

NCSL Opportunities for Working Families Meeting State Action Plans

Alabama

Years of Participation: 2011, 2012

2012 ACTION PLAN

Team Members

Representative Alan Boothe

Representative Laura Hall

Senator Arthur Orr

Facilitator: Judy Zelio

Recorder: Emily Wengrovius

Priority Issue

- Helping families get out of poverty through building family assets and informed decision making
- Improving educational achievement
- Skills training

Specific Action Items and Timeline

- Link Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) with state tax refunds and add a check off to income tax form. IDAs can be tapped for home purchase, major residence repairs, business capital, car purchase for work transportation, assistive technology, and other approved purposes
- Look at expanding the Parenthood Program, possibly statewide. This is currently a 2-city program for non-custodial parents behind in child support payments who can be referred to skills training rather than jail or prison
- Research other states' effective workforce development programs for skills training and career pathways
- Explore details of the 'SaveNow WinLater' savings bond approach of the University of Alabama's Center on Ethics and Social Responsibility (Stephen Black and Impact Alabama): http://blog.al.com/breaking/2010/12/save_now_for_chance_to_win_200.html

Next Steps

1. Request that the Alabama Legislative Fiscal Office research the process for linking refunds to IDAs (IDAs are coordinated by the United Way and AL Asset Building Coalition: <http://www.alabamaabc.org>) and draft needed legislation. Contact Revenue Department regarding check off
2. Meet with Supreme Court justice, Circuit Judges Assoc., DHR commissioner; DA Assoc., career centers, post-secondary
3. Collect information from NCSL and other sources; review existing Alabama program with the labor board, community colleges board and workforce development. Request report on federal goals and objectives/outcomes with assistance from the Legislative Fiscal Office
4. Meet with Stephen Black of the University of Alabama's Center on Ethics and Social Responsibility
 - a. Stephen Black: 205-348-6496; Stephen.Black@ua.edu

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5. Hold team meeting third week of August 2012

Responsibilities

- Rep. Hall will follow up on Action Items #1 and #2
- Sen. Orr will follow up on #3
- Rep. Boothe and Rep. Hall have already contacted Stephen Black and will follow up with a meeting

Information and Services

- Future information requests and contacts with experts, if needed

NCSL Contacts

- Rep. Hall: annihall19@gmail.com; 334-242-7623 (Yvonne Jackson, clerk)
- Rep. Boothe: aboothe@troy.edu; 334-670-1130
- Sen. Orr: senator@arthurorr.com; 334-242-7891