TANF Purposes

- Provide assistance to needy families so that children can be cared for in their own homes.
- Reduce the dependency of needy parents by promoting job preparation, work and marriage;
- Prevent out-of-wedlock pregnancies; and
- Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

How TANF Funds Are Used (not exhaustive) – Federal and State MOE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Nationwide ($31 billion)</th>
<th>Ohio ($1.1 billion)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic Assistance</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
<td>21.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work, Education, Training</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
<td>37.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refundable Tax Credits</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Welfare Services</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Kindergarten/Head Start</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-recurrent, short-term benefits</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Basic Assistance

- Financial assistance – e.g. welfare benefits – designed to meet basic needs of household.
- Recipients are subject to work requirements, time limits and a variety of state obligations (e.g. job search before application). Those that don’t meet requirements are subject to sanctions and benefit termination.
- States can exempt families from work requirements and time limits but are required to have 50% of caseload meeting work requirements (or face sanctions) and no more than 20% of caseload can be exempted from five year time limit.

Improve Provision of Basic Assistance to Help At-Risk & Homeless Families

- Increase access to financial assistance to families in crisis and expedite receipt of assistance.
- Protect vulnerable families from sanctions and time limits that can increase housing instability and homelessness.
- Ensure benefit levels better reflect the cost of housing.
Basic Assistance & Homelessness

• TANF funds can be used to provide rental assistance to families (and can be long-term):
  – If rental assistance lasts for more than 4 mos, the state must consider the funds as “basic assistance” meaning that the family remains subject to same requirements as receiving a cash benefit (e.g. work requirements, time limits, etc.)
  – If family is already receiving welfare benefits (and subject to those rules) than that should not be a problem, however, it can be very difficult for a third party to maintain documentation for state reporting.

Short-Term, Nonrecurrent benefits

• Designed to help a household overcome a crisis not expected to recur; funds cannot extend beyond 4 mos. (or is considered “assistance”).

• Can be used to provide up to four months of rental assistance.

• Can be coupled with McK-Vento to provide more than four months of help (but must be done carefully).

Supporting Families

• TANF provides a range of supports that unstably housed/homeless families need. Are they accessing them? Are they good quality? How can they be improved to better fit the needs of families experiencing homelessness?
  – Child care
  – Employment training – including subsidized jobs
  – Job support/placement
  – Case Management

• Strategies: Out-stationing workers in homeless service systems, dedicated/specialized services for homeless TANF families, providing preferences for TANF families experiences homelessness, etc.
TANF/Homeless Service Collaboration Approaches

- Relies on short-term, nonrecurrent benefits to expand RRH capacity:
  - Philadelphia, Pennsylvania pilot
  - Indiana
  - Georgia
  - Idaho CATCH program (past)
    - Now being replicated in NM by HopeWorks in Albuquerque
  - Utah (The Road Home)
    - Now statewide prevention and rapid re-housing

TANF/Homeless Service Collaboration Models

- California Initiatives
  - Housing Support Program ($72 million/annual)
    - SF coupling with subsidized employment
  - Child Welfare Pilot
  - Family Stabilization Program
    - (APS prevention pilot)
  - Washington, DC ("Joint Ownership")
    - Integrated TANF/homeless services response
    - Housing assessment at intake, TANF enrollment for families seeking assistance
    - Integrated case management – RRH and TANF employment services coordinated

TANF/Homeless Service Collaboration Models

- New Jersey – Mercer County (Trenton)
  - Uses TANF for rental assistance
    - Mercer uses rental assistance "upfront" for RRH intervention vs. transitional housing
    - Reduced family homelessness by over 70 percent, also reduces length of time families are on public assistance, improved employment income
    - Bulk of services for homeless families (prevention, diversion, RRH, shelter) paid for with TANF funds
  - New model for young families
Un obliged TANF Balances (2017)

- Nationally: $3.3 billion
- Ohio: $463 million
  - Five percent of Ohio unobligated TANF funds would cover RRH for 3,858 families
    - More than 3 x the number of families experiencing literal homelessness at the most recent PIT count

Questions?

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