



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
ADMINISTRATION FOR  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**  
Office of Family Assistance



2013 Regions V & VII TANF Priority Update Meeting  
September 10-11, 2013

## Summary Report



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United States Department of Health and Human Services,  
Administration for Children and Families,  
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and managed by ICF International

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**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

ADMINISTRATION FOR

**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

**Office of Family Assistance**

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## Introduction

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Administration for Children and Families (ACF) convened Regions V and VII of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) programs for a Priority Update Meeting on September 10th and 11th 2013, in Kansas City, Missouri. The meeting focused on providing offices in Regions V and VII with current information and research relevant for providing TANF participants with services; while also enabling the offices to network and share best practices. The following topics were covered over the two day meeting:

- Planning for and Understanding the Impact of TANF EBT Implementation;
- Investigating the Implications of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act;
- Addressing Homelessness through TANF;
- Using Research to Inform Practice; and
- Developing Demand-Driven Career Pathways for Low-Income Individuals and TANF Participants.

## Day One – September 10, 2013

### **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Gary Allen, Region VII Program Manager, and Nancy Thoma Groetken, Region VII Acting Administrator welcomed participants and emphasized the importance of this meeting as a learning opportunity for both State and Federal representatives. Mr. Allen discussed that, based on participant feedback from previous regional meetings, the 2013 Region V and VII TANF Meeting agenda allocated significant time for peer-to-peer sharing.

### **Promising State Initiative Presentations**

Moderated by Frances Dixon, TANF Program Specialist, Region VII, this session included brief State presentations describing the most promising TANF-related initiatives in their area. Participants presented on a wide variety of topics which included subsidized employment efforts, community-based partnership strategies, and integrated eligibility programs among others.

#### ***Iowa***

Reported on their current efforts in implementing a subsidized employment program. While not limited to two-parent families, the State intends to use this program to increase support for this population. Iowa is seeking funding and a qualified program manager to begin operating this program. The State also reported that rolling out the new integrated eligibility system is requiring a significant amount of staff time and program resources. They secured technology funding for the eligibility system and have targeted October 1, 2013 for initial start-up. The TANF eligibility portion of the system will not begin until approximately early summer 2013.

### **Missouri**

Discussed their efforts to augment and improve their work participation rates. The State offers incentives, via performance based contracts, to their community-based partner agencies (e.g., Goodwill Industries International, Inc.) for positive job placement and retention outcomes among TANF participants. The State considers any outcome as “improved” if it increases two percentage points or over.

### **Illinois**

Discussed the reasoning behind their decision to eliminate the asset test for TANF participants beginning October 1, 2013. Over the previous year, Illinois estimates that they spent over one million dollars verifying TANF participant submitted asset information. Caseworkers denied zero cases as a result of the asset fact checks. Michigan responded to Illinois’ update by stating they recently initiated a TANF asset limit test at the request of caseworkers. Like Illinois, Michigan reported zero denials as a result of their examinations into participant reported assets.

### **Michigan**

Through funding from J.P. Morgan, Chase Bank, and other partners, the State began establishing health clinics in Detroit and three other large cities as a way to remove barriers to healthcare access. With health related barriers present throughout the State, Michigan is now looking to roll-out this model statewide. The State also reported that for children ages six to fifteen, cases of school truancy will result in the closure of a families’ TANF case. Since establishing this policy Michigan reported a drop in truancy rates.

### **Wisconsin**

Discussed the new pay-for-performance contracts established with the eight contractors operating Wisconsin’s TANF program. Forty percent of each contractor agreement is now reserved for performance based incentives (e.g., assisting participants secure employment). Wisconsin also reported that contractors are using technology more frequently to manage caseloads in remote locations that lack a physical TANF office. The State is also focusing once more on subsidized employment based on evaluations showing positive outcomes when this program was funded under ARRA. The new phase of subsidized employment, which will follow a transitional jobs model, will take effect on March 1, 2014. Eligible populations under the new subsidized employment program will include non-custodial parents. Wisconsin is also exploring subsidized employment opportunities for children transitioning out of foster care. Michigan reported also using subsidized employment strategies to target this population. Wisconsin mentioned that investigating the long-term outcomes of subsidized employment programs would serve as a useful research topic.

