

## **Partnership Fund Pilot Award Summary**

**Concept Name:** Identifying State Innovations for Improving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program Administration

**Lead Agency:** Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF)

**Funding Level:** \$3.5 million

**Number of States/Pilot Sites:** At least three

**Summary of Funded Concept:** TANF gives states significant flexibility in how to help needy families achieve self-sufficiency. Based on their specific priorities and requirements, states are best positioned to identify how new or existing data sources and quality control frameworks can prevent TANF improper payments while better identifying very poor families needing assistance.

To identify state best practices, ACF will release a TANF program integrity grant announcement inviting states to submit proposals to test new solutions, giving preference to projects that address one or more of areas (1)-(4) below in conjunction with area (5):

1. Enhanced utilization of National Directory of New Hires (NDNH) data matches to verify employment and earnings data;
2. Alternative approaches to data matching to better detect overpayments and underpayments than current Income and Eligibility Verification System (IEVS) matches;
3. Improved TANF program integrity through use of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Quality Control (QC) data;
4. Other promising approaches to strengthen TANF program integrity efforts; and
5. Using SNAP QC data to identify families potentially eligible for TANF assistance that are not receiving it.

Evaluations will inform states about whether to invest in various data matching systems by showing effects on program integrity and on participation by very needy families. Evaluations will also consider why very needy families do not participate, whether TANF-related programs could improve their economic well-being, and how pilots might apply to other programs.

### **Addressing the Partnership Fund's Goals:**

- Reduce improper payments by using NDNH, SNAP QC data, or more effective alternatives to IEVS to identify up-to-date employment, income, and asset information.
- Improve administrative efficiency by testing the cost effectiveness of alternative program integrity activities to inform future investments by other states.
- Protect and improve program access for eligible beneficiaries by identifying eligible nonparticipants—such as through SNAP QC data—to improve TANF access, connecting families to jobs and helping improve financial well-being.

**Changes from the Original Pilot Concept Submission:** None.

**Original Pilot Concept Submitted by:** ACF, in consultation with the Collaborative Forum.