



Reaching the Maximum Level of Self-Sufficiency

TANF 2006 – 2010 Finalized

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) legislation shapes the course of welfare reform by defining the requirements states must meet to receive federal funding to support their welfare reform programs. Under TANF legislation, each state is required to have 50% of its family population involved in a specified set of employment activities. Failure to meet this goal can result in the loss of federal funding.

The 1996 TANF law also had the 50% participation requirement contained in the new law. Under the old law, however, the actual percentage a state had to achieve was reduced by the percentage its caseload declined. This caseload reduction is also in the new law, but the starting point for measuring the reduction has been updated to 2005. The new law also established definitions of which engagement activities qualify as work participation, but left to the discretion of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to deliberate further on definitions of work activities and other new administration procedures.

On February 5, 2008, the final rulings governing key provisions of the TANF program were announced. Some changes were made from the interim to the final rulings that support HRA's goals of job retention and advancement by making it easier for New York State to get credit toward the work participation rate when individuals participate in vocational and higher education.

The city had previously convinced the federal government to only require work experience participation up to the maximum hours an individual could do using the state minimum wage, even if the individual could not achieve 20 hours of work experience the amount required in the statute. Additional changes in the regulations that are helpful include: excused absence from work will be counted on an hour-by-hour basis, as in the workforce, instead of losing credit for an entire day. Participation rates will also be helped by the decision to exempt a parent needed to care for a disabled child from the participation rate count.

Receiving maximum TANF funding also depends on meeting administrative requirements for reporting work participation. FIA, MIS and NYS are implementing a new automated time system that will enable work sites to communicate attendance reports on a daily basis.



New York City Child Support Collections Reach Record High

by Amy Hartz

Commissioner Doar is proud to announce the Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) collected an astounding \$619 million in 2007 for New York City children. That is \$30 million more than the previous year and a 22% increase since Mayor Bloomberg entered office. New York State is ranked fourth in the country for total dollars collected, largely in part to the City's contribution.

Each year families receive an average of \$5,400 from OCSE collections, increasing their independence from cash assistance, a vital component of self-sufficiency. Child support coupled with employment and work supports, including food stamps and Medicaid, help New Yorkers move out of poverty. More than half of the families served by OCSE are no longer receiving cash assistance.

In addition to record collections, OCSE reported that 74% of its total caseload has established child support orders—the highest number to date. This is an impressive feat given the number of hours of work needed to build an accurate case, locate all parties involved, move through the court system, and finally get the ruling of an order.

HRA Program Updates

Crisis & Disaster Unit Outreach: Coastal Storm Plan

Are you willing to lend a hand in the case of an emergency? The 2008 coastal storm season has arrived, and it is imperative that HRA is prepared. We have distributed e-mail to staff that registered in 2007 so they can update their information. All volunteers are successfully trained in CPR and First Aid so that they are well-prepared for whatever may come their way. If you would like to register, visit the Coastal Storm homepage on the intranet that will be available May 5, 2008.

MAP Introduces a New Client Services Division

The new Client Services Division was formed to serve a vast volume of undercare services under the Medical Assistance Program. Created in September 2007, it is overseen by Executive Director, Gary Jenkins. As MAP has grown to serve 2.6 million Medicaid consumers, the need for maintaining those cases through undercare and other actions has grown in importance. Ultimately the goal is to have one main hub that focuses on undercare actions, providing effective and efficient services to a growing population.

Client Services includes four eligibility operation areas: the Outstationed Eligibility Division (OED), the Centralized Eligibility Reassessment Program (CERP), the HRA Medicaid Helpline, and the newly created Undercare Processing Division (UPD), formerly known as the Correspondence Unit.

HRA Perspective Monthly Bulletin

Published by the City of New York
 Human Resources Administration/
 Department of Social Services

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Robert Doar, Commissioner
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HRA Hosts Women's History Month Panel Discussion

by Alexia Innis

On March 28, in commemoration of Women's History Month, HRA hosted a panel discussion – *The Battered Women's Movement in New York City, Mid-20th Century to the Present* – in conjunction with a Dress for Success clothing drive. Commissioner Doar opened the event with commending the work that women have done and continue to do in the Human Resources Administration while recognizing some of the outstanding women that he works with today such as Deputy Mayor for Human Services Linda Gibbs and First Deputy Commissioner Patricia M. Smith. "We've doubled the pool of talent by embracing and celebrating women's extraordinary contribution to the workforce," said Commissioner Doar. "We're a better community and country for it."



