and approximately 23,864 page views.

## What is Technical Assistance?

- An intervention that shares information on innovative strategies and programs for effectively serving TANF participants, for the purposes of building linkages within and among agencies.
- Types of technical assistance delivered include:
  - Roundtable meetings
  - Site visits
  - Webinars
  - Promising practice reviews
  - Moderated teleconferences

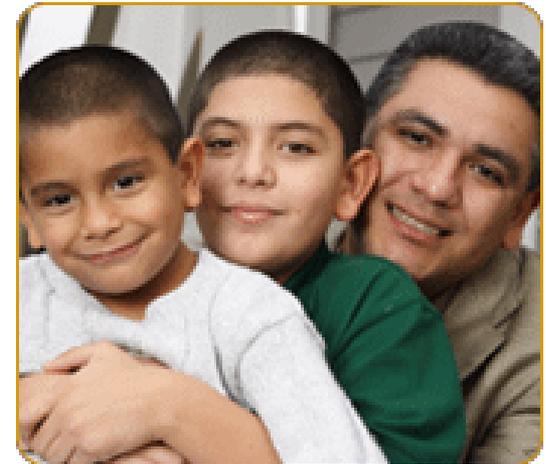


## Examples of Technical Assistance Activities

- ❖ Life Skills Curriculum and Training (New Mexico)
- ❖ Earned-Income Tax Credit Program Support (Georgia and Michigan)
- ❖ Motivational Interviewing Training (Texas)
- ❖ Wraparound Case Management Training (Chippewa Cree Tribe, Montana)
- ❖ Subsidized Employment Panel at the National Association of State TANF Administrators Annual Conference
- ❖ Webinars: Domestic Violence (State and Tribal) and English-Language Learners

## Accomplishments and Outcomes

- Wraparound Case Management Training—Confederated Tribe of Siletz Indians and Chippewa Cree Tribe
- Georgia Earned-Income Tax Credit/Asset-Building Statewide Coalition Meeting
- WeCARE (Wellness, Comprehensive Assessment, Rehabilitation, and Employment) Technical Assistance to Hawaii, Wisconsin, and Texas
- Establishment of a Statewide Child Kinship Program—North Dakota



## Topical Areas

Initial roundtables and events requested by various State, Tribal, and local entities have laid the strategic framework in the following areas:

- Healthy marriage and responsible fatherhood
- Integrating services and creating interoperability and collaboration
  - Urban TANF agency needs
- Case management and motivational interviewing
  - Rural TANF agency needs
    - Tribal agency needs
      - Transportation
  - Data and information technology
- Faith-based and community-based organizations

Welfare Peer Technical Assistance Network - Related ...

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UPI Toolkit

Home [Links to Helpful Sites](#) State and National Related Agencies, Organizations, and Events

## Links to Helpful Sites

This list does not reflect our endorsement of the organizations, their products, or services. The Welfare Peer Technical Assistance Network has no control over the content of these sites and cannot guarantee the appropriateness of these sites from day to day. If you identify other useful Web sites not currently included, please [contact](#) us with your suggestions.

[Link to the Welfare Peer TA Network](#)

Employment Marriage & Family Support Services Disability & Health Policy & Research **State & National**

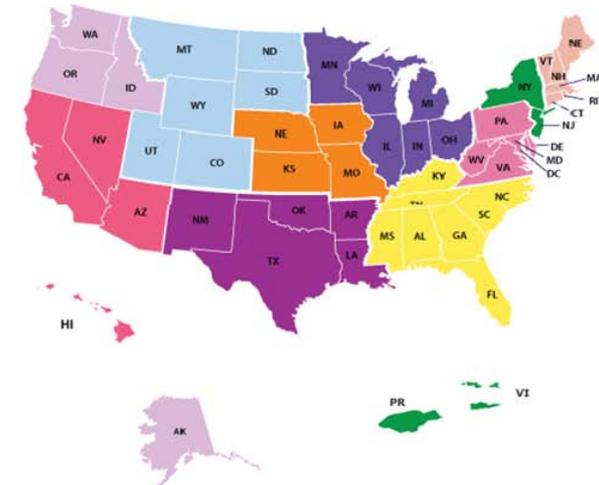
### State and National Related Agencies, Organizations, and Events

[Virtual TA](#)

The map below provides links to State and Territory TANF agencies and/or organizations, as well as relevant Welfare PeerTA events. To activate individual State pages from the map below, please click on the State of interest.

