



# 2023 National TANF Directors' Meeting

August 30–31, 2023 • Hyatt Regency Hotel • Long Beach, CA

## *A Blueprint for the Future of TANF and Economic Mobility*

### Overview:

Since the inception of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, much has been learned about poverty, trauma, and more effective program designs to achieve economic mobility for TANF clients. Additionally, the Fiscal Responsibility Act has initiated the first major changes to national TANF policy in many years. For these reasons, 2023 presents an opportunity to take a step back and consider how the TANF program might respond to these issues while charting a future to increase the sustainable economic mobility of TANF users. Accordingly, the 2023 National TANF Directors' Meeting: A Blueprint for the Future of TANF and Economic Mobility will focus on interactive opportunities to learn, discuss, and develop recommendations about building enhanced TANF program capacity and effectiveness in the years ahead.

### DAY 1 (WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30<sup>TH</sup>)

Time and Location	Activity
12:30 p.m. PT Seaview AB	The conference hall is open to participants.
1:30 – 2:00 p.m. PT Seaview AB	<p><i>Conference Welcome and Opener</i></p> <p><b>Speaker:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Ann Flagg, Director, Office of Family Assistance (OFA)</b></li> </ul>
2:05 – 4:40 p.m. PT	<p><i>Ideation and Innovation in Action: Session 1</i></p> <p><b>Schedule:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>2:05 – 3:15 p.m. PT:</b> Participants will divide into two groups based on their name tag sticker. The Green Group (green sticker) will focus on Topic 1 in Seaview AB and the Blue Group (blue sticker) will focus on Topic 2 in Shoreline AB.</li> <li><b>3:15 – 3:30 p.m. PT: Break. Facilitators will swap rooms. At the conclusion of the break, <u>participants will return to the same rooms and work in the same groups.</u></b></li> <li><b>3:30 – 4:40 p.m. PT:</b> After the break, the Green Group (green sticker) will focus on Topic 2 in Seaview AB and the Blue Group (blue sticker) will focus on Topic 1 in Shoreline AB.</li> </ul>
<b>Green Group: Seaview AB</b>	<p><i>Topic 1: Creating Outcomes-Based TANF Programs</i></p> <p>Outcome-based work involves services or activities that lead to observable and intended changes for participants. What does that mean for your program? Through a</p>

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	<p>continuous cycle of program assessment and implementation, TANF programs can make more informed policy decisions and help create a more client-centered service delivery system that moves beyond collecting and reporting data for work participation rates. Dr. Teresa Derrick-Mills (Urban Institute) will provide an overview of how to develop outcomes focused on client success. Meeting participants will have the opportunity to share and learn from examples of using informal and formal assessment results to create and refine outcomes-based TANF programs.</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Patrick Heiman, Region X Program Specialist, OFA</b> (Green Group Facilitator)</li><li>• <b>Rachel Johnson, Management and Program Analyst, OFA</b> (Blue Group Facilitator)</li><li>• <b>Teresa Derrick-Mills, Principal Research Associate, Urban Institute</b></li></ul>
<b>Blue Group: Shoreline AB</b>	<p><b>Topic 2: Strengthening Data and Reporting</b></p> <p>“If you can’t measure it, you can’t improve it.” This well-known adage reminds program administrators how strengthening data collection is tied to reporting and improved program outcomes. Dr. Lauren Banks Amos (Mathematica) will provide insight on how TANF programs can bolster data quality for reporting purposes. Meeting participants will have the opportunity to share their own examples of policies or initiatives related to ensuring quality data and accurate reporting.</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Shantel Mickens, Regions I &amp; II TANF Regional Program Manager, OFA</b> (Green Group and Blue Group Facilitator)</li><li>• <b>Dr. Lauren Banks Amos, Deputy Area Director, Mathematica</b></li></ul>
<b>4:45 p.m. PT Seaview AB</b>	<p><b>Day 1 Closeout</b></p> <p><b>Speaker:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>LaSherra Ayala, Deputy Director, OFA</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Participants will sit with their Region for closing remarks and the Conference Hall will remain open until 5:30 p.m. PT for networking.</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>6:00 – 7:00 p.m. PT Hotel Lobby</b>	<p><b>Optional Networking Activity: Sunset Walk</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Participants will meet in the lobby at 5:50 p.m. PT. There is a path around the hotel where participants can walk together to connect and take in the Long Beach sunset.</li></ul>

## DAY 2 (THURSDAY, AUGUST 31<sup>ST</sup>)

Time and Location	Activity
<b>8:30 – 8:45 a.m. PT Seaview AB</b>	<p><b>Day 2 Welcome and Opener</b></p> <p><b>Speaker:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>LaSherra Ayala, Deputy Director, OFA</b></li></ul>

