

Human Services Committee Informational Hearing

Jobs First Employment Services
Connecticut Department of Labor



Jobs First Employment Services

- CT Department of Labor's Jobs First Employment Services (JFES) program serves applicants and recipients of TFA that DSS has determined are mandatory to participate in employment services and are subject the 21-month time limit

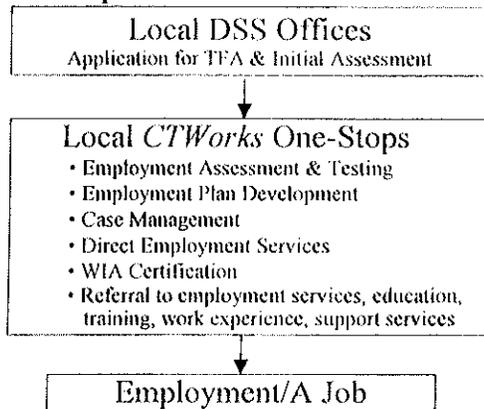
Jobs First Employment Services

Program Goals:

- To help participants to become independent of welfare within 21 months
- To help participants to remain independent of welfare
- To meet the federal TANF participation requirements

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JFES Participant Flow





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- Case management services are provided thru contracts with the WIBs
- Case management services include:
 - Assessments
 - Employment plan development
 - Referral to activities and services
 - Monitoring and Record Keeping



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- Case Management Referrals to Activities and Services include:
 - Employment Services provided by DOL staff
 - Individualized structured job search assistance
 - Job search skills training
 - Resume development
 - Job development and placement
 - Vocational education (includes utilization WIA funds)
 - Local adult education programs
 - Subsidized Employment
 - All appropriate One-Stop services
 - State and local resources such as Child Care Assistance

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Program Data SFY 2007-08

Number Served	15,915
Employed	45.6%
Average Starting Wage	\$9.13
Other Activities	
Job search/job readiness	48.7%
Vocational education	17.0%
Adult basic ed/ESL	5.3%
Subsidized employment	6.5%
Community Service	1.3%

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Program Funding SFY 2008-09 with 5% Reduction

■ Jobs First Employment Services	\$15,521,077
■ TANF Job Reorganization, (CT's Response to DRA)	\$6,175,000



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Interagency Coordination

- JFES Design Group composed of management level representatives from DSS, DOL and the five Workforce Investment Boards meet regularly to improve interagency procedures and develop new strategies to enhance services.



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Interagency Coordination

- Through DOL's business system (IT Data system), JFES is integrated in the *CTWork* One-Stop facilitating the provision of service from One-Stop partners.
- The DOL business system facilitates client flow between DSS, DOL and WIB staffs by data/info sharing at the worker level, automatic program updates and alerts.

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- Federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA)
 - Effective October 1, 2006
 - Policy shift making 50% rate more difficult to reach (shifting date for caseload reduction credit and adding in medically exempt population)
 - Feds define “Countable” activities
 - “Work Verification Requirements” (federal term for documentation of work and work-related activities) require documentation of participation in federally defined “countable” activities for every hour of the week, every week in the month for participant to count toward the participation rate

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Program Changes to Address DRA

- TANF Job Reorganization Funds (\$6.5 million) allows for the purchase of vocational education combined with adult basic ed and subsidized employment we could otherwise not afford
- Intensified effort to find, document and record verified hours
 - Centralized unit dedicated to finding verification, reviewing cases to maximize the use of federal rules
- Provide on-going performance review for all case managers regarding participation rate.
- Enhanced approach to service delivery