### **Ohio**

Allocated \$33 million to encourage partnerships between county workforce agencies and State TANF staff. Ohio is also now offering performance based incentives for subsidized employment placements and positive participant job retention. The State also brought in an outside

contractor to evaluate Ohio’s TANF program operations (both at the State and county levels). Results from this evaluation are forthcoming.

### **Nebraska**

Discussed updates to allowing participation in certain education programs to count towards TANF participation requirements. Nebraska passed legislation to allow Adult Basic Education (ABE), English as Second Language (ESL), and General Educational Development (GED) programs to count as core hours of participation. The State has not seen significant impact from this change to-date. Nebraska move to a “universal caseload system” has also created challenges to benefit delivery. The State believes this is one of the biggest factors for the recent, slight work participation rate drop. The current work participation rate is currently 51 percent – down from approximately 53 percent in 2012.

### **Kansas**

Provided an overview of their Strong Families Make a Strong Kansas program and highlighted activities from their four regions (East, West, Wichita, and Kansas City). Highlights from these activities includes initiating WorkKeys testing and certification statewide, developing a closer connection to Connections to Success (an employment focused fatherhood program) in the Kansas City region, and initiating a new statewide subsidized employment program.

### **Minnesota**

Discussed their efforts to shift the primary focus of their TANF program away from documentation requirements and back to self-support and stable employment. With this shift has come more focus on outcomes three years after someone enters TANF. The goal of the program is to have participants secure employment and exit TANF within those first three years. The State’s performance bonus factors have also moved from work participation rates to the self-support index. Minnesota is also working on a teen parent focused home health visit program.

### **Federal Updates Panel**

- **Mark Greenberg**, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families
- **Susan Golonka**, Deputy Director, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance

During this facilitated discussion, Region V and VII State representatives had the opportunity to hear from ACF and OFA leadership on key issues. Mr. Greenberg opened the session by providing an overview of some of the current initiatives that ACF is working on and noting that ACF is very aware of the challenges States face in maintaining their Work Participation Rate and running effective programs. Mr. Greenberg explained that changes in the labor market and the way that people look for jobs have forced states to explore changes to the ways that they seek to place TANF participants into gainful employment.

Mr. Greenberg noted that he was encouraged by the amount of discussion during the Promising State Initiatives Presentations Session around subsidized employment. He added that ACF is currently looking into some promising practices with regard to TANF-WIA coordination. Mr. Greenberg also noted that ACF is very focused on having a research agenda, which is designed to help states develop and implement more effective programs, especially those that connect TANF participants to employment. Mr. Greenberg closed by talking about some of ACF's current research activities, including one on behavioral economics, as well as discussing potential future areas for research, such as toxic stress and ways to more systematically address executive functioning among adult TANF participants.

Following Mr. Greenberg's remarks, Ms. Golonka discussed financial reporting requirements. She explained that on September 12, 2013 a paperwork reduction announcement would be made proposing to revise the TANF financial reporting form ACF-196, with the new form being ACF-196R. The change is due to the fact that the ACF-196 form has not changed a great deal since the inception of the TANF program, despite the fact that the ways in which states choose to spend TANF funds have changed over the years. In FY 2012, for example, 20 percent of the funds reported by states were reported in categories where it was not clear how the funds were being spent. Ms. Golonka also noted that some of the definitions on the ACF-196 form are not mutually exclusive, and that the ACF-196R form tries to make those distinctions more clear. Ms. Golonka gave an overview of the reporting changes that the ACF-196R form entails, including increasing the number of reporting categories in order to get a better sense of the "Other" spending (e.g., home visiting is a new category). She also explained that ACF-196R changes the counting methodology in order to provide ACF with a better sense of what activities States are spending funds on in the current fiscal year. Under ACF-196R, spending that was authorized under prior law will be broken out into more categories. Ms. Golonka closed out her remarks by encouraging participants to provide formal comments on the proposed changes through the Federal Register, and then opened the floor for questions.

#### **Questions and Answers:**

1. Do the proposed financial reporting changes indicate that ACF is moving in the direction of requiring states to obligate and spend funding during a certain year and within a specified timeframe?

