



RECS 2020

Research and Evaluation
Conference on Self-Sufficiency

October 13-15 and 19-22, 2020



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ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Administration for
Children and Families

330 C Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

www.acf.hhs.gov

October 13, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2020 Research and Evaluation Conference on Self-Sufficiency (RECS), convened by the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE) in the Administration for Children and Families of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This conference brings together researchers, practitioners, and policymakers to discuss employment, well-being, and self-sufficiency among low-income families. This 20th convening of the conference is our first-ever virtual RECS. Although we will miss seeing you in person this year, we are hoping this virtual format nonetheless provides a valuable opportunity to present and exchange findings and new ideas from the most recent and rigorous research in the field.

The conference sessions are organized in six thematic tracks:

- TANF Programs, Policies, and Populations
- Employment and Mobility in the Labor Market
- Youth Well-Being and the Transition to Adulthood
- Strengthening Families, Fatherhood, Marriages, and Relationships
- Evaluating Social Programs, Building Evidence, and Using Data
- Approaches to Alleviate Poverty and Expand Opportunity

These broad tracks are meant to encompass major areas of current research and to help you plan your participation in the conference. Each track is associated with a color to guide you through the program.

The detailed agenda provides session descriptions (pages 9-37). A high-level agenda is also available in the virtual conference venue under the "Agenda" tab and on the RECS website at www.recsconference.net.

I particularly want to highlight the plenaries taking place across the conference and touching on a wide range of topics, including cross-agency partnerships for state demonstrations, response and

recovery during COVID-19, implementation of the Evidence Act, and more. Additionally, our symposium on Wednesday, October 14 will discuss the role of equity in evaluation.

We are pleased to host RECS Emerging Scholars and OPRE Family Strengthening Scholars and Behavioral Intervention Scholars at the conference. I encourage you to support them by attending the Emerging Scholars' Poster Session Lightning Rounds on Wednesday, October 14 at 2:15 p.m. Eastern and Wednesday, October 21 at 2:30 p.m. Eastern. I also encourage the scholars and other conference attendees to attend the Panel Discussion on Careers in Research Related to Poverty, Family Self-Sufficiency, and Social Welfare on October 19. The panel will bring together individuals who have experience working in federal and state government, research firms, and academia to discuss their careers, provide insights about career-building, and answer questions.

Several people deserve particular mention for their roles in planning the conference: Mark Fucello, Amelia Popham, Victoria Kabak, Lauren Deutsch, Marie Lawrence, Gabrielle Newell, Katherine McKinney, Lisa Zingman, Elaine Carpenter, Selma Caal, Deric Joyner, and Justin Falcone of OPRE. I thank them all. I would also like to thank the RECS logistics contractor, IMPAQ International, for its work in planning this conference. Finally, I'd like to thank all of our presenters for their flexibility and patience as we converted this year's conference to a virtual format.

This year's collection of speakers, moderators, and participants reflects a broad diversity of organizations, expertise, and perspectives. In addition to the formal conference sessions, I hope you will also find opportunities for informal exchange of ideas about research, policies, and programs, including through the virtual venue's interactive chat features in both the Networking Lounge and the Exhibit Hall. The wide array of roundtables we have scheduled on Monday, October 19 will offer an opportunity for informal discussions on topics of interest.

Again, welcome to the conference. I am glad that you are here, and I look forward to your participation.



Sincerely,

Naomi Goldstein

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Planning, Research, and Evaluation

About OPRE

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation
<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/opre>

The **Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE)**, within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), studies ACF programs and target populations through rigorous research and evaluation projects. These include evaluations of existing programs, evaluations of innovative approaches to helping low-income children and families, research syntheses and descriptive and exploratory studies. This research is directed to a broad audience, including ACF program offices, researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and program providers. OPRE also works to improve data and coordinates performance management for ACF.

OPRE is comprised of four divisions:

- The **Division of Economic Independence** focuses on welfare, employment, training, education, and family self-sufficiency.
- The **Division of Child and Family Development** focuses on early care and education, including subsidized child care, Head Start, Early Head Start, and child abuse and neglect.
- The **Division of Family Strengthening** focuses on teen pregnancy prevention, youth development, healthy marriage, responsible fatherhood, family violence, runaway and homeless youth, and early childhood home visiting.
- The **Division of Data and Improvement** focuses on increasing the quality, usefulness, accessibility, and analysis of data to improve ACF programs and program participants' outcomes.

Examples of current and recent studies include:

- **Employment-Related Studies and Demonstrations:** These studies address a variety of topics, including alternative welfare-to-work strategies and innovations in education and training. Major projects in this area include:
 - *Subsidized and Transitional Employment Demonstration Project*
 - *Job Search Assistance Strategies Evaluation*
 - *Employment Strategies for Low-Income Adults Evidence Review*
 - *Pathways for Advancing Careers and Education*
 - *Evaluation of Employment Coaching for TANF and Related Populations*
 - *Evaluation Portfolio for the Health Profession Opportunity Grants*
 - *Building Evidence on Employment Strategies for Low-Income Families*
 - *Next Generation of Enhanced Employment Strategies Project*
 - *Pathways to Work Evidence Clearinghouse*
 - *Promising Occupations Achievable Through Short-Term Education or Training for Low-Income Families*

- **TANF, the Safety Net, and Family Economic Stability:** OPRE is currently funding several descriptive studies to further our knowledge of state TANF programs. Beyond studies of TANF, OPRE seeks to understand how TANF clients access other safety net programs funded by ACF and other federal, state, and local entities. Major projects in this area include:
 - *Employment Sector Analysis for TANF Recipients and Other Low-Income Families*
 - *Understanding Poverty: Childhood and Family Experiences*
 - *State TANF Policies Database*
 - *How TANF Agencies Support Families Experiencing Homelessness*
 - *Understanding Financial Literacy Interventions in Employment-Related Contexts for Low-Income Individuals*
 - *Family Self-Sufficiency and Stability Research Scholars Network*
 - *TANF Data Innovation Project*
- **Child Welfare Projects:** OPRE is investigating the experiences of children and their families who suffer from, or are at risk of, abuse, neglect, and homelessness. Major projects in this area include:
 - *Building Capacity to Evaluate Interventions for Youth/Young Adults with Child Welfare Involvement At-Risk of Homelessness: Phase II*
 - *Design Options for Understanding Child Maltreatment Incidence*
 - *National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being*
 - *Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse*
 - *Understanding Judicial Decision-Making*
- **Administrative Data Projects:** OPRE has a number of projects focused on linking administrative data systems, supporting data sharing and facilitating interoperability and data exchange to enhance program services and efficiency in the field.
 - **Linking Data for Research:**
 - » *Assessing Options to Evaluate Long-term Outcomes Using Administrative Data*
 - » *Child Maltreatment Incidence Data Linkages Project*
 - » *TANF Data Innovations Needs Assessment and Technical Assistance*
 - » *State Medicaid and Child Welfare Data Linkages for Outcomes Research*
 - **Data Sharing Resources:**
 - » *ACF Interoperability Initiative*
 - » *Compendium of Administrative and Survey Data Resources in the Administration for Children and Families*
 - » *Compendium of Administrative Data Sources for Self-Sufficiency Research*
 - **Interoperability and Data Exchange:**
 - » *Public Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS)*
 - » *Multi-Program Advance Planning and Data Systems*

