

Use of TANF Funds for Subsidized Employment

The content below provides state and local examples on the use of TANF funds for summer youth employment programming.

New York

- For the last ten years, Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA), New York's TANF agency, has allocated TANF funding for the use of subsidized summer youth employment activities in two ways: 1) from OTDA directly to local TANF agencies and, 2) from OTDA to local workforce investment boards (WIBs). For the majority of New York's counties (48 out of 58), however, funding is directly allocated to the local WIB.
- Eligibility: 14 to 20 year old youth and young adults at or below 200% of poverty.
- OTDA's state TANF plan, which is submitted to and approved by HHS, allows the office to serve the broader category of recipients, "TANF recipients for non-cash service," and does not enroll youth in the TANF program nor does participation count against the 60 month TANF limit.
- The State legislature passes budget with a summer employment line item. The Office of State Comptroller waives competitive process and allocates the funding to the local workforce agencies (WIBs) based on a formula that includes the number of kids they have from 14 -20 years old that are under 200% of poverty.
- WIBs contract with local program providers. Providers assess eligibility.
- Basic Reporting requirement: providers report to WIBs and WIBs report to OTDA data points such as number of kids served and basic demographic information.
- With TANF funds from OTDA, subsidized employment opportunities were provided to 26,000 additional young people in the summer of 2009.

Texas

- Commissioners dedicated \$2 million in TANF funds for subsidized employment. Funds can be used for two initiatives, one of which is for youth employment summer or year-round programs for in-school and out-of-school youth ages 14-18 and consist of training suitable for youth who would benefit from a hands-on learning environment.
- Local Workforce Investment Boards must submit plans to request these funds.

- Once plans are approved, the tracking of the activities will occur in the same automated system where WIA participation is tracked, however participation won't double count unless the individual is enrolled in both WIA and TANF Choices.

Colorado

- The State of Colorado does not have a statewide agreement to use TANF funds specifically for youth subsidized employment; however it does have several counties that have county-level agreements between the local TANF agency and local workforce investment boards (WIBs) to provide youth with subsidized summer employment opportunities.
- The State has an interagency agreement between the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the State Department of Human Services for HIRE Colorado, a TANF emergency grant funded initiative that's allocated to and implemented by the State CDLE. HIRE Colorado is a subsidized program that provides training, employment opportunities, and work supports for UI claimants and exhaustees and other individuals eligible for TANF Reserve initiatives.

Denver

- County Department of Human Services receives its TANF allotment and allocates it to the Division of Workforce Development (DWD) to provide training and employment services to TANF recipients as well as for WIA participants.
- DWD was receiving TANF Reserve funds from DHS (County) for youth employment and used some of the remaining funds for SYEP 2009 – up until June 30th when funds were exhausted.
- **Other Counties in Colorado that use TANF Funds for Subsidized Employment** : Workforce Boulder County – TANF reserve funds for the summer youth program, Larimer County Workforce Center – TANF youth internships and employment services and Weld County - TANF summer youth program