**Answer:**

*No, those requirements are set by statute.*

2. Will the proposed financial reporting changes mean that States will have to retrofit historical reporting?

**Answer:**

*No. Under the assumption that ACF-196R will go into effect in FY 2015, adjustments will only have to be made for FY 2015 reporting and beyond. ACF believes that these reporting changes will be in the best interests of all parties and they welcome formal comments through the Federal Register as to how ACF-196R could be improved before it is implemented.*

3. Will any guidance be provided regarding how to differentiate expenditures for programs that are funded under Purpose Three and Purpose Four?

**Answer:**

*ACF's definition for out-of-wedlock pregnancies is going to be much more narrowly construed. This is one of those instances where States can attempt to do a cost allocation, or choose a purpose. What ACF is trying to move towards is for States' in their financial reporting to describe what an activity is rather than just describing what the purpose is, in order to move away from 'reporting to a purpose'.*

4. Is Purpose Three going to be redefined?

**Answer:**

*No. Nothing in in ACF-196R will change what is an allowable expenditure.*

5. Is ACF planning any initiatives around family formation and fatherhood?

**Answer:**

*For President Obama this is a major concern and priority. A lot of States are looking at expanding their programs with noncustodial parents. Within ACF there is actually an ongoing Fatherhood group that seeks to work across all of ACF's programs and identify areas where ACF could be doing more. There are also significant opportunities for addressing men's health with the implementation of the Affordable Care Act.*

6. Do you have any insight into when the new Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) regulations will be released?

**Answer:**

*We're currently waiting on those as well.*

## State Networking Session

During this session, moderated by Tom Schindler, Interim Region V Program Manager, each State shared programmatic strategies and ongoing challenges in their area. States highlighted key aspects of their programs that provided opportunities for other States to learn from or engage in further dialogue.

As the discussion unfolded, States acknowledged the importance of focusing services and program efforts on meeting the needs of individual families rather than focusing on meeting work participation rates and getting individuals into core activities. In doing so, Wisconsin has regularly been able to meet Federal regulations. This year, however, Wisconsin will not be meeting their work participation rate. The State indicated that they are receiving incentives for meeting the 50 percent work participation rate and expressed interest in learning what other States have done to incentivize meeting work participation rates.

States had an opportunity to discuss the time limits that their individual states implement. Kansas has a 60-month hard limit and after reaching 48-months, participants have to meet one of four hardships to get additional 12-months of support services. In some States, participants must initiate a request for a hardship extension; in others, States require the case manager to make this request.



States turned to tracking TANF participant's job retention and learned that some States track job attainment and wages while others do not. States expressed difficulty in tracking job retention long-term because of earned income. One State tracked participants for six months after job attainment through phone calls.

Mark Greenberg opened discussion around available research on TANF programs and efforts. Most research money is tied up in long-term research efforts, but he was interested in knowing if descriptive information on jobs at the lower-end of the labor market would be more useful than TANF leaver studies. States expressed their interest in knowing more about decisions being made by employers on who they hire. Having descriptive information about how employers organize work, particularly with regard to part-time work, scheduling, and organization of shifts, would be useful for States. Meeting representatives expressed interest in learning about:

- Requirements for post-secondary education;
- The impact on work participation rates of changing income disregards;
- Providing incentives for finding barriers;
- Solely-State funded programs;
- Refugee families transitioning from refugee cash to TANF cash; and
- Providing services when language barriers are present.

### **Planning for and Understanding the Impact of TANF EBT Implementation**

- **Mark Greenberg**, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families
- **Susan Golonka**, Deputy Director, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance
- **Elizabeth Lower-Basch**, Senior Policy Analyst, CLASP

Moderated by Meridel Trimble, TANF Program Specialist, Region V, this session covered recent updates to TANF EBT implementation, including strategies around implementation, transaction restrictions, integration/interoperability, and other key topical issues. The session also included an opportunity for States to share lessons learned from their current EBT implementation planning activities.

Mr. Greenberg and Ms. Golonka began the session by stating that Federal EBT regulations are still under review and not yet ready for release. Even though most States have not submitted an EBT plan, ACF is asking States to submit a report by February 2, 2014 describing how they implemented and maintained EBT regulations. As the official regulations are still pending, States were asked to use the OFA document *TANF Requirements with EBT Implementation*, released in March 2013 on OFA's Web site, to formulate a response to the report request. Also

due in February 2014 are State EBT plan renewal or amendment reports documenting how the State is preventing EBT use at liquor stores, casinos, and other restricted locations.

