



DHS

Georgia Department of Human Services

**ARRA Meeting with Non-Profits and
Community Foundations**

December 16, 2009

Purpose of Today's Meeting

- Communicate information about ARRA
- Describe some TANF Emergency Fund ARRA Spending Initiatives
- Discuss Partnership Opportunities
- Answer Questions

General Overview

- ARRA signed into law by President Obama in February 2009
- ARRA is scheduled to end on September 30, 2010
- DHS will utilize ARRA funds to support the following areas
 - Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
 - Child Care
 - Community Service Block Grants
 - Child Support
 - Food Stamps



Federal TANF Goals

- Provide assistance to needy families so that children can be cared for in their homes or in the home of relatives
- End the dependency of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage
- Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies
- Encouraging the formation and maintenance of two-parent families

Three Allowable Categories For TANF Emergency Funds

- Basic Cash Assistance
 - Unfortunately, DHS does not qualify because of a lack of increase in expenditures and case loads
- Short-term, non-recurrent benefits
 - Assistance that is designed to meet a crisis situation or episode of need that will not extend beyond four months
- Subsidized Employment
 - Time limited support of salaries and wages paid to unemployed clients hired by approved employers

Targeted DHS TANF Emergency Fund Initiatives

- Expansion of Teen Work Program
- Fresh Start Initiatives
- Subsidized Jobs



Teen Work 2010

- DHS started this summer teen work program several years ago to provide a sense of independence and work experience to Georgia's most vulnerable youth
- The 2010 program will be expanded to employ a **minimum** of 15,000 youths between the ages of 14 and 18
- Youth Eligibility
 - Participants in the ILP Foster care and Grandparents Raising Grandchildren programs
 - Those diagnosed as developmentally disabled
 - Those receiving TANF cash assistance
 - Those whose family's gross household income is at or below 300% of the federal poverty level
- Program Expectations
 - DHS pays 100% of the wages/stipends; Employers must provide in-kind services for supervision, training and other administrative costs
 - Teens employed for a maximum of 35 hours per week at \$8.50 per hour
 - Teens expected to improve soft-skills such as problem solving, team work and dependability

Fresh Start Initiatives

- Goal is to assist low-income families that have or may be on the verge of losing their homes, utilities and other essential services because of unemployment, domestic violence, etc.
- Examples of payments include:
 - Past due rent and mortgage amounts
 - Rent deposits
 - Fees to have utilities and other essential services turned on
- Eligibility
 - Families whose gross monthly household income is at or below 300% of federal poverty level
 - U.S. citizen or Legal Immigrants
- DHS pays up to 80% of the cost of the non-recurrent service or benefit

Subsidized Employment

- Goal is to provide subsidized employment for a minimum of 5,000 unemployed adults
- Eligibility
 - Persons receiving TANF
 - Persons with dependent children applying for TANF
 - Persons participating in Georgia Fatherhood Initiative, whose children are TANF eligible
 - Persons with dependent children whose gross monthly household income is at or below 300% of federal poverty level and meet TANF eligibility requirements
 - Persons must be a U.S. citizen and a Georgia resident
- Program Expectations
 - DHS will subsidize wages of employed individuals up to 80%; Employers must cover the remaining 20%
 - Subsidized jobs must provide a minimum of 30 hours weekly and pay at least minimum wage
 - The length of subsidized employment is up to 6 months

Subsidized Employment

- Employer Benefits
 - Work Opportunity Tax Credit
 - Welfare To Work Tax Credit – TANF recipients
 - Pre-screened Applicants (including criminal background checks)
 - Job coach provider to work with employees to help ensure successful placement

- Key Benchmarks
 - 70% of clients enrolled in program will retain employment during subsidized employment period
 - 70% of clients enrolled in program will retain employment for a minimum of 6-months after subsidized employment ends

What Is Still Needed

- Summer Teen Work
 - Youth who meet eligibility requirements
 - Employers who can provide meaningful work experiences beginning June 1, 2010
- Fresh Start Initiatives
 - Partners whose existing programs serve low income families and ARRA dollars could expand their capacity to address family crisis and well being situations
- Subsidized jobs
 - Employers who can provide sustainable jobs
 - Employers who can meet program expectations and assist DHS in attainment of benchmarks
 - Employers who can begin job placements no later than March 31, 2010

Who To Contact In DFCS With ARRA Questions

- **General Information about ARRA initiatives**
 - **Eli Phillips**
ARRA Project Manager
404 326-8637
ehphillips@dhr.state.ga.us
- **Summer Teen Work Program**
 - **Marva Reed**
Director, Family and Child Well Being
404.463.7276
msreed@dhr.state.ga.us
- **Subsidized Employment**
 - **Donna Gunter**
Unit Manager, TANF
404 657-3737
degunter@dhr.state.ga.us
- **Temporary Child Care Assistance**
 - **Mona Jackson**
Project Director, Child Care Unit
404 657-3443
mdjackso@dhr.state.ga.us

Questions





**Thank you. Please be sure to
complete the sign in sheet.**

**A copy of the presentation will be
available on the DHS website.**