## DAY 2 (THURSDAY, AUGUST 31<sup>ST</sup>)

Time and Location	Activity
8:45 – 9:30 a.m. PT Seaview AB	<p><b>Peer Inspirations</b></p> <p><b>Speaker:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Lisa Washington-Thomas, Director, Division of TANF Technical Assistance and Special Initiatives (TTASI), OFA</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Participants will have the opportunity to:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Meet with other states/territories and share their TANF experiences and lessons learned while working in the field.</li><li>▪ Volunteer for future peer mentorship/learning communities of practice on selected topics that will continue following the meeting.</li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>
9:35 – 11:45 a.m. PT	<p><b>Ideation and Innovation in Action: Session 2</b></p> <p><b>Schedule:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>9:35 – 10:35 a.m. PT:</b> Participants will divide into two groups based on their name tag sticker. The Green Group (green sticker) will focus on Topic 3 in Seaview AB and the Blue Group (blue sticker) will choose between Topic 4A in Shoreline A <u>or</u> Topic 4B in Shoreline B.</li><li>• <b>10:35 – 10:45 a.m. PT: Break. Participants will swap rooms for topics. At the conclusion of the break, <u>facilitators will return to the same room and continue to present on the same topic.</u></b></li><li>• <b>10:45 – 11:45 a.m. PT:</b> After the break, the Green Group (green sticker) will choose between Topic 4A in Shoreline A <u>or</u> Topic 4B in Shoreline B and the Blue Group (blue sticker) will focus on Topic 3 in Seaview AB.</li></ul>
<b>Topic 3:</b> Seaview AB	<p><b>Topic 3: Overcoming Barriers to Program Participation</b></p> <p>TANF customers often face barriers to program participation, and many face co-occurring barriers. From lack of access to childcare, transportation, physical or mental health problems, substance use disorder, intimate partner violence and beyond, there is no uniform approach to supporting program participants in overcoming these barriers as they attempt to successfully participate in TANF programming, and ultimately overcome these barriers to employment. Dr. Kristin Abner (ICF) will provide an overview of strategies that range from identifying an individual’s unique barriers to methods for successfully engaging clients in program participation. Meeting participants will have the opportunity to learn from one another about the various strategies TANF programs use to engage and support clients for long-term program participation and gainful employment.</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>LaMonica Shelton, Region IV TANF Regional Program Manager, OFA</b> (Green Group Facilitator)</li><li>• <b>Mika Smith, Region IX TANF/NEW Regional Program Specialist, OFA</b> (Blue Group Facilitator)</li><li>• <b>Dr. Kristin Abner, Director, Workforce Innovation and Poverty Solutions, ICF</b></li></ul>

Time and Location	Activity
<p><b>Topic 4A:</b> <b>Shoreline A</b></p>	<p><b><i>Topic 4A: Addressing Equity in TANF</i></b></p> <p>With the President’s call for equity within services, OFA has a renewed commitment to and refocus on improving the equitable administration of its programs for all eligible families, including the TANF program. Currently, many TANF program implementation policies and practices are based on racial stereotypes, inaccurate assumptions about safety net programs, and little understanding of the economic and social realities of the families that are served. OFA is dedicated to equity and is investing in “changing the narrative” that informs policy and attitudes about American families in the lowest economic strata.</p> <p>Racial equity is crucial to supporting community economic well-being. Opening this session, Rebekah Sides (APHSA) will discuss the importance of elevating racial equity for improving both TANF program and client outcomes, and how purposeful program planning and policy development is essential to serving client families. Participants will have the opportunity to learn how other programs are addressing equity and share what steps their programs have taken to increase racial equity—from policy development to implementation—and the successes and challenges along the way.</p> <p><b><u>Speakers:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>Julie Fong</i>, Region X TANF Regional Program Manager, OFA (Blue Group Facilitator)</b></li> <li>• <b><i>Kisha Russell</i>, Regions VI and VIII TANF Regional Program Manager, OFA (Green Group Facilitator)</b></li> <li>• <b><i>Rebekah Sides</i>, Policy Associate, APHSA</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Topic 4B:</b> <b>Shoreline B</b></p>	<p><b><i>Topic 4B: Building Strategic Partnerships with Child Welfare</i></b></p> <p>As TANF programs and Child Welfare agencies work with similar populations, developing dynamic collaborations with one another helps support families without duplicating services. With the enhanced services provided through these partnerships, programs can collaborate to stabilize and keep families together before intensive interventions are needed. Yasmin Grewal-Kök (Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago) will provide an overview of the importance of strategic partnerships between TANF and Child Welfare programs in supporting whole families, including specific steps with which TANF agencies can engage Child Welfare programs. Participants will have the opportunity to share their own program strategies in implementing successful collaborations and discuss how these strategies support vulnerable families.</p> <p><b><u>Speakers:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>Karen Beckerman</i>, Regions V, VII &amp; X TANF Regional Program Manager, Office of Family Assistance (Blue Group Facilitator)</b></li> <li>• <b><i>Eileen Friedman</i>, Region III TANF Regional Program Manager, Office of Family Assistance (Green Group Facilitator)</b></li> <li>• <b><i>Yasmin Grewal-Kök</i>, Policy Fellow, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago</b></li> </ul>

**DAY 2 (THURSDAY, AUGUST 31<sup>ST</sup>)**

<b>Time and Location</b>	<b>Activity</b>
11:50 – 12:00 p.m. PT Seaview AB	<i>Day 2 Closeout</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Ann Flagg, Director, Office of Family Assistance</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Conference Hall will remain open until 1:00 p.m. PT for networking.</li></ul></li></ul>