Ms. Lower-Basch followed the Federal update by discussing EBT implementation from a national perspective. She reiterated at the beginning of her presentation that her perspectives may not necessarily correspond with Federal views. Ms. Lower-Basch discussed how States seemingly are waiting to issue formal State EBT plans until after the release of the official regulations. While the emphasis on EBT regulations is location (e.g. casinos), not item restriction, many States have issued both use and location limitations. The challenge, according to the speaker, is accurately identifying and labeling these locations as restricted. In addition to the difficulty of identifying all restricted locations, in many cases, these businesses, or rather the ATMs located on-site, move frequently. She highlighted some examples from other States, pointing out that in California a very small number of clients represent the vast majority of EBT withdrawal surcharges. Ms. Lower-Basch felt that Arizona, which places the responsibility of restriction enforcement on businesses, has one of the most promising EBT models.

During this session, States were also given the opportunity to highlight any local EBT implementation updates or raise EBT related questions.

### ***Missouri***

Discussed how they are in the process of tagging restricted locations. Missouri developed a system to collect and analyze TANF participant transactions in order to identify inappropriate purchases. The State reported that EBT misuse prevention is difficult, with claims against inappropriate transactions the only real recourse. A State audit found that less than five percent of EBT transactions were considered inappropriate. Other States confirmed they found similar numbers.

### ***Wisconsin***

Still issues paper checks. Wisconsin inquired as to the format of the report due on February 2, 2014, to which OFA responded that it depended on what EBT activities the State undertook.

### ***Iowa***

Asked if there were consequences if their “reasonable interpretation” is not in compliance with the final EBT regulations. OFA responded that the general rule is to allow States as much flexibility as possible. In cases of non-compliance, OFA would most likely ask the State to become compliant as soon as possible.

### ***Minnesota***

Reported that they have current State laws regarding EBT use for alcohol, tobacco, and gambling. They offered to share this language with the other States. Minnesota does periodic reviews of participant transactions and blocks any identified restricted points-of-sale and ATM locations. In terms of penalties, the State in most cases will ask participants to repay the amount of any inappropriate transaction.

## Investigating the Implications of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

- **Elissa Balch**, Management Analyst, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Region VII

Ms. Balch from the Region VII Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services provided information on the implications of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). The ACA is intended to expand access to insurance, increase consumer protections, emphasize prevention and wellness, improve quality and system performance, expand the health workforce, and curb rising health care costs.

One of the most impactful provisions of the ACA is the Health Insurance Marketplace that provides the public with the opportunity to purchase health insurance. The Marketplace has a single application process that allows participants to compare between available plans.

The ACA also creates opportunities for States to expand Medicaid. It ensures Medicaid coverage for all children at 133 percent the Federal poverty line and mandates coverage for children leaving the foster care system until the age of 25.

### Questions and Answers:

1. When is someone determined ineligible for Medicaid services?

**Answer:**

*They will not get a notice that they are not eligible; they would get a notice for what they are eligible for. Notices will indicate when a person may be eligible and their information would be forwarded to Medicaid to determine eligibility. Medicaid has 45 days to determine eligibility. Medicaid eligibility is determined before ACA eligibility.*

2. If States did not expand Medicaid, what are the income eligibility requirements?

**Answer:**

*If a State is not expanding Medicaid, incomes between 0-99 percent of the Federal poverty line are eligible for premium tax credits. Incomes between 100-250 percent of the Federal poverty line are eligible for a different tax credit. Some States are trying to train W-2 workers on how to help individuals in the 0-99 percent.*

3. What happens if people do not pick a plan?

**Answer:**

*People will not get automatically enrolled and they will be without health insurance. If they do not have health insurance and file taxes, they will be penalized for not having health insurance.*

4. Susan Golonka asked how the ACA relates to TANF participants and how the ACA is unfolding in each of the participant States.