- **Early Care and Education:** OPRE sponsors cross-cutting studies related to early childhood services and early childhood development, as well as studies that are specific to the Child Care and Development Fund, Head Start, and Early Head Start.
 - **Cross-Cutting Studies:**
 - » *National Survey of Early Care and Education*
 - » *Variations in Implementation of Quality Interventions*
 - » *Study of Coaching Practices in Early Care and Education*
 - » *Child Care and Early Education Research Connections*
 - » *Building a Culture of Continuous Learning*
 - » *Evaluating Early Head Start – Child Care Partnerships*
 - » *Tribal Early Childhood Research Center*
 - » *Child and Family Data Archive*
 - **Child Care Projects:** These studies investigate the impact of child care subsidy policies and practices on parental employment, children’s development, and the effectiveness of quality-enhancing initiatives. Major projects in this area include:
 - » *Assessing the Implementation and Cost of High Quality Early Care and Education Project*
 - » *Child Care and Early Education Policy and Research Analysis*
 - » *Child Care Policy Research Grants*
 - » *Child Care and Development Fund – Database of State Policies*
 - » *Child Care and Development Block Grant Implementation Research and Evaluation Grants*
 - **Head Start Studies:** This list of studies includes the first nationally representative experimental evaluation of the Head Start program, as well as other studies that address children’s experiences and outcomes in Head Start and Early Head Start. Major projects in this area include:
 - » *American Indian and Alaska Native Head Start Family and Child Experiences Survey*
 - » *Early Care and Education Scholars: Head Start Graduate Student Research Program*
 - » *Head Start Family and Child Experiences Survey*
 - » *Early Head Start University Partnership Grants: Buffering Children from Toxic Stress*
 - » *Head Start University Partnership Grants: Dual Generation Programs*
 - » *Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Study*
 - » *Secondary Analysis of Data on Child Care and Early Education*
- **Early Childhood Home Visiting Projects:** These projects examine early childhood home visiting for pregnant women and families with young children that aim to support positive outcomes for children and families. Major projects in this area include:
 - *Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program Evaluation*
 - *Home Visiting Evidence of Effectiveness Review*

- *Multi-Site Implementation Evaluation of Tribal Home Visiting*
- *Tribal Home Visiting Evaluation Institute Tribal Home Visiting Evaluation Institute*
- *Home Visiting Career Trajectories*
- *Touchpoints for Addressing Substance Use Issues in Home Visiting*
- **Strengthening Families Studies:** OPRE has a number of projects examining strategies to strengthen families, support healthy relationships, and support father involvement. Major projects in this area include:
 - *Parents and Children Together Evaluation*
 - *Strengthening Marriage and Relationship Education Services*
 - *Building Bridges and Bonds*
 - *Fatherhood and Marriage Local Evaluation and Cross-Site Project*
 - *Strengthening the Implementation of Marriage and Relationship Services*
 - *Strengthening the Implementation of Responsible Fatherhood Programs*
 - *Coparenting and Healthy Relationship and Marriage Education for Dads*
 - *Engaging Fathers and Paternal Relatives: A Continuous Quality Improvement Approach in the Child Welfare System*
 - *Fatherhood, Relationships, and Marriage – Illuminating the Next Generation of Research*
 - *Preventing and Addressing Intimate Violence when Engaging Dads*
 - *Self-Regulation Training Approaches and Resources to Improve Staff Capacity for Implementing Healthy Marriage Programs for Youth (SARHM)*
 - *Responding to Intimate Violence in Relationship Programs*
 - *Accomplishments of the Domestic Violence Hotline, Online Connections, and Text*
 - *National Domestic Violence Hotline Services Assessment Framework based on Theory*
- **Adolescent Development and Transitions to Adulthood:** OPRE has a number of studies focused on reducing teen pregnancy and supporting youth in their transition to adulthood. Major projects in this area include:
 - *Personal Responsibility Education Program Multi-Component Evaluation*
 - *PREP Studies of Performance Measures and Adult Preparation Subjects*
 - *Personal Responsibility Education Program: Promising Youth Programs*
 - *Sexual Risk Avoidance Education National Evaluation*
 - *Sexual Risk Avoidance Education Performance Analysis Study*
 - *Planning a Next Generation Evaluation Agenda for the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood*
 - *Transitional Living Program Evaluation Studies*

- **Cross-Cutting and Other Research** projects include:
 - *Behavioral Interventions to Advance Self-Sufficiency (BIAS)*
 - *BIAS Next Generation*
 - *Goal-Oriented Adult Learning in Self-Sufficiency*
 - *Two-Generation Approaches to Improving Self-Sufficiency*
 - *Center for Research on Hispanic Children and Families*
 - *Assets for Independence Evaluation and Long-Term Follow-Up Evaluation*
 - *Homeless Families Research Briefs*
 - *Scan of the Status of States' Integration of Human Services and Health Insurance Programs*
 - *Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Human Services*
 - *OPRE Methods Inquiries*
 - *Human-Centered Design for Human Services*
 - *Human Services Programs in Rural Contexts*

Detailed Agenda

All times in this agenda are in Eastern Time.

TRACK KEY

 TANF Programs, Policies, and Populations (TANF)	 Strengthening Families, Fatherhood, Marriages, and Relationships (Families & Fatherhood)
 Employment and Mobility in the Labor Market (Employment)	 Evaluating Social Programs, Building Evidence, and Using Data (Evidence)
 Youth Well-Being and the Transition to Adulthood (Youth)	 Approaches to Alleviate Poverty and Expand Opportunity (Alleviate Poverty)

 Email RECS@impaqint.com to request PowerPoint presentations from the conference.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13 | 1:00 P.M. - 4:15 P.M.

