



ADMINISTRATION FOR  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W., Washington, DC 20447 [www.acf.hhs.gov](http://www.acf.hhs.gov)

February 17, 2015

Dear Colleague:

The Office of Family Assistance (OFA) invites nominations of state, territory, or local Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) programs to participate in the **Systems to Family Stability National Policy Academy**. State, territory, or local TANF programs may nominate themselves. The deadline for submission of nominations is March 17, 2015.

The Systems to Family Stability National Policy Academy (the Academy) will engage up to seven teams of key leaders, administrators, and stakeholders from a select group of TANF programs and their partners to develop and implement program improvements over an 18-month period. The initiative will support state, territory, and local TANF programs in improving employment outcomes and strengthening service delivery systems by:

- Using innovative approaches to assess TANF participant needs and deliver more effective case management;
- Adopting job-driven training approaches, including career pathways, to provide participants with skills and resources to obtain and retain employment in promising occupations;
- Making improvements across the continuum of employment services from job search and job readiness to post-employment supports;
- Building programs that focus simultaneously on parental employment and child and family well-being;
- Improving TANF internal business processes and service delivery; and
- Incorporating practices informed by growing knowledge about executive function and trauma-informed care.

Over the course of the 18-month Academy, OFA and expert technical assistance coaches will provide ongoing guidance and support as teams develop, refine and implement strategic action plans. Selected teams will benefit from participating in two Academy meetings in Washington, DC (one in 2015 and one in 2016) where teams will engage peers, subject matter experts and policy leads on implementation activities. Additionally, teams will benefit from the receipt of information on current research, implementation expertise, peer sharing, virtual training, and learning labs.

Please review the attached Academy overview, which provides more information about the expected outcomes of the Academy, the level of commitment required, the types of technical assistance offered, and the nomination process. If you believe that the Academy will help a particular state, territory, or local program to continue current program improvements and/or develop promising new practices, we encourage you to nominate that jurisdiction.

OFA is seeking nominees with the capacity to implement change and demonstrated interest in improving TANF employment outcomes and service delivery. **Nominations are due to OFA no later than 11:59 p.m. ET on March 17, 2015.**

OFA will host a webinar information session about the Academy on **Wednesday, March 4, 2015 from 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET**. On the webinar, we will share further details and respond to questions. Please register at <http://tinyurl.com/policyacademy>.

For inquiries about the Academy, please contact Lisa Washington-Thomas at (202) 401-5141 or [lwashington-thomas@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:lwashington-thomas@acf.hhs.gov) or Damon Waters at (202) 401-5295 or [damon.waters@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:damon.waters@acf.hhs.gov)

Sincerely,

Nisha Patel  
Director  
Office of Family Assistance