

OFFICE OF FAMILY ASSISTANCE
An Office of the Administration for Children & Families

# 2017 Linking TANF Families to Employment and Economic Opportunities Meeting

Helping TANF Recipients Find Employment and Advance in the Labor Market: Resources from OPRE's Employment Sector Analysis Project

Presented by:

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### **Presentation Overview**

- Policy Context
- Project Purpose and Goals
- Resources
  - Resource Guide
  - Practitioner Brief on Using LMI
  - State-by-State Analyses of Promising Occupations





## **Policy Context**

- To escape poverty, TANF recipients need good jobs that
  - Are in growing industries,
  - Are in high demand, and
  - Provide self-sufficient wages.
- Connecting TANF recipients and other low-income families with good jobs can be challenging
  - Good jobs require training, education, and credentials beyond the high school level
  - Determining which jobs are good can be difficult without the right tools and resources
- Labor market information (LMI) is one tool that can help improve the match between clients and good jobs



## **Project Purpose and Goals**

- Identify, examine, and catalog resources that TANF agencies can use to help connect TANF recipients and other low-income families with good jobs
  - We created a resource guide and wrote a practitioner brief about using LMI
- Analyze labor market information to identify high-growth sectors of the labor market, focusing on those positions requiring shortterm post-secondary training.
  - We used LMI to identify promising occupations in each state





### **Resource #1: Resource Guide**

- Conducted informal discussions with subject matter experts and telephone interviews with select states
- Conducted a scan of resources and literature
  - The resource scan uncovered 140 resources.
- The Resource Guide is the culmination of their literature review and environmental scan of available resources.





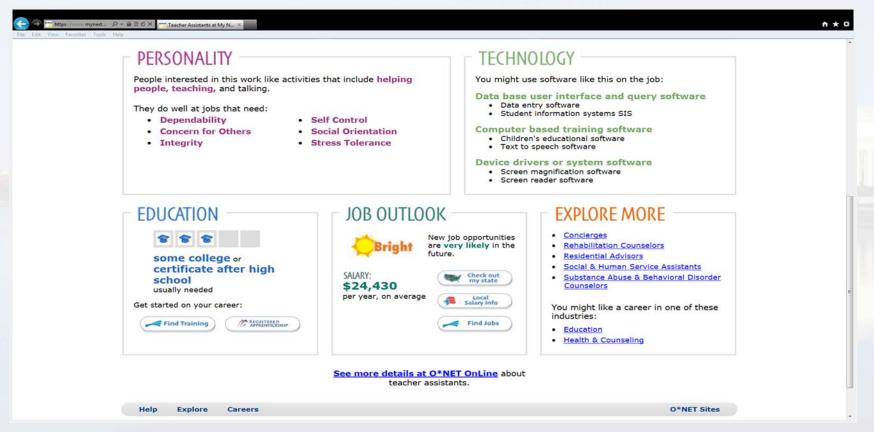
### **Resource #1: Resource Guide**

- The resource guide is organized into four resource types across three topical areas:
  - Types:
    - Research studies
    - Technical assistance resources
    - Client assessments
    - Data sets related to education and employment
  - Topics:
    - Career exploration and assessment
    - Career pathways and sector strategies
    - LMI





## Resource #1: Resource Guide My Next Move





### **Resource #2: Brief on Using LMI**

- What is LMI?
  - Information about
    - Demand for jobs
    - Supply of skilled workers
    - Characteristics of growing and declining occupations and industries, including wages and benefits
    - Training required
    - Job openings (real-time)
  - Traditional LMI is collected from employer surveys, interviews, and administrative records
  - Real-time LMI is obtained from web-based job banks, classified advertisements, and company websites
  - LMI helps identify available jobs with growth potential and self-sufficient wages, and the training and education required





## **Resource #2: Brief on Using LMI**

- Practitioner Brief Using Data to Connect TANF Clients to Good Jobs: An Opportunity to Foster WIOA Partnerships
  - Introduction to LMI
  - How TANF Agencies Can Use LMI
  - WIOA and Connecting with State Labor Agencies



# Resource #3: Analyses of Promising Occupations

- Which education and training opportunities are most likely to pay off for TANF clients and other lowincome workers?
  - Emphasis on short-term education and training (that is, attainable in two years or less)



# Resource #3: Analyses of Promising Occupations

#### **All occupations**

Requires some training or education beyond high school, but less than a bachelor's degree

Employment projected to grow through 2022

At least 0.1% of all jobs

Promising occupations



## **Resource #3: Sample Table**





# Resource #3: Analyses of Promising Occupations

- National Results
  - Registered nurse and nursing assistant top the list
    - Many other occupations in health care industry
  - Many occupations require relatively little training and have good wage growth potential
    - Computer support specialist, medical records technician
  - Some occupations do not necessarily pay wages that will quickly lift families out of poverty
    - Teacher assistant, preschool teacher, hairdresser





# Resource #3: Analyses of Promising Occupations

- State Results
  - Relative ordering of occupations varies
  - Generally echo national analysis: health care leads
    - Registered nurse, licensed practical and vocational nurse were identified in all states studied
  - Top non-health care occupations
    - Computer user support specialist
    - Paralegal and legal assistant
    - Teacher assistant





### Where to Find these Resources

- OPRE Project Page:
  - http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/resource/promising-occupations-achievable-through-short-term-education-or-training-for-low-income-families

- Interactive map of Promising Occupations
  - https://www.mathematica-mpr.com/dataviz/tanfmap





## **Questions and Comments?**

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