TIME	EVENT
1:00 p.m.	<p>OPENING REMARKS</p> <p>Lynn Johnson (<i>Administration for Children and Families</i>)</p> <hr/> <p>Plenary: One Workforce: A Federal-State Partnership Initiative for Innovation </p> <p>This session features leadership from ACF, the U.S. Department of Labor, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture discussing a multi-agency partnership to help individuals access the supports they need to overcome recent and longer-term barriers to entering and remaining in the workforce. The focus of these partnerships will be on supporting state and local government innovations across programs, in coordination with their business communities. Speakers will discuss their pledge to partner with state counterparts by providing technical assistance, identification of potential funding sources, coordination of efforts, and bringing other federal partners in to assist. Kristin Putnam (<i>Administration for Children and Families/Consultant</i>) will moderate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarence H. Carter (<i>Administration for Children and Families</i>) • Lynn Johnson (<i>Administration for Children and Families</i>) • John Pallasch (<i>U.S. Department of Labor</i>) • Brandon Lipps (<i>U.S. Department of Agriculture</i>)
2:45 p.m.	BREAK

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13 | 1:00 P.M. - 4:15 P.M.

 TANF
  Employment
  Youth
  Families & Fatherhood
  Evidence
  Alleviate Poverty

TIME	EVENT
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3:00 p.m.	CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS
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Next Generation of Behavioral Interventions to Advance Self-Sufficiency: Practitioner and Research Insights From Two TANF Experiments 

This panel will focus on the work of the *Behavioral Interventions to Advance Self-Sufficiency-Next Generation* project to improve client engagement with TANF in Monroe County, NY. From the perspective of both county leadership and the researchers who collaborated throughout the diagnosis, design, and implementation process, the session will feature lessons learned from the tests and opportunities for the county to continue to integrate behavioral science. **Kim Clum** (*Administration for Children and Families*) will serve as moderator.

- **Rebecca Schwartz** (*MDRC*)
- **Denise Read** (*Monroe County Department of Human Services*)
- **Nancy Forgue** (*Independent Consultant*)

3:00 p.m.	Diverse Methods of Coaching: Examples From Across Human Services  
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Coaching is a common practice in which trained coaches help clients set and achieve individualized goals and develop skills. This panel will feature findings from evaluations of coaching approaches across human services programs including early education and workforce development. **Ashley Winning** (*Economic Mobility Pathways*) will moderate this session.

- **The Implementation and Impact of a Goal-Oriented Coaching Approach for TANF Recipients in Michigan**
Karen Gardiner (*Abt Associates*)
- **Economic Mobility Coaching Evaluation in Early Education Settings**
Kerry Beymer (*Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families*)
- **Transforming TANF With Family-Centered Coaching Practices and Culture**
Rachel Brooks (*The Prosperity Agenda*)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13 | 1:00 P.M. - 4:15 P.M.

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TIME EVENT

3:00 p.m. Employment and Education During the Transition to Adulthood for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care 

This session presents findings from three studies of program models for transition-age youth in foster care. For many of these youth, the transition is marked by high unemployment, limited education and training, and low access to postsecondary opportunities. These studies are part of the OPRE-funded project *Phase II Evaluation Activities for Implementing a Next Generation Evaluation Agenda for the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for the Successful Transition to Adulthood*. **Marla McDaniel** (*Urban Institute*) will moderate the session.

- **Programs That Promote Employment Success for Young People Aging Out of Foster Care**
Jiffy Lansing (*Northwestern University*)
- **Promoting College Success Among Young People With a History of Foster Care**
Amy Dworsky (*Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago*)
- **Evaluation of the Education and Training Voucher Program**
Devlin Hanson (*Urban Institute*)

3:00 p.m. Using Technology to Promote Enrollment, Engagement, and Learning in Human Services Programs 

With the increased use of computers, smartphones, tablets, and other devices, leveraging technology to support client recruitment, engagement, and service delivery can mitigate some of the challenges that programs encounter in serving communities. This session highlights innovative uses of technology in the delivery of federally funded Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood programming and shares practical information for programs. **Katie Pahigiannis** (*Administration for Children and Families*) will moderate this session.

- **DadTime: Developing and Implementing a Mobile App to Encourage Fatherhood Program Participation**
Rebecca Behrmann (*MDRC*)
- **Using Technology to Promote Attendance in Healthy Marriage and Relationship Education Programs: Findings From STREAMS**
Ankita Patnaik (*Mathematica*)
- **Effectiveness of Online Healthy Marriage Curricula for Low-Income Couples: The OurRelationship and ePREP Programs**
Brian Doss (*University of Miami*)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13 | 1:00 P.M. - 4:15 P.M.

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TIME	EVENT
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3:00 p.m.

Qualitative Inquiry of Needs and Resources for Families With Low Incomes: Insights From Three Studies 

Qualitative methods are useful for developing a deep understanding of complex phenomena. They allow research participants to describe their experiences in their own words and researchers to detect nuance and make novel observations. This session will explore the design, implementation, and analysis phases of qualitative studies to understand the needs and resources of families with low incomes. Presentations will be relevant to Head Start, TANF settings, and the Tribal Health Profession Opportunity Grants 2.0. **Amelia Popham** (*Administration for Children and Families*) will moderate.

- **Understanding Family Needs and Family Support Services in Head Start Programs**
Marissa Strassberger (*MDRC*)
- **Qualitative Inquiry of Experiences of Children, Adolescents, and Their Parents Living in Poverty**
Rashmita Mistry (*University of California, Los Angeles*)
- **Circles of Support: Perspectives From Parents in Tribal Career Pathway Programs**
Carol Hafford (*NORC at the University of Chicago*)







3:00 p.m.



Fostering Financial Security and Resilience: Exploring Tools Designed to Help Families Address and Overcome Financial Hardship 

This panel will detail specific tools and programs designed to help low-income families address financial hardship. The first presentation covers third-year findings from an evaluation of the Assets for Independence program. The next presentation describes the challenges of traditional financial literacy programs for low-income families and details a new product designed to foster nontraditional savings behaviors and ignite better financial resilience. The final presentation describes an online simulation tool that measures the effect of various public benefits on a family's total income and on the marginal tax rates that the family faces as they work toward self-sufficiency. **Tiffany McCormack** (*Administration for Children and Families*) will moderate.

