

NCSL Opportunities for Working Families Meeting State Action Plans

Georgia

Years of Participation: 2004, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014

Previous Attendees:

State Legislators

Representative Mike Cheokas (2010)
Representative Katie Dempsey (2009)
Representative Terry England (2010)
Representative Buddy Harden (2012)
Representative Judith Manning (2009, 2011)
Representative Nan Orrock (2004)
Representative Barbara Sims (2009)
Representative Lynn Smith (2004)
Representative Len Walker (2009)
Representative John Wilkinson (2012)

Legislative Staff

Jill Fike (2014)
Martha Wigton (2014)

Senator Ben Bridges (2007)
Senator Bill Heath (2007)
Senator Joshua McKoon (2014)
Senator Ed Tarver (2007)
Senator Bruce Thompson(2014)
Senator Renee Unterman (2009)

2004 ACTION PLAN

Team Members

Representative Lynn Smith
Representative Nan Orrock

Priority Issue(s): Help low income families become stabilized through incentives for personal responsibility that help build assets and financial options

Action Items

- Build bi-partisan support for asset building to help low-income working families build self-sufficiency.
Broaden understanding and develop support for IDA's with goal of passing legislation in 2005.
Encourage, support and partner with Governor's state wide task force.
Expand outreach / more information to eligible constituents about filing for the federal EITC.

Next Steps

- Persuade bipartisan Legislative Women's Caucus to focus on asset building for low income families at its first biennial retreat following the election
Encourage asset building as an agenda item for the biennial retreat for all legislators at its' general retreat in December.

Team Member Responsibilities

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- Study Pennsylvania and Delaware models. Lead a legislative initiative to build coalitions both inside the legislature and with other groups including the executive branch. Build buy-in across party lines.

#### TA Requests

- Work with Casey Foundation and use its expertise. Invite NCSL to facilitate discussion of advantages and or provide presentation on asset building for low-income families at legislative retreats

#### NCSL Follow-up

Mary to follow up with Representative Orrock and Representative Smith about organizing one or more briefings for state legislators following the election. Shift in majority party control in the House. Contacted Representative Smith 11/04 to offer assistance. Nothing expected to happen until after the House is reorganized and 2005 session is well underway.

### 2007 ACTION PLAN

#### Team Members

Senator Ben Bridges  
Senator Bill Heath  
Senator Ed Tarver

**Priority Issue(s): 1) Lowering the high school dropout rates 2) Focusing on vocational skills as early as middle school, including life and financial skills**

#### Action Items

- In the coming year, propose the idea of adding vocational/life/financial skills education to the school curriculum, with two types of diplomas, one with a vocational emphasis

#### Next Steps

1. Find out whether such a proposal can fit into existing QB education
2. Identify existing educational resources
3. Share vision with education (and other) legislators
4. Meet with state school superintendent

#### Responsibilities

- Senator Tarver will present the idea to his caucus
- Senator Heath and Representative Bridges will talk with other legislators
- All three members will meet with the state school superintendent

#### Information and Services

- Statistical information to back up need for skills education and training

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- Income information about community college degrees

### State Contact

- Senator Ed Tarver

### NCSL Services

- Provide financial education materials

## 2009 ACTION PLAN

### Team Members

Representative Katie Dempsey  
Representative Judith Manning  
Representative Barbara Sims  
Representative Len Walker  
Senator Renee Unterman

### Priority Issue(s):

- **Unemployment**
  - Safety
  - Healthcare
  - Addressing reduced revenues
  - Federal intervention
  - Transportation
  - Global & interstate outsourcing
- **Education**
  - Childcare
  - Dropout rate
  - Work readiness
  - School choice
  - Funding

### Action Items & Next Steps

- Create a new joint oversight committee (or tap existing Fiscal Affairs and Oversight Committees) to be better informed on federal funds, grants, budget related to priority issues, and monitor actions of DHR
  - Call it the “Oversight Committee of Federal Intervention Funds”
  - First step: Write a letter to the Speaker and Lt. Governor.
  - Representative Katie Dempsey will talk to House FAO Committee on Friday, June 26
- Convene a joint H.R. appropriations subcommittee meeting to hear a presentation from Don Winstead (Florida) in fall
- Develop legislative strategy in the fall to be ready by January

