

**RAPID RESPONSE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR  
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)  
AND WELFARE TO WORK (WtW)  
Contract No. 233-01-0067**

**TANF/Child Care Technical Assistance Meeting  
Task Order No. 52  
September 23 and 24, 2004  
Westin City Center Hotel  
Dallas, Texas**

The ACF Dallas Regional Office held its TANF/Child Care Technical Assistance Meeting in Dallas, Texas, September 23 and 24, 2004. The goals of the meeting were:

- *To bring together State, Tribal, and Federal officials working in TANF and/or Child Care programs in each of the five Region VI states.*
- *To highlight best practice models of TANF/Child Care coordination within ACF Region VI and other states.*
- *To explore how the combination of TANF and CCDF subsidies can contribute to self-sufficiency and improve the well-being of children and families.*
- *To provide information on additional federal programs that help strengthen families through support for work, asset building, and child nutrition.*

Sixty-two individuals participated in the meeting. They represented:

- ACF Dallas Regional and Tribal Office staff
- ACF Office of Family Assistance and Child Care Bureau
- ACF partners from the Government Accountability Office, Department of Labor, Internal Revenue Service, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and USDA's Food and Nutrition Services
- Region VI State and Tribal TANF and Child Care directors, administrators and other staff from Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Texas as well as the Pueblo of Zuni and Osage Nation
- Child Care Technical Assistance Network
- National organizations and universities

The conference was opened the first day by Larry Brendel, Program Manager, ACF Region VI with additional welcoming remarks from Ray Bishop, Director Office of State and Tribal Programs and Linda Penn, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Regional Representative for Region VI. ACF priorities as well as upcoming new projects with the United States and Mexico Health Commission were topics presented.

Andrew Bush, Director, ACF Office of Family Assistance, brought information from the national perspective regarding the status of TANF/CC reauthorization and information regarding major trends in TANF to look for in the future.

Following Mr. Bush's remarks, one of our Rapid Response supported sessions focused on perspectives from states and tribes regarding the configuration of TANF and CCDF in each State and Tribe; recent accomplishments highlighting TANF/CCDF coordination and major areas of concern; as well as innovations in serving rural families using TANF/CCDF funds. Afternoon sessions centered around State and Tribal sharing of transitional child care benefits and the Improper Payments Act of 2002, the accompanying CCDF Improper Payment Initiative, Region VI site visits and the Public Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS).

The second day was devoted to two Rapid Response supported sessions regarding recent research. The first session, *How Welfare and Work Policies Influence Parents' Decisions* focused on information gathered by the Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation (MDRC) and the University of Texas at Austin. The second session, *Child Care Subsidy Use and Self-Sufficiency Pathways of Low-Income Mothers*, focused on a three state study conducted by Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago and the Ray Marshall Center for the Study of Human Resources, University of Texas at Austin.

The conference ended with two information sessions regarding collaboration with other federal programs including IRS, FDIC, DOL/ETA, DOL's Apprenticeship & Training Program and USDA's Food and Nutrition Services.