- **From Savings to Ownership: Third-Year Impacts From the Assets for Independence Program Randomized Evaluation**
Breno Braga (*Urban Institute*)
- **Money Powerup Packs: Increasing Financial Resilience Through Social Capital and Nontraditional Savings for TANF Parents**
Alicia Atkinson (*The Prosperity Agenda*)
- **Modeling the Impact of Public Benefits on Family Budgets in Allegheny County, PA**
Seth Chizeck (*Carnegie Mellon University*)


WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14 | 1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

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TIME	EVENT
1:00 p.m.	<p>Symposium: Equity, Evidence, and Action: How Can We Bring It All Together, From Federal Policy to Local Practice?  </p> <p>Increasingly, policymakers and practitioners are promoting the use of evidence as an important tool to address equity and strengthen opportunity and outcomes for young people. Equity can also be conceived of as a way to strengthen evidence, specifically by examining whether and how the processes for generating and using evidence—and for determining what is sound evidence in the first place—are themselves equitable. Mary Ellen Wiggins (<i>The Forum for Youth Investment</i>), Ivan Lui (<i>Brooklyn Bridge Alliance for Youth</i>), and representatives of the Brooklyn Bridge Alliance Youth Data Squad will discuss real-world examples of and needs for equity, from federal policy to youth-driven research and knowledge generation in local communities.</p>
2:00 p.m.	<p>Break</p>
2:15 p.m.	<p>Emerging Scholars Poster Session: Lightning Round 1</p> <p>Please tune in to the first set of five-minute “lightning round” presentations from the Emerging Scholars—researchers and scholars early in their careers who were selected to participate in the conference. A question-and-answer session will follow the presentations. Scholars’ posters will also be available for viewing in the virtual Poster Gallery throughout the conference. This session will be moderated by Elaine Carpenter (<i>Administration for Children and Families/ Business Strategy Consultants</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yu-Ling Chang (<i>University of California, Berkeley</i>) Low-Income Single Mother Families’ Experience of Family Benefit Packages and Employment Trajectories • Natalie Demyan (<i>University of Maryland</i>) Actual Earnings and Child Support Payment Outcomes Among Obligor With Imputed Income in Maryland • Dallas Elgin (<i>2M Research</i>) Understanding How Human Services Programs Can Best Serve Rural Communities: A Mixed-Methods Approach • Sofia Gomez (<i>County of Santa Clara Social Services Agency</i>) Elevating Youth Voices to Inform Evaluation Using Participatory Methods: Lessons Learned From Santa Clara County • Weneaka Jones (<i>Marquette University</i>) The Relationship Among Demographic Factors, Transition Services, and Individual Development Account Saving Participation Among Transition-Age Youth With Disabilities • Catherine LaBrenz (<i>University of Texas</i>) Strengthening Families to Promote Successful Reunification: A Systematic Review of the Evidence




WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14 | 1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

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TIME	EVENT
2:15 p.m. <i>(Emerging Scholars Poster Session, continued)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kelley Massengale (<i>National Diaper Bank Network</i>) Building Evidence to Support Basic Needs Diaper Provision as a Poverty Reduction Strategy for Families • Sehun Oh (<i>The Ohio State University</i>) Life-Course Labor Market Effects of Job Skills Training on U.S. Baby Boomers: A Propensity Score Analysis • Gabrielle Pepin (<i>W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research</i>) The Effects of Welfare Time Limits on Access to Financial Resources: Evidence From the 2010s
3:30 p.m.	BREAK
3:45 p.m.	<p>CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS</p> <p>How TANF Is Assisting Families Experiencing Homelessness: Federal, State, and Local Perspectives </p> <p>This panel will include two presentations about the prevalence and variety of ways that TANF agencies are assisting homeless families and detail the differences in these approaches. The <i>How TANF Agencies Support Homeless Families</i> study is documenting the approaches and strategies used by TANF agencies to serve families experiencing or at risk of homelessness, and the extent to which TANF agencies across the country are using TANF funds to serve and support these families. Anne Fletcher (<i>U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development</i>) will moderate, and Sharon McDonald (<i>National Alliance to End Homelessness</i>) will serve as the discussant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TANF as a Resource to Assist Families Experiencing Homelessness Rachel Gwilliam (<i>Administration for Children and Families</i>) • How TANF Agencies Support Families Experiencing Homelessness: Findings From a TANF Administrator Survey Lauren Dunton (<i>Abt Associates</i>)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14 | 1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

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TIME	EVENT
3:45 p.m.	<p>New Research on Career Pathways: Findings Across Federal Studies </p> <p>Career pathways programs provide postsecondary education and training that is organized as a series of manageable steps leading to successively higher credentials and employment opportunities in growing occupations. This session will present recent findings from three career pathways studies sponsored by ACF and the U.S. Department of Labor. Megan Lizik (<i>U.S. Department of Labor</i>) will moderate this session.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What Factors Support or Suppress Climbing the Ladder in Career Pathways Programs? Dan Litwok (<i>Abt Associates</i>) • How Effective Are Career Pathways Programs? Preliminary Evidence From a Meta-Analysis of 46 Programs Laura Peck (<i>Abt Associates</i>) • Informing Career Pathway Programs' Design by Examining Occupational Transitions in the Wider Labor Market Andrew Clarkwest (<i>Abt Associates</i>)
3:45 p.m.	<p>Building the Evidence Base on Youth Employment Approaches  </p> <p>Connecting young adults to job opportunities has been shown to improve educational and employment outcomes in adulthood. This session will highlight evaluations of three programs that partner with employers and local practitioners to provide young adults with intensive training, internships, work-based learning opportunities, and summer jobs. Lisa Zingman (<i>Administration for Children and Families</i>) will moderate the session.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still Bridging the Opportunity Divide for Low-Income Youth: Year Up's Longer-Term Impacts David Fein (<i>Abt Associates</i>) • The Role of Work-Based Learning in Helping Connect Young Adults to Employment Ranita Jain (<i>The Aspen Institute</i>) • Using Integrated Data to Evaluate the Impact of Summer Youth Employment Program in Cleveland Meghan Salas Atwell (<i>Case Western Reserve University</i>)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14 | 1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.



TANF



Employment



Youth



Families & Fatherhood



Evidence



Alleviate Poverty

TIME

EVENT

3:45 p.m.

