Federal Technical Assistance:
Meeting the Needs of State TANF Agencies

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Assistance from the Regional Offices

- The Regional TANF Offices are a great resource for States.
  - Region III has a collaborative philosophy with its state agencies that is very productive.
  - The regional staff provide assistance and guidance on TANF program and funding queries from States.
- Suggestion: limit the scope of matters that must be forwarded to the Central Office in order to minimize response times.

Assistance from OFA

- State TANF agencies can benefit from national level guidance when there are large scale changes to the program.

- ARRA was a good example.
  - Senior OFA staff made numerous appearances and presentations on the ARRA changes to TANF
  - The assistance began soon after ARRA passed and continued through 2010
  - State TANF officials received a great deal of information and were able to act on it.

Welfare Peer TA Network

- Variety of tools and approaches, from online resources to conference hosting and travel sponsorship.

- The most content-rich Peer TA delivery methods are facilitated roundtables like the one in Albany in 2009.

  – It addressed operating programs in the economic downturn as well as ARRA

- Peer TA sponsored travel facilitates sharing of best practices.

ACF and Other HHS Resources

- The Welfare Research & Evaluation Conference.
  - While not a technical assistance event per se, ACF/OPRE sponsors two attendees per state, so it is a great opportunity for collaboration and information sharing.
- OPRE and ASPE
- On-line tools such as the Self-Sufficiency Research Clearinghouse.
  - Some key parts of DRA were not discussed in detail until regional TANF directors conferences late in FY 2007.

State TA Needs

- Employment Strategies
- Engaging Participants
- Collaboration
- Coordination with Workforce Centers
- Data Usage & Reporting
- MOE & TANF Funding
- Evaluation Strategies
- Domestic Violence Training for Staff