

NCSL Opportunities for Working Families Meeting State Action Plans

Alabama

Years of Participation: 2011, 2012, 2013

2013 ACTION PLAN

Team Members

Senator Phillip Williams

Senator William Holtzclaw

Facilitator: Angela Andrews

Recorder: Robert Williams

Priority Issue

Goal: Facilitate TANF recipients to connect with training and education opportunities (maybe 21st Century Act) and enable them to earn, keep and grow.

- Arkansas TANF Career Pathways Bill
- Sector strategies and developing relevant skill set
- TANF Oriented
 - Safe guarding assets
 - Financial management
- Incentivize child care for employers and other entities

Specific Action Item(s) and Timeline

- Validate assumptions for 21st Century bill
 - Read AR workforce bill
 - NCSL to facilitate connection with AR about their TANF Career Pathways bill
 - Look at Alabama's TANF demographics with sector strategies
- Review AR TANF programs
- Contacting administration/executive branch stakeholders
- Determine if we need administrative policy or legislation
 - Examine funding source
- Contact legislative/advocacy stakeholders

Next Step(s)

- Immediately begin work on steps one and two.
- NCSL will provide information in the next several weeks
- Wait to move forward because 2014 is an election year and by November or December 2013 it will be clear whether steps three through five will be dealt with in 2014 or pushed to 2015

Responsibilities

- Sen. Holtzclaw will start the conversation about TANF data, assess other states' (Arkansas) experience with it, and examine the 21st Century bill
- Sen. Williams will work on the child care tax credit idea
- All other work will be done jointly

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Information and Services

- AR's (and other states') statistics, results/evaluations of TANF and career pathways (facilitated by NCSL)
- AR 21st Century information
- Alabama TANF data

NCSL Contacts

- Sen. Holtzclaw: holtzclaw@knology.net; 334-242-7842
- Sen. Williams: philw.williams@alsenate.gov; 256-441-0201

Additional Notes

Education (education reform bill)

- Education reform for failing schools
- Build flexibility in laws
- Tax credit to private schools
- Education to break poverty cycle – community buy-in; willingness to change

Employment

- Workforce development/sector strategies – focus on trades in high school; recruitment for manufacturing jobs
- 21st Century Workforce Development Act fit to Arkansas model
- Focus on small businesses
- Work opportunity tax credit – offer monetary incentives (\$2,000) to hire certain workers
- Arkansas legislation (EARN) – Career Pathways

Alabama National Guard

- Economic driver (hotels, meals, one weekend per month)
- Education
- Workforce development
- Drug testing
- Additional civilian training
- Personal inspiration
- Break poverty cycle
- 16 to 1 ratio of federal to state dollars

Childcare

- Provide incentives for employer to provide childcare opportunities

Financial education

- Teaching financial management
- Financial literacy and capability
- Credit counseling
- Funding source
- What is financial success?
- Earn it, keep it, grow it– break cycle of payday loans; self-reporting