Emerging Research on Sexual Risk Avoidance and Sexual Risk Cessation  

Risk-taking behaviors, such as early sexual activity, have negative implications for youths' psychological, emotional, and economic well-being. This session will discuss models that conceptualize sexual risk avoidance and sexual risk cessation; a synthesis of the literature that assesses the benefits of delaying sexual activity; and effective strategies to engage youth in making smart decisions around sex, relationships, and setting goals. **Caryn Blitz** (*Administration for Children and Families*) is the moderator for this session.

- **Conceptual Models to Depict the Factors That Influence the Avoidance and Cessation of Sexual Risk Behaviors Among Youth**

Alicia Meckstroth (*Mathematica*)

- **Assessing the Benefits of Delayed Sexual Activity: A Synthesis of the Literature**

Dana Rotz (*Mathematica*)

- **We Think Twice: A Data-Driven Digital Media Campaign Encouraging Successful Transition to Adulthood**

Katy Suellentrop (*RTI International*)

3:45 p.m.

Measuring Change in Two-Generation Programs 

Two-generation approaches support families by aligning and linking child-focused and adult-focused service delivery systems. Over the last decade, innovative two-generation approaches proliferated across the country. More recently, researchers and practitioners have turned to the complex question: how should we measure change? This session will share the results of recent efforts to advance measurement of the success of two-generation approaches at the family and organizational levels. **Marjorie Sims** (*The Aspen Institute*) will moderate the session, and **John Everett Till** (*The Family Partnership*) will serve as the discussant.

- **Assessing 2Gen Organizational Change: Measurement Framework, Process Outcomes, and Indicators**






Sharon McGroder (*SMc Research Consulting*)

- **Two-Generation Metrics to Measure Progress Toward Self-Sufficiency**

Brian Campbell (*District of Columbia Department of Human Services*)



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14 | 1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.



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TIME EVENT

3:45 p.m. Adapting Employment and Human Services Programs for Individuals With Substance Use Disorders 

This panel will feature efforts across the federal government designed to address the growing crisis of substance use disorders, including a literature review describing research conducted to date and conclusions regarding promising strategies for providing employment services to this population and efforts looking at how human services programs support individuals with substance use disorders. **Karin Martinson** (*Abt Associates*) will moderate this session, and **Robin Ghertner** (*U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*) will act as a discussant.

- **What Does the Research Say About What Works? Findings from a U.S. Department of Labor-Sponsored Literature Review**
Crystal Blyler (*Mathematica*)
- **How Human Services Programs Support Individuals With Substance Use Disorder**
Annette Waters (*U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*)

3:45 p.m. Using Formative Rapid Cycle Evaluation to Improve Healthy Marriage and Relationship Education Programs for Youth  

This session will present findings from two studies of healthy marriage and relationship education (HMRE) programs serving youth. *Self-Regulation Training Approaches and Resources to Improve Staff Capacity for Implementing Healthy Marriage Programs for Youth* developed and refined strategies to support youth self-regulation. *Strengthening Relationship Education and Marriage Services* developed and refined training modules on facilitation skills for youth program educators. **Aleta Meyer** (*Administration for Children and Families*) will moderate this session, and **Galena Rhoades** (*University of Denver*) will serve as the discussant.

- **Using Formative Rapid Cycle Evaluation to Develop Facilitation Training Modules for HMRE Youth Program Educators**
Subuhi Asheer (*Mathematica*)
- **Using Formative Rapid Cycle Evaluation to Develop Strategies for Supporting Youth Self-Regulation in HMRE Programs**
Aly Frei (*Public Strategies*)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15 | 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.



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TIME	EVENT
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1:00 p.m.

WELCOME

Mark Fucello (*Administration for Children and Families*)

Plenary: The Health Profession Opportunity Grants (HPOG) Program: Latest Impact Findings for ACF's Career Pathways Program and Insights From an HPOG Participant  

The HPOG Program, administered by ACF, supports demonstration projects that provide TANF recipients and other low-income individuals with the opportunity to obtain education and training for occupations in the healthcare field that pay well and are expected to either experience labor shortages or be in high demand. This session will present new impact evaluation findings from the previous and current round of grants. In addition, an HPOG participant will share her experience with the program. **Hilary Bruck** (*Administration for Children and Families*) and **Kim Stupica-Dobbs** (*Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services*) will moderate this session and provide introductory remarks regarding HPOG's purpose, design, and federal evaluation portfolio.

- **Impacts of HPOG 1.0 to Date**
Laura Peck (*Abt Associates*)
- **Short-Term Impacts of HPOG 2.0**
David Judkins (*Abt Associates*)
- **Insights From an HPOG Participant**
Angela Kula (*Central Community College*)

2:30 p.m.

BREAK

2:45 p.m.

CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Combining Data to Understand TANF Populations and Outcomes: Key Considerations  

Through the lens of family self-sufficiency and TANF, this session will explore how policy context shapes administrative datasets and informs the appropriate use of those data. The three presentations will provide case studies in the strengths and limitations of certain data sources and the associated implications for data-informed policymaking. These presentations will discuss linking TANF and employment data sources in particular. **Nicole Deterding** (*Administration for Children and Families*) will serve as the moderator and discussant.

- **Linking State and Local Administrative Datasets for Family Self-Sufficiency Programs**
Emily Wiegand (*Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago*)
- **Field-Tested Employment Measures From Wage Data**
Richard Hendra (*MDRC*)
- **Demystifying Federal TANF and Wage Data**
Lauren Frohlich (*Administration for Children and Families*)

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2:45 p.m.

Emerging Employer-Focused Approaches for Advancing Economic Independence 

There is growing interest in involving employers in interventions to help low-income individuals obtain employment and advance toward economic independence. During this session, attendees will hear from two programs that incorporate employer engagement as a central feature of their model; both are participating in the ACF-sponsored *Next Generation of Enhanced Employment Strategies Project* to examine the impacts of their programs. A third panelist will share the employer perspective on assisting individuals with complex barriers find and sustain employment. **Hilary Bruck** (*Administration for Children and Families*) will moderate.

- Assisting Youth With Disabilities Progress in Employment: Bridges From School to Work**
 Tad Asbury (*Marriott Foundation*)
- FAST-X: Individual Placement and Support for Extended TANF Clients**
 Larry Timmerman (*Ramsey County*)
- An Employer Perspective on Helping Hard-to-Employ Populations Find and Sustain Gainful Employment**
 Jonathan DaSilva (*CVS Health*)

2:45 p.m

Promising Practices to Prevent Youth Homelessness  

Housing stability is a key component of any successful transition to adulthood and is foundational for achieving self-sufficiency. This session will highlight promising study findings from projects focused on understanding what works, building evidence, and translating that information to frontline practitioners to end homelessness among youth and young adults with foster care histories. **Catherine Heath** (*Administration for Children and Families*) will moderate the session. **Stormy Lukasavage** (*Capacity Building Center for States*), a Young Adult Consultant, will serve as the discussant.