Panelists discussed their roles and experiences from the grass-roots inception of the battered women's movement, to its recognition in the social consciousness, to how the movement should progress in the future. Moderated by Marie Philip, Executive Director of HRA's Office of Domestic Violence, panelists included Joyce Klemperer, from the Fund for the City of New York; Sue Loeb, Director of Voices of Women and Rishauna Zumberg, RAPP Coordinator from STEPS to End Family Violence.



Ms. Philip emphasized that the battered women's movement has come a long way from its beginning and that its focus is also on the role that men play in surviving and preventing domestic violence.

Ms. Klemperer concluded her remarks by calling on everyone in attendance to strive for a world

without domestic violence. "Every human being deserves a life free of violence where they can make their own decisions and choices."

Additionally, HRA collected over 25 boxes of donations at participating sites for the clothing drive, making the drive a huge success!

Event Calendar

Mini Health Fair in Queens

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

In addition to the yearly health fair at DC37 Headquarters in September, there is a mini health fair in a different borough every year. This year it is at the Jamaica Job Center in Queens at 165-08, 88th Avenue, 4th floor. These health fairs are coordinated by the Quality of Health Committee.

PAI Nominations Due

Friday, May 2, 2008

This year, HRA will again recognize both individuals and teams that best exemplify the values and standards of Professionalism, Accountability and Integrity (PAI) in the workplace. All nominations must be submitted by May 2, 2008. Nominations received after the deadline of May 2nd will not be considered or acknowledged. For more information, contact Karin Feldhamer at 212-331-3325.

PAI Lunch and Learn Workshop

Friday, April 25, 2008

Frank Donno, Executive Deputy Commissioner of OSR, will speak on "More Frank Talk on Nutrition," HRA headquarters, 180 Water Street, 12th floor conference room, 1:00 PM.

Take Our Children to Work Day

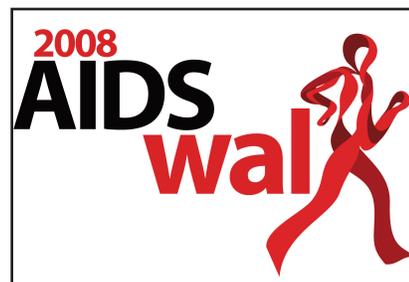
HRA is once again participating in Take Our Children to Work Day which will take place on Thursday, April 24, 2008. Staff are encouraged to bring a boy or girl between the ages of nine and fifteen with them to work that day. The theme of this year's event is Making Choices for a Better World. Throughout the Agency, Responsibility Areas and Responsibility Centers (RA/RC) will offer programs, seminars and workshops that assist children in thinking about the decisions and choices with which they will be faced in the future.



HRA staff should contact their RA/RC Human Resources Business Partners to find out details concerning their RA/RC's event information and registration and security policies for Take Our Children to Work Day.

AIDS WALK 2008 – SIGN UP TODAY!

Each year HRA staff volunteer to participate in the AIDS Walk through Central Park. This year, you can help HRA reach our goal of \$20,000 and fight back against the HIV/AIDS epidemic by joining HRA's team for the annual AIDS Walk New York that will take place on Sunday, May 18.



To join and participate as a fundraiser/walker in the AIDS Walk visit HRA's Intranet homepage. If you do not have access to the Internet, send your "Request for Team Registration" (subject line) as an e-mail, including your name, complete home address, home telephone number, work location and business telephone number to hraaidswalk@hra.nyc.gov and we will register you for the AIDS Walk.

If you have any questions regarding the event, please feel free to write to us at hraaidswalk@hra.nyc.gov or call us at 212-620-4655.

We hope you'll join our team and look forward to seeing you in Central Park on Sunday, May 18, 2008!