



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Office of Family Assistance | 330 C Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20201
www.acf.hhs.gov/ofa

July 28, 2023

Dear Colleague:

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Family Assistance (OFA), in partnership with the Children's Bureau (CB), is launching a new Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Learning Community focused on TANF and Child Welfare collaboration with a particular emphasis on prevention. Research suggests poverty is a key driver of child welfare system involvement. Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago reports that children in economically insecure households are five times more likely to experience maltreatment and seven times more likely to experience neglect. The first of the four purposes of TANF is to "provide assistance to needy families so that children can be cared for in their home or the home of relatives." TANF can provide economic support to help families seeking better opportunities, especially those at risk of child welfare involvement.

Families Are Stronger Together (FAST): TANF & Child Welfare Partnering for Prevention Learning Community (FAST-LC) will support the development of innovative policies, programming, and practice models that center on stabilizing families and improving outcomes for children through preventative strategies. This is an exciting and unique opportunity for state and tribal TANF and Child Welfare agency teams to be part of a community of peers pursuing creative prevention strategies committed to the principle that families are stronger together. Participating teams will partner with dedicated coaches to support their work, be part of in-person gatherings, and receive ongoing technical assistance throughout the year-long initiative. This includes onsite visits from the dedicated coaches, various virtual learning labs and workshops, as well as limited funding for travel-related expenditures to FAST-LC-sponsored events. ACF will accept self-nominations from state and tribal TANF and child welfare partnerships. This Learning Community will engage up to ten state and tribal teams in a 12-month technical assistance initiative beginning in September 2023 and ending in September 2024.

Please review the accompanying FAST-LC Nomination Guidelines that explain the nomination details and process.

Please be advised:

- Self-nominations are due no later than **6:00 p.m. EDT on Thursday, September 7, 2023.**
- ACF will conduct a webinar information session providing additional details on the TLC on **Thursday, August 10, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. EDT.**
- If you have any questions, please send them to TANF-CWLearningCommunity@blhtech.com.

Sincerely,

/s/

/s/

Ann Flagg
Director
Office of Family Assistance (OFA)
Administration for Children & Families

Aysha E. Schomburg, J.D.
Associate Commissioner
Children's Bureau
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services