**Answer:**

*In Nebraska, TANF will be operated independently and they will have to ask questions to the other agency responsible for the Marketplace.*

5. What would you want your TANF participants to know about ACA? What information will you share with them and when?

**Answer:**

*In Wisconsin, people are hesitant to take jobs that are over 30 hours because they will lose their Medicaid. It will impact all of their services. CMS may be able to help share that a TANF participant will be eligible for resources that will help them pay for the monthly payment. By showing them some examples it may help them see that they will have some assistance.*

## Day Two – September 11, 2013

### **Using Research to Inform Practice: Findings from a Study of TANF Work Participation and Engagement and an Introduction of the Family Self-Sufficiency and Stability Research Consortium (FSSRC)**

- **Michelle Derr**, Senior Researcher, Mathematica

This session covered two applied projects—one research and the other technical assistance—funded by the Office of Planning Research and Evaluation (OPRE). The session began with a summary of findings from the Study of TANF Work Participation and Engagement. This study is based on site visits in eleven communities in eight states and telephone interviews with TANF administrators in 30 states. It describes efforts to increase TANF client engagement in federally defined and other work-related activities. The second portion of this session, ACF's Family Self-Sufficiency and Stability Research Consortium: Resources and Supports for Conducting (FSSRC) and Using High Quality Research Studies, introduced the structure of and opportunities available through the FSSRC. It was also used to elicit feedback from states on how to improve the accessibility and utility of family self-sufficiency research.

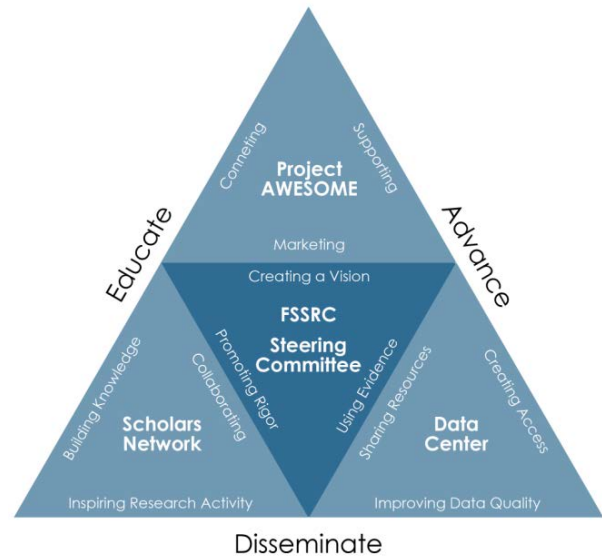
Ms. Derr gave a brief overview of her personal experiences working with TANF and low-income populations as well as groups commonly facing barriers to work. She presented a study of TANF Work Participation and Engagement including strategies for engagement and improving program performance in the face of a changing TANF program environment. The study sought to find solutions to increase work participation activities of zero-hour participants and analyze the effects of the recession on the services and resources available to engage TANF participants. The study yielded significant findings:

- TANF programs were facing reduced budgets, increased caseloads, and narrowed service options;
- More part-time employment now than in the past;
- Some states were revisiting TANF program design; and,
- Changing TANF policies and caseload composition.

States engaged in an interactive activity detailing strategies that they are implementing in their own areas and offered feedback and recommendations to peers.

In second half of the session, Ms. Derr presented on the FSSRC Project AWESOME. **Figure 1** is a snapshot of how research can inform practice. Since welfare reform, there have been significant declines in welfare research concerning research capacity, program evaluation, and academic interest in TANF program operations. However, Ms. Derr also highlighted the numerous advances in welfare research including technological and training advances, standardizing randomized control trials (RCTs) for answering causal questions, and advances in alternative methodologies in examining causal relations.

**Figure 1 – FSSRC Research and Practice**



### Developing Demand-Driven Career Pathways for Low-Income Individuals and TANF Participants

- **Elizabeth Lower-Basch**, Senior Policy Analyst, CLASP
- **William “Ed” Trumbull**, Principal, ICF International
- **Delores Graves**, Business Division Manager, Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board

During this session, attendees were given an overview of the various components behind demand-driven career pathways aimed to build sectoral workforces and learned strategies for moving TANF and other low-income individuals into high-demand occupations.

Ms. Lower-Basch provided a working definition for career pathways and shared some key differences between career pathways and traditional education and training programs. Career pathways are an approach to connecting progressive levels of basic skills and postsecondary education, training, and support services. They differ greatly from traditional education and training programs in their focus on progressive training, often tailored to a specific industry with a clear connection to workforce goals that helps individual’s secure marketable credentials for employment. These strategies have been shown to impact career attainment in the general population, but studies have not yet examined their impact on TANF participants. **Figure 2** demonstrates a potential trajectory for these career advancement strategies.