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- Key Contact is Senator Renee Unterman

#### Information & Services

- More information needed on federal resources for:
  - TANF, Emergency Contingency Fund, MOE partnership, federal \$80 reimbursement for any TANF purpose, state \$20
  - Food stamps
  - Graded daycare
  - Home visitation
  - \$250K Strengthening Communities grant
  - Fostering connections to success
  - Public safety funds
  - Aging out of foster care

#### NCSL Contacts

- Sheri Steisel,
- Jack Tweedie
- Christine Nelson
- Robert Strange

### 2010 ACTION PLAN

#### Team Members

Representative Mike Cheokas  
Representative Terry England

NCSL Facilitator: Judy Zelio

#### Priority Issue(s): Improving children's home life

##### Action Items

- Offer an urging resolution to expand teaching of parenting skills in health classes
- Expand teaching of parenting skills in health classes at public schools

##### Responsibilities

- Work together and push it

#### Information & Services

- Find other states that are teaching parenting skills in schools (especially teen parents)
- Also investigate what resources the Washington Public Policy Institute may have available

#### NCSL Contacts

- Mary Fairchild

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- Rochelle Finzel

### 2011 ACTION PLAN

#### Team Members

Representative Judy Manning

Facilitator: Jan Goehring

#### Priority Issues

- Cost-Effectiveness modeling for mental health and DUI/drug courts
- Maintain and expand Pre-K education
- Workforce development-economic development-PORTS and transportation

#### Action Items

- Learn more about PEW model and how to implement it in GA
- Have discussions with Governor and legislators about Pre-K education
- D2D-outcomes

#### Responsibilities

- Review information about WSIPP

#### Information & Services

- Technical assistance on cost-effectiveness model
- Possible TA, Georgia statistics on teen pregnancy, early childhood education, recidivism, TANF, criminal justice, K-12, substance abuse, housing

#### NCSL Contacts

- Mary Fairchild

### 2012 ACTION PLAN

#### Team Members

Representative Buddy Harden  
Senator John Wilkinson

Facilitator: Morgan Cullen

#### Priority Issues

- Financial literacy education

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- Working families focus groups

### Specific Action Items and Timeline

- Meet with the state superintendent of education on July 18, 2012
- Speak with appropriate committee chairmen in both chambers about creating working families focus groups by September 1, 2012

### Responsibilities

- Rep. Harden will begin setting up a meeting with the state superintendent and house committee chairman
- Sen. Wilkinson will set up a meeting with senate committee chairman

### Information and Services

- The team would like to learn more about the financial games offered by D2D
  - Joanna Smith-Ramini: 857-753-1892; jsmithramani@d2dfund.org

### NCSL Contacts

- Rep. Wilkinson: 404-463-5257

## 2014 ACTION PLAN

### Team Members

Senator Joshua McKoon

Senator Bruce Thompson

Jill Fike - Director of Senate Research Office

Martha Wigton - Director of House Research Office

Facilitator: Jonathan Griffin

Recorder: Mallory Webb

### Priority Issues

- Restructure Working Families Commission
- Centralized job postings board targeting veteran, prisoners facing re-entry, and welfare to work recipients
- Certificate of relief program to provide immunity to employers hiring newly released prisoners

### Specific Action Items, Next Steps and Timeline

- Sen. McKoon will meet with the base General at Fort Benning
- Develop an organization chart to identify gaps in services – Martha Wigton and Jill Fike
- Contact NCSL Criminal Justice program to learn more about other certificate of relief programs – Martha Wigton and Jill Fike

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- Sen. Thompson will follow-up with the Department of Labor

### Responsibilities

- As listed above

### Information and Services

Information on certificate of relief programs.

### NCSL Contacts

Sen. Bruce Thompson ([bruce.thompson@senate.ga.gov](mailto:bruce.thompson@senate.ga.gov))

Sen. Joshua McKoon ([jrm2016@yahoo.com](mailto:jrm2016@yahoo.com))

Martha Wigton - Director of House Research Office ([martha.wigton@house.ga.gov](mailto:martha.wigton@house.ga.gov))

Jill Fike - Director of Senate Research Office ([jill.fike@senate.ga.gov](mailto:jill.fike@senate.ga.gov))