- Supportive Housing Programs for Young People Formerly in Foster Care**
 Bridgette Lery (*Urban Institute*)
- Building Evidence in the Youth At-Risk of Homelessness Grant Program: What We've Learned About Services for Youth and Young Adults With Child Welfare Involvement**
 Andrew Burwick (*Mathematica*)

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2:45 p.m.

Addressing Intimate Partner Violence in Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood Programming

Intimate partner violence (IPV) affects many individuals and families, and it has lasting adverse consequences for those involved. Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood (HMRF) programs may serve individuals who are at risk for or have a history of IPV. This session highlights program findings and discusses strategies for addressing IPV in HMRF programming. **Joseph Jones, Jr.** (*Center for Urban Families*) will be the discussant, and **Samantha Illangasekare** (*Administration for Children and Families*) will moderate the session.

- **Preventing and Addressing Intimate Violence When Engaging Dads: Findings From Responsible Fatherhood Programs**
Mindy Scott (*Child Trends*)
- **Responding to Intimate Violence in Relationship Programs: Findings From a Study of Screening Approaches**
Marni Kan (*RTI International*)







2:45 p.m.

Translating Research to Practice: Three Career Pathways Programs and Their Research Partners

Health Profession Opportunity Grants (HPOG) fund programs that provide training and education to TANF participants and other low-income individuals for occupations in the healthcare field. For nine years, university-based research teams have partnered with HPOG grantees to conduct research relevant to their programs and to benefit the broader employment and self-sufficiency research field. In this session, researchers from three projects will discuss new evaluation findings and how they worked with program partners to translate results into action. **Courtney Barthle** (*ICF International*) will moderate.

- **Rethinking Career Pathways and Advancement in Health Care: Implications for Practice**
Sylvia Stewart (*Brandeis University*)
- **Whole-Family Approaches to Research and Practice: A Look at CAP Tulsa's 2Gen CareerAdvance Program**
Lauren Tighe (*Northwestern University*)
- **Employer Engagement in HPOG University Partnership Using a Research-Informed Transforming Impossible Into Possible (TIP)[®] Intervention Model**
Philip Hong (*Loyola University Chicago*)

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2:45 p.m.

Leveraging Data in Child Support Programs  

The presentations in this panel will describe how data can be leveraged to improve child support programs. The first presentation describes a model for identifying a parent’s poverty status and determining how individual parents are affected differently by child support. The next presentation explores how child support programs are using predictive analytics to improve outcomes and the factors that influence the successful implementation of predictive analytics in a program’s case management routines. The final presentation is a practitioner’s perspective of using data to explore procedural justice principles to increase parental engagement. **Michael Hayes** (*Administration for Children and Families*) will moderate.

- **Assessing and Tracking the Poverty Levels of Parents in the Child Support Program**
Jolie Sheppick (*Orange County Department of Child Support Services*)
- **Predictive Analytics in Child Support: Understanding the Use of Predictive Analytics and Lessons Learned**
Cindy Guo (*Washington State Department of Social and Health Services*)
- **Transforming Child Support Service Delivery Through Procedural Justice: A Practitioner Perspective**
Michelle Franco (*Virginia Department of Social Services*)

2:45 p.m

A Mixed-Methods Evaluation of Policy Changes to CalWORKs: Lessons for Policy and Research 

This session presents findings from the implementation and impact components of the evaluation of significant policy change in California. It will also discuss the implications of the evaluation for TANF policy at the state level and the lessons learned for future research that aims to understand implementation of state policy changes and use quasi-experimental methods to assess program impact. **Johannes Bos** (*American Institutes for Research*) will moderate, and colleagues from the California Department of Social Services will join for discussion.

- **How Counties and Caseworkers Met the Challenge of Implementing Senate Bill (SB) 1041**
Lois Davis (*RAND Corporation*)
- **Impacts of SB1041 on Adults and Children: How Policy Changes Move the Needle (or Don’t)**
Sami Kitmitto (*American Institutes for Research*)
- **Overview of SB1041 and the Evaluation**
Lynn Karoly (*RAND Corporation*)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19 | 1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.



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TIME**EVENT**

1:00 p.m.

WEEK TWO OPENING REMARKS**Scott Lekan** (*Administration for Children and Families*)**Plenary: Response and Recovery During COVID-19: Embracing Learning on Human Services Resiliency**

The unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected human services programs and populations. Moderated by **Amanda Benton** (*U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*), this plenary will describe response efforts underway within human services agencies, reflect on lessons learned as the field shifts to longer-term recovery, and explore opportunities to build resiliency within human services programs, drawing on insights from federal experts and state practitioners who have been coordinating COVID-19 response and a researcher who has studied previous natural disasters.

- **Perspective of the Pandemic From Washington State**

David Stillman (*Washington State Department of Social and Health Services*)

- **ACF's COVID-19 Response and Recovery**

Natalie Grant (*Administration for Children and Families*)

- **Connecting Lessons Learned From Hurricane Katrina to COVID-19**

Laura Lein (*University of Michigan*)

2:30 p.m.

BREAK

2:45 p.m.

Panel Discussion on Careers in Research Related to Poverty, Family Self-Sufficiency, and Social Welfare

This panel discussion is designed for emerging scholars and other conference attendees who are interested in pursuing career paths in poverty, family self-sufficiency, and social welfare research. It will bring together individuals with experience working in federal and state government, research firms, and academia. **Elaine Carpenter** (*Administration for Children and Families/Business Strategy Consultants*) will moderate as panelists discuss their careers and career pathways, provide insights and advice about career-building in their respective fields, and answer attendee questions. Panelists will be:

- **Meika Berlan** (*District of Columbia Department of Human Services*)

- **Colleen Heflin** (*Syracuse University*)





- **Kriti Jain** (*Administration for Children and Families*)

- **Bright Sarfo** (*MEF Associates*)

3:45 p.m.

