



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20447

FEB 02 2011

Dear HPOG Grantees,

As you know, organizations operating Health Profession Opportunity Grant (HPOG) programs are required to coordinate with the State agency responsible for administering the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. While you are interacting with the State TANF agency, it is possible that TANF policy questions will arise. To find out what such questions might mean for your program participants, it is best to discuss them with your State TANF office. If the State has questions about the interaction between HPOG and TANF, it should explore these with the appropriate ACF regional office.

For example, it might appear that HPOG program participants will not count toward a State's TANF work participation requirements because many of your programs require two years of training, well beyond the TANF limit on counting vocational educational training for no more than 12 months. While that may or may not be true, there are several important things to remember. First, TANF work participation limitations apply to what States may count toward their work requirements, not to how long any individual may participate in the activity. Second, many States have work participation rate targets well below 50 percent, so they do not need to engage everyone in activities that count toward these requirements. Third, some program participants may be able to combine training activities with work, thus allowing a State to count the family toward its participation rate.

Since one of the purposes of TANF is to end the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work and marriage, a State will likely view HPOG as an opportunity, because the HPOG program offers resources to help TANF recipients reach self-sufficiency. For example, HPOG program participants will have the chance to enroll in a variety of training and education programs that result in an employer- or industry-recognized certificate or degree for jobs in the healthcare field that pay well and are expected to be in high demand. The types of opportunities provided by the HPOG program could potentially relieve TANF recipients' need for assistance altogether.

Even though the partnership with the State TANF agency is a requirement, it is important to work closely with your local and State TANF partners in the planning and implementation of your program in order to create a relationship that can be sustained after the funding for your HPOG has ended. Part of the purpose of this grant is to explore the various forms of partnership

that can exist among different stakeholders in order to serve TANF and other low-income populations as well as possible. That partnership should include coordinating services. The HPOG program is in the Office of Family Assistance which is also responsible for the TANF programs. If you need assistance coordinating with the TANF agency in your region or state, please let us know. We can make sure that you have the contact information for the appropriate people in your area. We look forward to working together to grow and develop effective partnerships.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stan Koutstaal', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stan Koutstaal
Program Manager