**Figure 2 – Career Pathways**



Many TANF agencies feel the trade-off push between work first and education and training, but there has been a recent emphasis on States’ flexibility for promoting educational opportunities. Understanding career pathways programs is critical for TANF agencies to ensure low-income individuals can access career pathways programming. TANF agencies are well-equipped to handle the barriers that many of these individuals face and have flexibility in their funding requirements to support these programs. Specifically, TANF programs can use their funds for curriculum redesigns and incremental costs, support services, work-study jobs, and incentive grants.

Mr. Trumbull reinforced the importance of education and training and shared some key components that make up career pathways programs. Over the years, the nation has seen a drastic decrease in job availability for individuals with only a high school degree. These individuals were also the hardest hit by the recession, thus, highlighting the importance of providing these individuals with a pathway towards attaining marketable skills and knowledge.

Career pathways programs focus on several key elements, including building cross agency partnerships and clarifying roles; identifying sector or industry and engaging employers; designing education and training programs; identifying funding needs and sources; aligning policies and programs; and measuring system change and performance. Career pathways programs, Mr. Trumbull emphasized, must be truly driven by local market needs and build from partnerships with local organizations, work force agencies, and academic institutions.

Ms. Graves shared her experience in building career pathways that focused on creating a cadre of health care workers. The Milwaukee Area WIB was one of 32 organization awarded grants that focus on health care training for TANF participants. The grant mandated collaboration with workforce councils and TANF and Milwaukee's focuses on the training of community health workers, dental assistants, and nursing as the ACA has recognized these work positions as important healthcare assets.

Milwaukee has adopted Minnesota's best practices and focus on three main steps in training: (1) basic; (2) Living Well with Chronic Conditions (LWICC); and, (3) Leader for LWICC. They have partnered with University of Wisconsin and technical college system, state agencies, and local partners (including hospital systems). Milwaukee has seen positive response from the TANF population, generally eager and passionate about the work. In partnership with the technical college system, Milwaukee is developing an associate degree for community health. The training accommodates normal work schedules and provides classes on evenings and weekends.

### **Addressing Homelessness through TANF**

Led by Gary Allen, this session investigated, when applicable, how States use TANF to help prevent homelessness. The last few years has seen a dramatic increase in the number of homeless families. Mr. Allen emphasized that TANF must be a partner with housing services to bring about the eradication of this growing challenge. States provided the following TANF and homelessness updates:

#### ***Michigan***

Modified their TANF time limit requirements they anticipated a large influx of participants seeking first month rent assistance. In actuality, very few people requested this support as most appeared to reside "informally" with family or friends. The State is only supporting 5-10 percent of the population they assumed would seek assistance.

#### ***Minnesota***

Currently operates a homeless assistance program. The State serves families at risk of becoming homeless through Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds. With caseloads increasing, Minnesota is concerned with continuing to fund this level of support.

#### ***Missouri***

Manages a shelter program. The State, along with other meeting participants, reported a negative attitude towards homeless from both businesses and the general community in their area. The general perspective from meeting attendees was that most homeless are individuals and not eligible for TANF.

#### ***Nebraska***

Explained that they administer TANF and housing within a single unit. Their ESG program serves both populations but as the ESG pool of funding is small the State always spends their annual

allotment. The State is seeking a better approach to analyze data and determine which participants are TANF and ESG eligible.

### **Ohio**

Reported many homeless families reside in domestic violence shelters. They also discussed how a number of families elect not to enter shelters as these locations have “rules” (i.e., substance abuse assessments and work requirements).

During the conversation on homeless and TANF, States also recommended establishing an easier way to network with the myriad of housing support programs in their states. States also discussed the need to engage housing staff in future TANF and homelessness discussions. Ms. Lower-Basch also recommended states investigate Department of Housing and Urban Development initiatives in their area as a potential source of funding. Finally, states also mentioned needing to counter the common perception that employed individuals do not receive some type of public assistance. In many cases employment does not eliminate the need for certain supports like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).