BREAK

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4:00 p.m. FACILITATED NETWORKING ROUNDTABLES

An Evaluative Toolkit for Building a Trauma-Informed TANF Program: A Case Study of Vermont 

- **Andrea Hetling** (*Rutgers University*)

Baby's First Years: Studying the Impact of Poverty Reduction on Families and Young Children 

- **Katherine Magnuson** (*University of Wisconsin–Madison*)
- **Kimberly Noble** (*Teachers College, Columbia University*)

Building Local Evidence for Behavioral Design: New York City's Department of Social Services and ideas42 

- **Edith Kealey** (*New York City Department of Social Services*)

Core Components of Successful Prevention Programs for At-Risk Youth 

- **Sandra Wilson** (*Abt Associates*)
- **Sarah Oberlander** (*U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*)

Cross-Agency Collaboration: Lessons Learned From Demonstration Projects 

- **Jackson Costa** (*Social Security Administration*)
- **Meredith DeDona** (*U.S. Department of Labor*)


Employment and Training Programs Serving Low-Income Populations: Next Steps for Research 

- **Mike Fishman** (*MEF Associates*)
- **Harry Holzer** (*Georgetown University*)

Improving the Rigor of Human Services Research Through Community Engagement 






- **Aleta Meyer** (*Administration for Children and Families*)
- **Kristi Synold** (*Administration for Children and Families*)

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TIME	EVENT
4:00 p.m. <i>(Facilitated Roundtables, continued)</i>	<p>Integrating Research Into Practice: Perspectives on Academic Collaboration </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael-Dharma Irwin (<i>Arlington County Department of Human Services</i>) • Tiffany Lee (<i>Arlington County Department of Human Services</i>) <p>Systems Work Better Together: Improving TANF and WIOA Collaboration to Advance Economic Opportunity for TANF Recipients </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lauren Molineaux (<i>Maryland Department of Human Services</i>) • Caitlin Schnur (<i>Heartland Alliance</i>)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20 | 1:00 P.M. - 3:45 P.M.

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TIME EVENT

1:00 p.m. Plenary: Implementing the Evidence Act: Experiences and Lessons From the Ground 

The Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (“Evidence Act”) seeks to build the federal government’s capacity to generate and use evidence to inform decision making. Since the Evidence Act became law in January 2019, federal agencies have made important strides toward implementation. In this session, evaluation leaders within and outside government will reflect on lessons learned and discuss how federal efforts affect, and could be informed by, the work of other research funders and practitioners. **Erica Zielewski** (*Office of Management and Budget*) will moderate the session.

- **Michael Frueh** (*U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs*)
- **Naomi Goldstein** (*Administration for Children and Families*)
- **Matthew Soldner** (*U.S. Department of Education*)
- **Vivian Tseng** (*William T. Grant Foundation*)

2:15 p.m. BREAK

2:30 p.m. CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Engaging Fathers Across Human Services Agencies 

Quality father-child relationships are important to child and family well-being. Many federal, state, and local agencies engage fathers in services that improve opportunities for father-child involvement. This session will discuss the importance of promoting father engagement within human services agencies and provide an overview of the current approaches to promote fathers’ involvement. **Erin Frisch** (*Michigan Department of Health and Human Services*) is the discussant, and **Seth Chamberlain** (*Administration for Children and Families*) is the moderator.


- **How Fatherhood Programs Engage Fathers to Promote Healthy Relationships**
April Wilson (*Child Trends*)
- **Dads Can Help! Identifying and Engaging Fathers and Their Relatives to Improve Outcomes**
Jennifer Bellamy (*University of Denver*)
- **Parenting Time Opportunities for Children Pilot Program and Grants for Access and Visitation Programs**
Michael Hayes (*Administration for Children and Families*)

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2:30 p.m.

The Intersection of TANF With Child Care and Child Support: State Approaches and Lessons Learned 

This session explores the coordination of TANF and experiences of TANF families with child support or child care. The first presentation reviews the implementation of Colorado's policy to fully pass through all child support paid to TANF families with a full disregard, as well as the results from Colorado's assessment and quantitative analysis of the impact of the policy. The second presentation identifies administrative practices in TANF and child care subsidy systems that could lead to unplanned subsidy exits and consider how new policies address these practices. The final presentation features the District of Columbia's analysis of child care utilization among TANF families, using survey and administrative data. **Erin Cannon** (*Administration for Children and Families*) will moderate.

- **Effects of Full Child Support Pass-Through on Colorado Families in Need**
Larry Desbien (*Colorado Department of Human Services*)
- **Improving Stability and Reducing Churn of Subsidized Child Care Among TANF Families**
Pamela Joshi (*Brandeis University*)
- **Opportunities and Challenges in Child Care and Early Learning for TANF Families**
Won-ok Kim (*District of Columbia Department of Human Services*)





2:30 p.m.

Employment Strategies for Populations With Complex Needs 

This session will report on findings from three impact studies targeting populations with complex barriers to employment, including people with criminal records, people with disabilities, opportunity youth, and people with unstable housing. This session will be moderated by **Sofi Martinez** (*U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*).

- **The Impact of the Los Angeles Regional Initiative for Social Enterprise: A Transitional Employment Program**
Christian Geckeler (*Social Policy Research Associates*)
- **Retaining Employment and Talent after Injury/Illness Network Phase 1 Evaluation—Preliminary Outcomes**
David Rosenblum (*U.S. Department of Labor*)
- **The Johns Hopkins Hospital: Success in Hiring People With Criminal Records**
Yariela Kerr-Donovan (*Johns Hopkins Health System*)

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2:30 p.m.
Federal, State, and Local Strategies to Serve Disconnected and Vulnerable Youth 

At the state and local levels, TANF, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), and the Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) program are funding innovative strategies to reengage young adults in education and the workforce. This session will present findings from a TANF mixed-method needs assessment, a WIOA Title I Youth Program implementation study, and a URM descriptive study. **Gabrielle Newell** (*Administration for Children and Families*) will moderate the session.







- **Serving Disconnected Youth Through TANF: An Assessment of Population Needs, Service Challenges, and Promising Practices**
Jackson Miller (*Insight Policy Research*)
- **Serving Youth Under WIOA: Insights From a National Implementation Study**
Kate Dunham (*Social Policy Research Associates*)
- **Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program: How It Serves Refugee Youth**
Sam Elkin (*MEF Associates*)

2:30 p.m.
Family Voices: Benefit Cliffs, Marginal Tax Rates, and Decisions About Work 

Means-tested benefit programs targeting working families can have the effect of producing work incentives (as benefits phase in) and work disincentives (as benefits phase out at higher levels of income). This panel explores whether benefit programs create perceived work disincentives for recipients and discusses the potential effect of perceived disincentives on subsequent labor force decisions. To address these questions, the papers use an in-depth qualitative approach to analyze family perceptions of the potential change in household resources due to hypothetical additional earnings. **Nina Chien** (*U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*) will moderate.

