



PROMISING PRACTICE

Adopt a TANF Office Model

Partnership to STEP UP in Health Careers at Chicago State University

Building the rungs on a career ladder takes many hands.

The HPOG program does not act alone; it is designed to work as a collaborative effort. HPOG grantees across the country have worked on implementing effective strategies to build strong partnerships with TANF agencies and guide TANF participants along a career pathway.

One successful HPOG/TANF partnership is taking place in Illinois between Chicago State University and its partner TANF offices. Their collaboration represents a promising practice that could and should be replicated by other grantees in their respective communities.

The [Partnership to STEP UP Health Career \(STEP UP\)](#) is an exciting career laddering program operated by Chicago State University that provides occupational training for TANF recipients and eligible low income individuals in high-demand healthcare fields. The program is funded by the [Administration for Children and Families' HPOG program](#). One of the stand-out aspects of the program is its adoption of the "Adopt a TANF Office" model. This model involves the HPOG program director and grant coordinator collaborating directly with regional TANF administrators to align their efforts and clarify their concerns about duplication of efforts.

One of the benefits of this alliance is that it allows individual TANF offices to address concerns and areas of improvement specific to their needs and situations. It also allows the STEP UP grant coordinator to work with community partners who can address specific concerns and needs of individual TANF participants. This systematic approach ensures a smooth transition from recruitment at TANF offices to education and job training in STEP UP programs. The program has prompted multiple TANF offices to express interest in replicating the "Adopt a TANF Office" model, and HPOG plans on duplicating this promising practice with other state agencies in Illinois.

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