

Coordinating TANF & WIOA:

High Interest, Slow Progress During Early Days Of WIOA

Anna Cielinski

Senior Policy Analyst

Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

Methodology

- Created phone survey based on existing literature and prior knowledge
- Piloted survey with two respondents
- Emailed invitations to all TANF and WIOA state directors
- Did follow-up with state contacts
- Limitation: self-selected sample introduces selection bias
- Semi-structured phone interviews with 17 TANF directors and 14 WIOA directors or their designees
- Covered 25 states and 6 “state pairs”
- Interviews were recorded, transcribed, and analyzed

Interviews Completed

Interviews Completed			
States	TANF	WIOA	Pairs
Alabama	x	x	x
Alaska		x	
Arkansas	x		
Colorado		x	
California	x		
Connecticut	x		
Hawaii	x		
Illinois		x	
Iowa		x	
Kansas	x		
Louisiana	x		
Maryland	x	x	x
Michigan		x	
Missouri	x	x	x
New Hampshire		x	
New Jersey		x	
Pennsylvania		x	
South Carolina	x		
South Dakota	x		
Tennessee	x	x	x
Utah	x		
Vermont	x		
Virginia	x	x	x
Wisconsin	x		
Wyoming	x	x	x
Total	17	14	6
Total Number of states	25		

Ten Strategies That May Increase Coordination

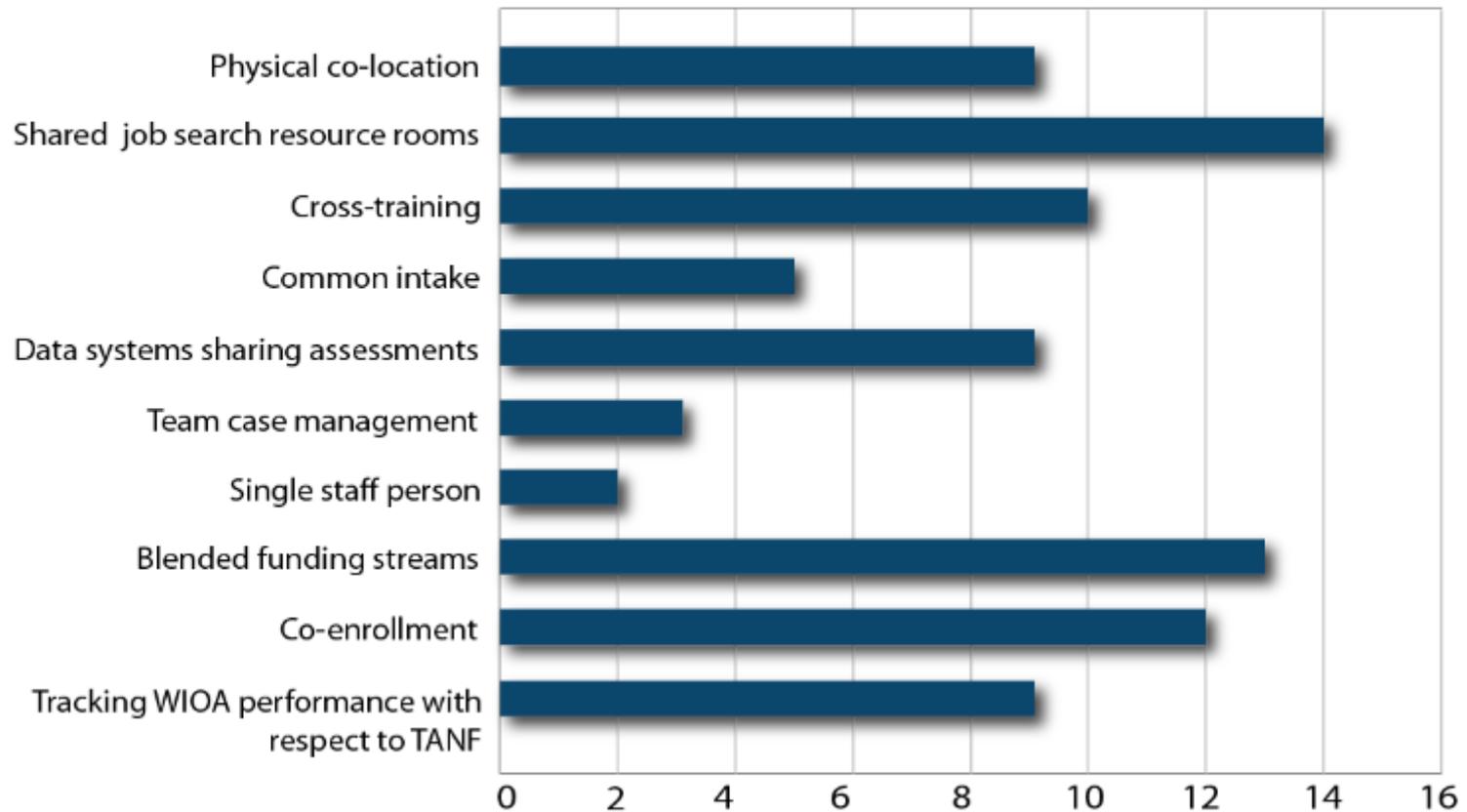
CLASP asked respondents about 10 specific strategies that may increase coordination between TANF programs and one-stops. Based on existing literature.*

1. Physical co-location of TANF and WIOA services
2. Shared job search resource rooms
3. Cross-training staff on policy
4. Common intake for TANF and WIOA services
5. Assessments conducted in one system are shared with case managers in the other
6. Team case management, where TANF and WIOA case managers who serve the same clients are placed together in a team
7. A single staff person doing case management for TANF and WIOA (with the caveat that this staff member would not need to determine TANF eligibility)
8. Blended or braided funding streams, meaning that services and staff may be funded by a combination of sources but serve clients the same regardless of which program they are in
9. Co-enrolling TANF recipients as WIOA participants
10. Tracking WIOA performance measure outcomes for TANF recipients (even if the se individuals are not formally co-enrolled in WIOA)

*CLASP's report "A Means to an End: Integration of Welfare and Workforce Development Systems" and Mathematica Policy Research's report "Coordinating Employment Services Across the TANF and WIA Programs."

