

One-Stop Services and the TANF Population

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FEDERAL ACTS – STATE ACTIONS

- **Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) created the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program**
 - Mandates for recipients of cash assistance to work or engage in work-related activities
 - States have considerable flexibility in program design
 - Most states have adopted a work-first
- **Workforce Investment Act (WIA)**
 - Created “One-Stop” service centers provide comprehensive labor information, job training, and job-finding assistance
 - Mandates that where funds are insufficient to serve all citizens, public assistance recipients and other low-income citizens have priority for services

WIA/TANF RELATIONSHIP

- Commonality in their purposes, services and participants
- WIA does not mandate TANF be a partner
- PRWORA does not mandate TANF workforce services take place through the One-Stop system
- Shape of WIA/TANF relationships is a matter of state and local discretion

What Does a Successful TANF/WIA Relationship Look Like?

- Recent studies stress need for better relations between workforce and welfare agencies
- Conduct case studies in areas successful in serving low-income populations through One-Stops
- Local decisions vs. centralized state services
- Project status
 - procuring administrative data
 - completed one-third of site visits

KEY AREAS OF INQUIRY

- What is the history of local efforts to focus on the low-income population?
- What is the nature of the relationship between the actors and agencies involved?
- What is the character of services offered and their coordination?
- What are the themes and patterns?

SITE SELECTION

- **Two sites in each of three states**
 - low levels of state centralized control
 - avoid areas that are participating in externally initiated efforts
- **Demographic criteria**
 - urban areas
 - high frequency unemployed, poor, and low education
- **Performance criteria**
 - one-stops that serve a high proportion of welfare clients, AND are above the national average rate of adults entering employment

ANALYZE ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

- Share of One-Stop clients who are TANF/TANF-eligible
- Characteristics data on clients
- Length of case/services
- Services received by type
- Job placements
- Employment retention
- Wage/salary

ON-SITE INTERVIEWS

- One-Stop director
- Management/program supervisory staff
- Workforce Investment Board chair
- Local social service director
- State workforce agency staff
- State social service agency staff

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

- Co-location of services
- Linked client data systems
- Local flexibility in assisting TANF
- Low-income population has always been part of the Career Center customer base
- Importance of on-site state agency liaisons
- Effective use of CBO providers

ST. LOUIS COUNTY AND CITY OF ST. LOUIS

North Oaks Career Center



SLATE



ONE-STOP SERVICES FOR ST. LOUIS TANF POPULATION

- Career Centers manage & administrate program
- Community-based organizations operate program
- “Immediate Engagement Process”
- Workforce agency’s duty is to help **anyone** find a job
- Issues of non-compliance, need for support services on-site, “New type” of client
- Contractors are successful organizations for serving hard to employ

PROJECT STATUS

- **July–August 2009:** Four site visits
- **August–Sept 2009:** Complete administrative data collection & analysis
- **October 2009:** Final report

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