



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W., Washington, DC 20447 www.acf.hhs.gov

March 31, 2015

Dear Colleague,

We want to bring to your attention a [Training and Employment Guidance Letter](#) (TEGL) that our partners at the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), Employment and Training Administration recently released. The TEGL lays out the broad vision for youth services outlined in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). WIOA recognizes the importance of providing workforce preparation and employment opportunities for youth in an integrated system that leverages federal, state, local, and philanthropic resources.

DOL's guidance highlights a joint ["Dear Colleague" letter](#) from the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), and Housing and Urban Development (HUD), encouraging youth providers and Public Housing Agencies to develop summer jobs programs for needy and at-risk youth. These programs allow youth to gain critical work experience, opportunities for career exploration, motivation for education completion, and essential skills for future employment.

The HHS Administration for Children and Families (ACF) continues to support the use of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) resources to create or strengthen summer youth employment programs, and encourage partnerships among TANF agencies, state and local workforce development providers, Community Action Agencies, child welfare agencies, and Public Housing Agencies. ACF's Office of Family Assistance provides technical assistance on summer youth employment program implementation, including profiles of program models and lessons learned from around the country on the [peerTA website](#).

As noted in DOL's guidance, WIOA shifts the primary program focus of Title I youth formula programs to support the educational and career success of out-of-school youth (OSY), ages 16 to 24. A minimum of 75 percent of WIOA youth funds must be spent on OSY, an increase from the minimum of 30 percent under the former Workforce Investment Act (WIA). TANF agencies can play a key role in helping workforce programs identify both young TANF recipient parents and youth in TANF families who could benefit from this new focus. We encourage TANF agencies to work with their state and local workforce partners to leverage resources and serve as many eligible youth as possible.

ACF is committed to working with our DOL and Department of Education colleagues to create a transformed workforce system through implementation of the WIOA vision. We look forward to working with you to support the design and implementation of programs that focus on better outcomes for low-income youth and families.

Sincerely,

/s/

Nisha Patel
Director
Office of Family Assistance