

**ODJFS LIST OF ACTIVITIES  
DRA/TANF REAUTHORIZATION**

August 6, 2007

Since February 2006, the signing of the Deficit Reduction Act and reauthorization of the TANF program, and June 2006, issuance of the interim final HHS TANF regulations, ODJFS has taken the following steps to implement all of the changes required:

**1. Policy Changes:**

New rules went into effect September 29, 2006 on an emergency basis. Final rules were effective December 29, 2006. Effective July 1, 2007, the rules were amended based on further guidance from HHS and comments from CDJFS.

Initial Work Verification Plan was submitted to HHS in September 2006. We received general comments back from HHS and resubmitted the plan in February 2007. We have received another set of comments back from HHS and resubmitted the third iteration of the plan on June 29, 2007.

**2. Trainings and Technical Assistance:**

- A series of overview training sessions were conducted in August, 2006 for county administrators and supervisors. 383 staff participated representing 84 county departments.
- A more comprehensive series of training sessions were conducted during the month of October 2006 for caseworkers which detailed the requirements of TANF reauthorization as well as CRIS-E system changes. A total of 1,522 county staff attended representing all 88 county departments.
- Statewide video conferences were conducted on December 4 and 6, 2006 to present an overview of the TANF reauthorization changes to OWF caseworkers. The video conferences focused on the impact of projected employment and accurate completion of CRIS-E application entry screens for work participation. 65 county departments participated in the sessions.
- A TANF reauthorization overview was conducted at four Fraud and Overpayment meetings in December, 2006.
- TANF reauthorization training was conducted in the following counties, at their request: Franklin (several sessions were held for the new work activity area), Marion, Harrison, Erie, and Cuyahoga.
- In April, 2007, three workshops were conducted at the OJFSDA conference on topics related to TANF reauthorization, i.e. assessment/assignment, job skills, and OWF payment and reporting accuracy.

- In April and May 2007, work activity report training was provided to 316 participants representing 72 county departments. The training focused on use of the 510, 518, and 103 work activity reports to assist in managing work participation rates and the impact and importance of accurate and timely information entered into the CRIS-E system.
- An OWF training, which includes material regarding TANF reauthorization, has been developed and will be rolled out to the counties in July, 2007. To date 563 county participants have registered representing 57 county departments.
- In November 2006, 422 county participants were trained on DRA CRIS-E online changes. A subsequent training reached 325 county participants.
- During the numerous training sessions and at various meetings with county directors, the CDJFS directors and staff expressed the need for ongoing meetings relating to work activities. In response to those requests, we developed a series of quarterly work activity roundtable meetings held in various locations across the state. Quarterly work activity roundtable meetings are now held in Greene, Stark, Hancock, Guernsey, Franklin, and Ross counties. The meetings focus on work activity processes, policies and procedures, and the TANF reauthorization rules. The roundtables provide an opportunity for work activity policy updates, for counties to share promising practices, and for consultation among the various counties to share ideas or discuss hot topics. To date, 451 county staff have participated representing 80 county departments.
- Updated work activity material has been added to the New Worker Training module as of June 30, 2007.
- In addition to all of the specialized and targeted training that has been conducted, TANF reauthorization is an ongoing agenda item for the statewide monthly Family Stability video conferences. Handouts and examples are routinely reviewed.
- Counties are encouraged to send any questions related to TANF reauthorization or work activities to the WACTA and TANF-FSTA mailboxes. Both mailboxes are managed daily.

### **3. Systems:**

- Two new screens were developed and added to CRIS-E to track work participation.
- Several changes to existing work programs screens and employment screens were made to accurately and efficiently track work participation hours and activities.

- Capability to assign non-recipient work eligible parents to work activities and track their hours was added.
- Several changes were made to the federal TANF Data Report and, consequently, to the GWP510 and GWP518 reports, to reflect the new policy changes and correct existing problems.
- Created new GWP103 report to enable CDJFS to track assignments and verified hours entered into CRIS-E on a bi-weekly basis.

**4. Program Performance Support, Monitoring and Compliance:**

- OWF Quality Assurance Reviews were adjusted starting with October 2006 cases and changed to a sample of 125 cases per month.
- Targeted two parent participation funding was provided in September 2006 through June 30, 2007 (OFS Letter #57).
- Twelve counties with the highest caseloads of two parent families received targeted data analysis and training (September – October 2006).
- Provided technical assistance and follow-up to 28 All Family and 76 Two Parent CIP's, while work participation CIPS have been suspended until July 2007.
- 2006 Sanction Reviews were conducted to review sanctioned cases for proper exploration of good cause due to inability to secure appropriate child care.

**5. Actions ODJFS Has Taken In Response to DRA and HHS regulations:**

- Commented to HHS on interim final regulations during notice and comment period.
- Participated in listening sessions with HHS and at APHSA conferences.
- Discussed TANF options with Center for Budget and Policy Priorities.
- Discussed concerns with the regulations with Governor's D.C. liaison.
- Consulted Covington and Burling regarding HHS comments to state work verification plan – possible further discussions with HHS to take place.
- Shared with Governor's D.C. liaison analysis of two U.S. Senate bills under discussion pertaining to the DRA changes.