



Employment Excellence: Social Enterprise Experts' Listening Session

March 1–2, 2018

Agenda

The Office of Family Assistance (OFA) within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) has convened a select group of thought leaders to explore the evolution and current landscape of social enterprise organizations (SEO), and brainstorm potential avenues for the federal government to advance the SEO field, particularly in support of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) participants and TANF-eligible populations. OFA views this listening session as a unique opportunity to learn about SEO successes, needs, and challenges, and to discover what benefits OFA might offer in collaborating with the field to support capacity-building, outreach, or other supportive efforts. We hope this listening session will spark additional dialogue and partnerships around this topic, while generating ideas to inspire and edify the design and implementation of OFA social enterprise initiatives that increase self-sufficiency for vulnerable populations.

Facilitator: Kent Peterson, Managing Director, The Strategic Organization

Thursday, March 1, 2018

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| 8:00–9:00 a.m. | <i>Registration</i> |
| 9:00–9:30 a.m. | Welcome, Context, and Opening Remarks
➤ Clarence H. Carter , Director, OFA |
| 9:30–10:30 a.m. | Expert Introductions
Participants will introduce themselves and provide overviews of their respective organizations. Each will highlight their efforts to address poverty and barriers to employment among TANF participants and the most vulnerable individuals. |
| 10:30–10:45 a.m. | <i>Break and Networking</i> |
| 10:45 a.m.–12 noon | The History of SEOs in the United States and New Zealand
Experts from REDF and Whānau Tahī Ltd. will discuss the evolution of SEOs at home and abroad. The group will discuss how their respective organizations have evolved and worked with public and private groups to meet the needs of the populations they serve. |
| 12 noon–1:30 p.m. | <i>Lunch on Your Own</i> |

- 1:30–3:00 p.m. **Elements of Successful Social Enterprises**
 SEOs take various forms—their funding, service delivery model, and sustainability planning differ from organization to organization. Practitioner experts will provide 8-minute presentations on their models and share strengths and successes of their specific organizations. An expert panel will engage in a discussion about key components of successful models operating both locally and nationally.
- 3:00–3:15 p.m. *Break and Networking*
- 3:15–4:30 p.m. **Challenges Facing Social Enterprises**
 A second group of experts will discuss the programmatic and organizational challenges that SEOs face, how these challenges affect their ability to meet their goals, and how intermediaries can assist them.
- 4:30–4:45 p.m. **Wrap-up of Day 1**
- 4:45 p.m. *Adjourn for the Day*

Friday, March 2, 2018

- 9:00–9:10 a.m. **Overview of Day 2**
 ➤ **Clarence H. Carter, OFA**
- 9:10–10:30 a.m. **Is there a Role for the Federal Government in Social Enterprise?**
 In three facilitated small groups, experts will discuss if there is a role for the federal government and consider how it might support and build upon the work of SEOs. Experts will focus on strategies for meeting the needs of TANF participants and the most vulnerable.
- 10:30–11:30 a.m. **Partnership Prioritization**
 Experts will reconvene in the large group to report out on the small group discussions. Topics for consideration will include the role, if any, for the federal government, priorities for the field, and strategies for strengthening partnerships to grow the field.
- 11:30 a.m.–12 noon **Closing Remarks and Next Steps**
 ➤ **Clarence H. Carter, OFA**
- 12 noon *Adjournment*