**Legend:**

- Region One
- Region Two
- Region Three
- Region Four
- Region Five
- Region Six
- Region Seven
- Region Eight
- Region Nine
- Region Ten



Tribal TA Summaries

Welfare Peer TA is also committed to supporting Tribal TANF programs. [View our Tribal Technical Assistance Summaries or Request Technical Assistance.](#)



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## REQUEST TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Introduction

TA Request Form

The Welfare Peer TA Network provides peer-to-peer technical assistance (TA) to States, counties, localities, tribes, or community-based organizations that are operating a TANF program or providing services to TANF families.

Please use the below online form to request technical assistance from the Welfare Peer TA Network.

(If you are unable to use our online form, you can download our form and fax it to the Welfare Peer TA Network at 703-934-3740. Please click on one of the following forms based on the type of TANF agency requesting TA: [TA Request Form for State, County, or Local TANF Agencies](#) or [TA Request Form for Tribes](#).)

### I. Identifying Information

Please complete this section so that the Welfare Peer TA Network can contact you. An asterisk (\*) indicates the field is required. View our [Privacy Policy](#).

\*Title:

Mr. ▼

\*First Name:

\*Last Name:

\*Position Title:

\*Agency/Organization:

# TA Request Form for Tribal TANF Agencies

Welfare PeerTA TA Request for Tribal TANF Agencies	
Title:	Requestor Name:
Position Title:	Requestor Agency/Organization:
Requestor Address:	Requestor County:
Requestor Phone:	Requestor Fax:
Requestor Email:	

## **Background of Tribal Agency:**

### Type of Agency:

- Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Tribal consortium
- Tribal Native Employment Works (NEW)
- Other, please explain:

### Service Area:

- Reservation only
- Off Reservation Service Area (Near Reservation)
- Multi-Reservation
- Multi-county Service Area
- Other, please indicate:

# TA Request Form for Tribal TANF Agencies

## Description of TA Requested:

### Area of Need:

Please review the list below for available areas of technical assistance. Please select what best describes the area of assistance you are requesting at this time.

- Verifying work activity hours and data reporting
- Client intake and assessments
- Individual case management techniques
- Crisis intervention
- Confidentiality
- Policy and procedures development and implementation
- Staffing and staff training
- Educating the Tribal council
- Collaboration with State Agencies
- Partnering with other Tribal agencies
- Developing MOUs/contracts
- Educating the Tribal community
- Establishing and Maintaining Professional Boundaries
- Assessment for TANF program sustainability

# TA Request Form for Tribal TANF Agencies

Please describe why you have selected this as your primary area of need. Include how this area has been a challenge for your organization, or why you feel this area is of importance.

Has your organization made any effort to resolve this issue marked above? If so, please explain the steps that were taken.

## **Format of Technical Assistance:**

What delivery method or format would you consider as your first choice for this technical assistance?

- Moderated teleconferences: Training can be conducted via teleconferencing. This can be accomplished in one or more calls, and can be attended by more than one Tribal agency.
- Peer-to-peer Roundtable: A similar or comparable program, who has had success in the area of requested TA, meets on site with the requesting program to provide peer training and share promising practices.
- Site visit: An outside trainer is selected to visit the Tribal Agency on site, and provide training in the area requested
- Workshop: Two or more Tribal Agencies, who have similar requests and needs, meet at a common location, and an outside trainer, is selected to provide the requested training at this location.

## **Participation**

How many individuals (staff) from your Tribal TANF organization, and or other coordinating programs, do you anticipate participating in this technical assistance event? (Please list position titles)

# TA Request Form for Tribal TANF Agencies

## Goals and Anticipated Outcomes

Based on the technical assistance areas selected, please answer the following questions related to your desires or vision for this event:

Please estimate how many TANF participants will potentially benefit from this event?

How many offices/locations/centers are expected to implement new initiatives or improved service delivery as a result of this event?

What is your expected timeframe for having completely integrated the lessons learned from this TA event?

- 0-3 months from date of event
- 4-6 months from date of event
- 6+ months from date of event

What are your expectations from this TA request, and how will you measure success?

## How are TA Requests Reviewed?

- The extent to which the assistance requested is likely to move TANF participants from welfare to work, self-sufficiency, and family stability.
- The degree to which the area of requested assistance is related to TANF priorities:
  - Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes, or in the homes of relatives;
  - End of the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage;
  - Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and establish annual, numerical goals for preventing and reducing the incidence of these pregnancies; and
  - Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

## How are TA Requests Reviewed?

- The degree to which the requested technical assistance methods foster information exchange among Tribes, States, counties, and communities.
- The extent to which the technical assistance requested may have value for other Tribes, States, or programs.
- The cost-effectiveness of the requested technical assistance.

Once your TA Request is received, you will be contacted by the Welfare Peer TA Network within three business days to discuss next steps.



## Building a PEER TA Network State by State



### Welfare Peer TA Team

<http://peerta.acf.hhs.gov>

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