

New York Public Welfare Association

TANF/Safety Net Policy Platform 2007

January 2007

Advance Policies to Address the Complex and Interwoven Barriers that People Living in Poverty Experience

- Promote strategies that address the hardships that people on the TANF and Safety Net caseloads experience which prevent them from sustaining employment. This would include comprehensive approaches that target a combination of factors, such as, poor health, lack of education, mental health issues, alcohol or drug addition, domestic violence, responsibilities for a family member with a disability, child abuse or neglect in the home and other difficulties.
- Promote full potential while meeting basic needs. NYS has a constitutional responsibility to provide for "the aid, care and support of the needy." This role should be carried out in a manner that is fiscally responsible and which provides the necessary services (child care, transportation, etc.) that will lead to employment and self-support.
- Ensure that TANF funds are strategically directed to efforts that will enable families who are eligible for financial assistance to achieve employment and self support. Use TANF funding for TANF families.
- Align policies across state agencies to require that all contracts funded with TANF dollars support compliance with federal work rules. State agencies need to ensure that providers incorporate work activities so as not to jeopardize federal funding.
- Maximize flexibility under the TANF Block Grant and enable local districts to steer the funding toward efforts that will place the state in a better position to meet performance targets.
- Make Implementation Manageable. The need for technologically simple methods to collect caseload data and verify work activities is important in order to track information that counts toward the federal participation rates.

The New York Public Welfare Association (NYPWA) represents New York's 58 local departments of social services. Our members are dedicated to improving the quality and effectiveness of social welfare policy so that it is accountable to taxpayers and protective of vulnerable people.

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