**WIOA Plan Modifications – TANF Presentation – February 8, 2018**

**TITLE SLIDE/FIRSTSLIDE: Requirements for Considerations for WIOA Unified and Combined State Plans Modifications and Beyond.**

Welcome to the TANF portion of the webcast for the requirements for considerations for WIOA unified and combined state plans.

**SECOND SLIDE:**

Hello, I am Karen Clairmont, a Program Specialist in the Office of Family Assistance (OFA) in the Administration of Children and Families (ACF) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

**THIRD SLIDE: How Well Does the Current WIOA Plan Address TANF?**

As you are aware, the deadline for submitting the two-year modifications for the W.I.O.A. plans is March 15, 2018.

As you prepare the state plan modifications, I would like for you to consider looking at these 5 questions below to determine how well your current plan addresses TANF. Are there areas where the state could improve?

* Does the state’s comprehensive analysis of workforce development activities adequately consider low-income individuals with barriers to employment, such as **TANF** recipients?
* Does the plan fully describe how the state intends to serve low-income individuals with barriers to employment?
* Is **TANF** well integrated into the operational planning elements?
* Does the state plan clearly describe joint planning and coordination among the core and partner programs?

**FOURTH SLIDE: Opportunities for Integration and Alignment**

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act provides exciting new opportunities for workforce development, human services, and education and training providers to work in partnership to help low-income individuals gain and keep employment.

The Department of Health and Human Services and the Administration for Children and Families in particular, is strongly committed to working in partnership with the same common goal…to help low-income individuals with barriers to employment to receive the necessary training, support services, and skills development so that they may achieve economic success.

The W.I.O.A. legislation has further opened the door for TANF agencies to work even more closely with our workforce partners.

W.I.O.A. emphasizes priority for services to recipients of public assistance, other low-income individuals, who are basic skills deficient.

The plan should demonstrate how workforce partners coordinate employment and training services for TANF and other low-income individuals.

**FIFTH SLIDE: WIOA Plan Modification**

W.I.O.A. requires all states to submit modifications every two years and update their strategies based on changes in the labor market, economic conditions or other factors affecting the implementation of the plan.

For combined plan programs such as TANF, that have a different planning cycle from W.I.O.A., states should submit program-specific modifications that align with the natural planning cycles for that program, unless the two-year W.I.O.A. modification cycle can accommodate that program’s cycle.

If at the two-year point, a TANF agency wants to submit a complete plan renewal, it could do so since the TANF statutory requirements would be met.

**SIXTH SLIDE: WIOA Plan Modification: Is It a TANF State Plan Renewal?**

In Section 402(a) of the Social Security Act, TANF requires a state to have submitted a plan within 27 months of the end of the first fiscal quarter in order to receive TANF funds for that FY. It’s basically a two year cycle but also includes the first quarter of the current fiscal year.

All W.I.O.A. combined plans began on 07/01/16. As reflected on the chart, the WIOA combined plans with TANF are in effect for FY 17 and FY 18. However, the first FY that does not include 07/01/16 in the TANF submission range is FY 19. Therefore, states must submit new plans for FY 19, no later than 12/31/18.

**SEVENTH SLIDE: WIOA Plan Modification: Options:**

A state has the option to:

Submit its TANF plan renewal concurrently with its W.I.O.A. combined plan modification by the March 15, 2018 deadline along with its required signed certifications.

OR

Submit its TANF plan renewal as required by section 402 of the Social Security Act, by the end of the first quarter of FY 19 (i.e., no later than 12/31/18). I want to make it clear that the WIOA plan still replaces the state’s prior existing TANF plan.

**EIGHTH SLIDE: WIOA Plan Modification: Other Considerations**

States that don’t currently include TANF as a combined plan partner are encouraged to add them and OFA hopes they do so.

A state can amend the TANF portion of the plan at any time. If a state has a change to its program specific requirements, it can make revisions in the portal.

It is important to note that states should communicate to the TANF Regional Office whether the submission is a TANF plan renewal or an amendment to avoid confusion which could result in a lapse in funding.

**NINTH SLIDE: Key Requirements for TANF Portion**

Here are some things to keep in mind as you prepare the TANF portion of the combined state plans--

The state plan **must address all** of the requirements of section 402 (a) of the Social Security Act, including the certifications signed and dated by the Governor or designated authority.

As you may recall for the initial state submission, the portal was not setup to receive the signed Governor’s certifications. The portal still does not have that capability but we hope that it will have it sometime in the future.

States need to send signed and dated certifications to the appropriate TANF Regional Offices prior to the end date of the current plan.

**TENTH SLIDE: Other Thoughts**

Conditional approval letters will be drafted by DOL and signed by the W.I.O.A. Interagency Partners once plan reviews are completed.

If the state submits a TANF plan renewal, HHS will send a separate letter once the TANF portion of the plan is determined complete.

**ELEVENTH SLIDE: RESOURCES**

Here is a listing of some of the resources available on our website relating to Partnering with W.I.O.A. that you may find helpful.

**TWELFTH SLIDE: THANK YOU**

In closing, I hope that you have found the information that I have provided in this webcast useful. However, should you have additional questions on anything that has been discussed, please feel free to reach out to your TANF Regional Office.

Thank you.