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## Appendix A - Agenda



# Agenda

Regions V & VII 2013 TANF Priority Update Meeting

## Day One – Tuesday, September 10, 2013

**8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Registration and Networking**

**8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Welcoming Remarks and Introduction**

**8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Promising State Initiative Presentations**

Each State will have six minutes to describe the most promising TANF-related initiatives in their State. States will then network to discuss those initiatives that are of particular interest to them.

**Speakers: All Meeting Attendees**

**10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Break**

**10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Federal Updates Panel**

During this facilitated discussion, Region V and VII State representatives will have the opportunity to hear from ACF and OFA leadership on key issues. States will have the chance to engage in conversations with ACF leadership during a Question & Answer Session.

**Speakers: Mark Greenberg**  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families

**Susan Golonka**  
Deputy Director, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance

**11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. State Networking Session**

During this moderated, solutions-focused rapid reporting session, each State will discuss programmatic strategies, funding opportunities, and ongoing challenges in their area. States will highlight key updates and engage their peers in strategic dialogue meant to increase programmatic innovation and improve implementation.

**Speakers: State Representatives**

**12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. Lunch on your own**

1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

### **Planning for and Understanding the Impact of TANF EBT Implementation**

During this panel session, presenters will discuss recent updates regarding EBT implementation, including strategies around implementation, transaction restrictions, integration/interoperability, and other topical key issues. The session will also include an opportunity for States to share lessons learned from their current EBT implementation planning activities.

**Speakers:      Region V and VII Staff**

**State Representatives**

**Elizabeth Lower-Basch**

Senior Policy Analyst, CLASP

3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

***Break***

3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

### **Investigating the Implications of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act**

This session will focus on the upcoming implementation of the Affordable Care Act Marketplaces.

**Speakers:      Region VII Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services**

4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

### **Addressing Homelessness through TANF**

This session will explore how the TANF program serves as a resource for assisting homeless, low-income families. States will briefly report out on local efforts to support TANF families experiencing homelessness. Regional staff will also present on homelessness resources and interventions at a national level.

5:15 p.m.

### **Day One Close-Out and Evaluation**



# Agenda

Regions V & VII 2013 TANF Priority Update Meeting

## Day Two – Wednesday, September 11, 2013

8:40 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.      **Opening Remarks**

8:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.      **Using Research to Inform Practice: Findings from a Study of TANF Work Participation and Engagement and an Introduction of the Family Self-Sufficiency and Stability Research Consortium (FSSRC)**

This session covers two applied projects—one research and the other technical assistance— funded by the Office of Planning Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families (ACF). The session will begin with a summary of findings from the Study of TANF Work Participation and Engagement. This study is based on site visits in eleven communities in eight States and telephone interviews with TANF administrators in 30 States. It describes efforts to increase TANF client engagement in federally defined and other work-related activities. The second portion of this session will introduce the structure of and opportunities available through ACF’s Family Self-Sufficiency and Stability Research Consortium: Resources and Supports for Conducting (FSSRC) and Using High Quality Research Studies. It will also be used to elicit feedback from States on how to improve the accessibility and utility of family self-sufficiency research.

**Speakers:**      **Michelle Derr**  
Senior Researcher, Mathematica

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.      **Break**

10:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.      **Developing Demand-Driven Career Pathways for Low-Income Individuals and TANF Participants**

During this session, attendees will gain a better understanding of the components of demand-driven career pathways aimed to build sectoral workforces and learn strategies for moving TANF and other low-income individuals into high-demand occupations. Topic areas include building connections with employers as well as the use of labor market information to customize job searches and develop career pathway programs.

**Speakers:**      **Elizabeth Lower-Basch**  
Senior Policy Analyst, CLASP

**William “Ed” Trumbull**  
Principal, ICF International

**Delores Graves**  
Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board

**11:30 a.m. – Noon**

**Technical Assistance Feedback and Follow-Up Session**

During this moderated session, State participants will learn of technical assistance resources available through the Welfare Peer TA (WPTA) network and will identify and provide feedback to OFA on future technical assistance topical areas and activities.

**Speakers: All Meeting Attendees**

**Noon – 12:15 p.m.**

**Close Out and Evaluation**



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
ADMINISTRATION FOR  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**  
Office of Family Assistance

## Appendix B – Participant Lists



# Participants

Regions V & VII 2013 TANF Priority Update Meeting

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