Number of States Reporting Each Strategy

Figure 1: Number of states that report using the listed strategies



Most common strategies

- Shared job resource room
- Braided funding streams

Least common strategies

- Single case manager
- Team case management

Opportunities and Challenges



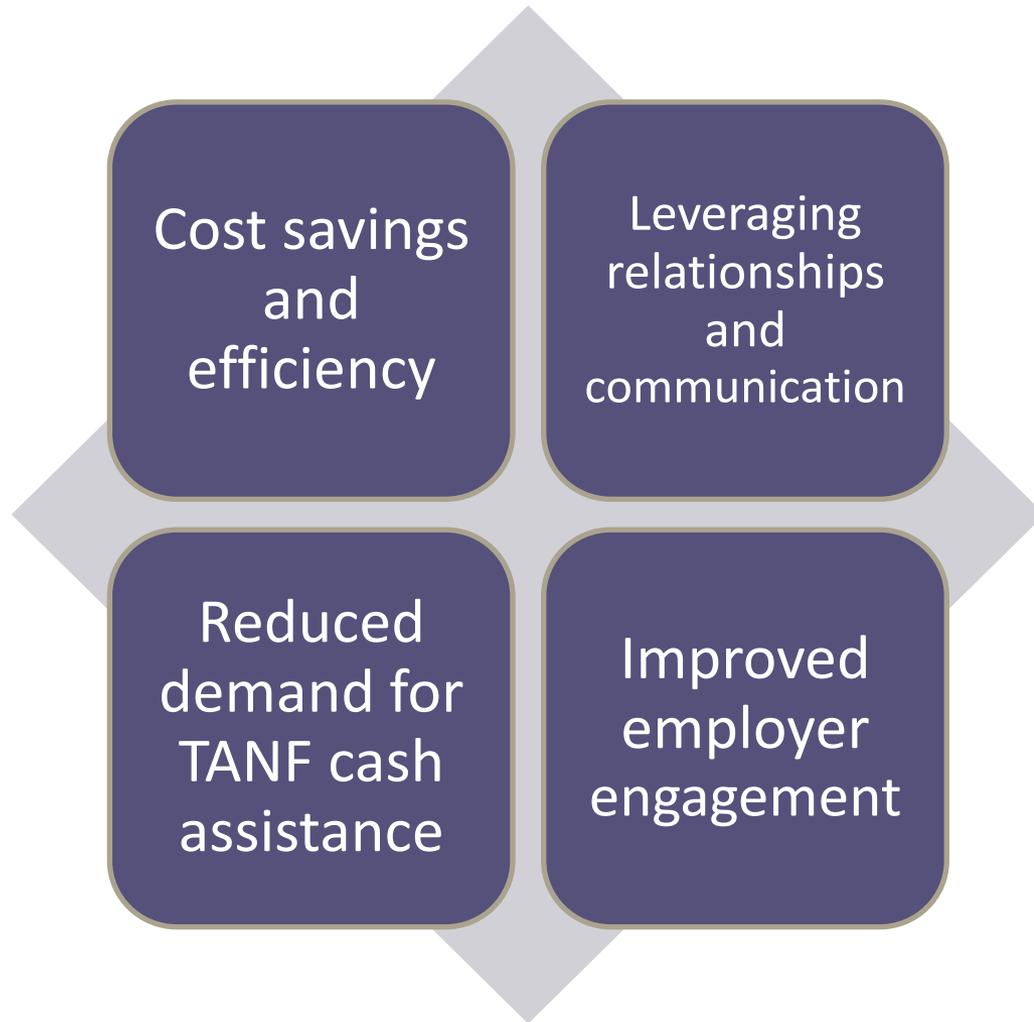
Opportunities for TANF clients

Increased job placements and better access to the labor market

TANF participants obtaining a broader range of services

Holistically addressing barriers through partnerships, braided funding streams, and wrap-around services.

Opportunities for agencies from coordination



Challenges to coordination

Different performance measures

Belief that WIOA title I administrators would not want to serve a more difficult population

Communication problems caused by agencies' cultural differences

Institutional inertia

Differences in data systems

State Recommendations

- Maintain and increase communication between TANF and WIOA agencies
- Track and share important data, including outcomes on WIOA measures for TANF recipients
- Take advantage of state flexibility under TANF to allow more TANF recipients to meet their participation requirements through engagement in education and training

Federal Recommendations

- Replace WPR with outcome-based performance measures that lead to more effective programs
- Pass legislation building on the bipartisan Enhancing and Modernizing Pathways to Opportunity through Work, Education, and Responsibility (EMPOWER) Act (S. 3091 in the 114th Congress)
 - Would allow vocational education to be counted as a work activity for up to 36 months of participation

Federal Recommendations (cont.)

- Amend TANF to automatically count participation in WIOA-funded activities toward the work participation rate
- Enable and encourage states to spend more of their TANF and state funds claimed as maintenance of effort (MOE) on work-related services

Save Questions for End

Contact Information:

Anna Cielinski

Senior Policy Analyst

Center for Law and Social Policy

acielinski@clasp.org

@AnnaCielinski

Link to paper: [Coordinating TANF & WIOA: High Interest, Slow Progress During Early Days Of WIOA](#)