

**ACF Region IX  
State and Territorial  
TANF Strategic Session**



**Child Support  
and TANF**

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# ACF Region IX State and Territorial TANF Strategic Session

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## Child Support and TANF

### **Los Angeles County**

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In 2004, the Los Angeles County Child Support Services Department and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services agreed to participate in an initiative to improve collaboration. The initiative was sponsored by the Federal Office on Child Support Enforcement (OSCE) and was administered by the Center for Policy Research and Policy Studies Inc. During the planning stage of the initiative, both departments sought to capitalize on the fact that they provided services to many of the same participants. It was found that 75 percent of child support cases were referred from the TANF agency. Within the TANF offices in the city, at least 2 child support workers are collocated to facilitate collaboration. The TANF agency communicates with the child support agency nightly to update new cases and household composition.

### **People for People: S.H.A.R.E.**

Contact: *People For People*

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People for People is a nonprofit organization committed to serving people throughout Central and South-Central Washington State. They provide a variety of services including transportation services for the general public, employment, training, and referral services. They also broker Medicaid interpreter and transportation services. S.H.A.R.E. (Support Has a Rewarding Effect) is a pilot project resulting from a collaborative effort among the local area's WorkForce Development Council, the Yakima and Kittitas Prosecuting Attorneys, the Yakima Office of the Division of Child Support, and People For People. This project assists unemployed and under-employed noncustodial parents in securing and retaining employment. The project also helps parents begin, resume or increase child support payments, encourage parental responsibility, and strengthen families. S.H.A.R.E. targets noncustodial parents of children receiving TANF funds. As a part of the Welfare-to-Work program, S.H.A.R.E. also

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provides participants a full range of employment and counseling services, as well as job referral and retention services. S.H.A.R.E. also provides monitoring and progress reports to the Division of Child Support and the Prosecuting Attorney's office.

### **Parental Responsibility Initiative for the Development of Employment (PRIDE)**

Contact: *Child Support Enforcement Division*

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In April 2005, North Dakota began the Parent Employment Pilot Program (PEPP), with the goal of establishing a formal referring system for referring delinquent child support to their local Job Service office (a workforce agency). PEPP was a TANF funded, collaborative effort between Child Support Enforcement, judges who presided over child support cases, the courts, and Job Service North Dakota staff. The pilot has been found to increase the payment per month from \$63.80 per month at the time of the referral to Job Service to \$202.94 six months after the referral. The state's nonpayment rate has declined to 13 percent. Because of the pilot program's success, it was expanded and renamed to Parental Responsibility Initiative for the Development of Employment (PRIDE). Recently, North Dakota was honored by the Midwestern Legislative Conference of the Council of State Governments and received the 2007 Innovations Award for PRIDE. The award recognizes new and creative state programs that can be replicated in other states. As of July 2007, 74 percent of parents participating in PRIDE have found employment or a better job. North Dakota is now looking to expand the program statewide.

### **NCP Choices**

Contact: *Larry Jones*

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The Office of the Attorney General of Texas (OAG), the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), IV-D courts, and local Workforce development boards entered into a partnership to create NCP Choices, a program designed to assist low income noncustodial parents find employment and pay child support. The program is funded with state TANF funds and is modeled after the state's employment program for TANF participants. Services include job referrals, support services, short-term training, subsidized employment/work experience, GED and ESL classes, retention assistance, and career advancement planning. The program is operating in 17 workforce boards in the state. In a recent third-party evaluation, it was found that:

- The monthly payment rate for NCP Choices participants was 57 percent higher than that from the comparison group;
- The amounts collected averaged \$60 per month higher for those in NCP Choices; and
- Custodial parents associated with NCP Choices participants showed a 10 percent reduction in the rate of TANF participants subsequent to program entry.

### **Hospital Paternity Program (HPP)**

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*Community Outreach and Initiatives*

*Division of Child Support Enforcement*

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In Arizona, the Department of Economic Security's Division of Child Support Enforcement (DCSE) operates the HPP which is responsible for voluntary paternity establishment and initiatives. Within the program, child support enforcement dollars are committed to training TANF caseworkers as notary publics. These caseworker-notaries are then placed in hospitals, to facilitate the immediate establishment and notarization of paternity. HPP works in partnership with hospitals and other birthing facilities to provide information to unmarried parents on paternity establishment, benefits, rights and responsibilities, and child support.

### **INRHODES Electronic System**

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Rhode Island has developed a process for flagging potential duplicate cases in the TANF and child support systems. The state's integrated system, INRHODES, assists staff in creating monthly reports of potential duplicate cases. These reports identify cases involving noncustodial parents who have more than one Social Security number associated with the same custodial parent, have last names that are phonetically the same, possess first initials that are equal, and who are the same sex. The system also alerts staff entering a new case if it is identified as similar to one already in the system. INRHODES produces an IV-D screen for every TANF case with an established child support order. The automated screen shows the caseworker the amount of the child support order, what percentage of the cash assistance grant this represents, and whether or not the payments have been made regularly within the previous three months. Additionally, the TANF office has installed scanning equipment in each local office to scan documents such as birth certificates, divorce decrees, and marriage certificates. These documents are made available in INRHODES to assist in gathering information for child support.