- **Family Perspectives on Marginal Tax Rates, Safety Net Benefits, and Employment**
Rachel Gaddes (*Insight Policy Research*)
- **Working Parents' Perceptions of Marginal Tax Rates and Decisions About Work and Earnings**
Nina Chien (*U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*)
- **Parent Perspectives on Participation in Federal Safety Net Programs**
Pamela Winston (*U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*)

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Measuring What Matters in Self-Sufficiency Programs 

Individuals and families frequently qualify for and participate in multiple human services and employment programs that are funded, regulated, and administered by different agencies—each with its own eligibility criteria, program requirements, and performance indicators. This session will share results of state- and federally led efforts to identify and use performance measures across programs to understand and improve service provision and, ultimately, participant outcomes. **Girley Wright** (*Administration for Children and Families*) will moderate the session, and **Heather Hahn** (*Urban Institute*) will serve as the discussant.

- **Actionable Steps to Align Federal Performance Indicators Across Programs Promoting Self-Sufficiency**
Elizabeth Brown (*Mathematica*)
- **County Welfare-to-Work Service Systems in California: Service Orientations, Structural Characteristics, and Performance**
Yu-Ling Chang (*University of California, Berkeley*)



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1:00 p.m. CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

TANF on the Ground: Innovative Practices and Office Culture 

This session features two studies that document exemplars of how specific TANF agencies and other organizations serving families with low incomes have mobilized their organizational capacity to improve client services. The first presentation pulls from case studies of innovative practices to serve TANF and low-income populations. The remaining two presentations focus on the role of organizational culture in TANF services. **Lauren Deutsch** (*Administration for Children and Families*) will moderate this discussion, and **Carolyn Hill** (*MDRC*) will serve as discussant.

- **Innovative Approaches to Serving TANF and Low-Income Populations From the State TANF Case Studies Project**
Katie Eddins (*Mathematica*)
- **Building a Positive Organizational Culture in TANF Programs: Lessons From the Field**
Riley Webster (*MEF Associates*)
- **Family-Focused TANF Case Management and Organizational Culture**
Elizabeth Carver (*Utah Department of Workforce Services*)

1:00 p.m. Coaching in Practice: Implementation Findings From an Evaluation of Employment Coaching 

This panel will present findings from the OPRE-sponsored *Evaluation of Employment Coaching for TANF and Related Populations* study. Panelists will discuss how employment coaching is being implemented, who participates in the coaching programs in the evaluation and how they experience coaching, and implementation insights and lessons learned from a coaching program practitioner. The session will be moderated by **Sheena McConnell** (*Mathematica*).

- **How Is Employment Coaching Implemented? Findings From a Multi-Site Evaluation**
Karen Gardiner (*Abt Associates*)
- **Working With an Employment Coach: Insights From Participants' Voices**
Kristen Joyce (*Mathematica*)
- **LIFT's Career and Financial Coaching Program**
Brian Marroquin (*LIFT*)

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1:00 p.m.	The Impact of Different Approaches to Providing Job Search Assistance to Job Seekers 
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Job search assistance programs are short-term, relatively low-intensity, and relatively low-cost programs to help job seekers find jobs, but little evidence exists on which strategies are most effective. This panel presents impact findings from two rigorous evaluations testing different approaches to providing job search assistance to low-income job seekers. **Christina Yancey** (*U.S. Department of Labor*) will moderate this session, and **Kinsey Dinan** (*New York City Department of Social Services*) will serve as a discussant.






- **The Impact of Different Job Search Approaches on TANF Recipients' Employment and Public Benefit Receipt**
Karin Martinson (*Abt Associates*)
- **Evaluation of Impacts of the Reemployment and Eligibility Assessment Program**
Correne Saunders (*Abt Associates*)

1:00 p.m.	Evidence-Building Strategies to Serve Youth Involved in the Child Welfare and Justice Systems  
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Three nationally recognized self-sufficiency programs for youth involved in the child welfare and justice systems will discuss their experience with evidence building and program innovation. Through a facilitated discussion, presenters will describe how they translate lessons learned into next steps for program improvement and evidence building, including a discussion of the opportunities and constraints considered when determining priorities. **Jan DeCoursey** (*Child Trends*) will serve as the moderator, and **John Martinez** (*MDRC*) will serve as the discussant.

- **First Place for Youth: Using Formative Evaluation and Evaluability Assessment to Prepare for Impact Study**
Erika Van Buren (*First Place for Youth*)
- **Youth Villages: Impact Study Influences on Program Improvement Strategies**
Sarah Hurley (*Youth Villages*)
- **Center for Employment Opportunities: The Influence of Ongoing Evaluation on Program Innovation**
Ahmed Whitt (*Center for Employment Opportunities*)

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1:00 p.m. Linking Healthy Marriage Research and Practice: Findings From the Marriage Strengthening Research and Dissemination Center 

OPRE established the Marriage Strengthening Research and Dissemination Center to build a bridge between research and practice. This session introduces the Center and discusses healthy marriage-related research, evaluation, and practice, identifying opportunities to support and strengthen healthy marriage and relationship education programs. **Kendy Cox** (*Public Strategies*) is the discussant, and **Elizabeth Wildsmith** (*Child Trends*) is the moderator.

- **Relationship Trends and Patterns**
Susan Brown (*Bowling Green State University*)
- **Healthy Marriage and Relationship Education Program Design and Implementation**
Mindy Scott (*Child Trends*)
- **What Works in Healthy Marriage and Relationship Education Programming**
April Wilson (*Child Trends*)

1:00 p.m. Making Behavioral Interventions Stick: Moving From Tests to Integration 

With support from ACF, more than 20 child support agencies have integrated behaviorally informed interventions into program operations. This session will provide an introduction to the application of behavioral science to social services and then track the proliferation of behavioral interventions in state and tribal child support services—from initial tests to broad-scale integration. **Victoria Kabak** (*Administration for Children and Families*) will moderate the session.

- **Overview and Findings From the Behavioral Interventions for Child Support Services (BICS) Project**
Yana Kusayeva (*MDRC*)
- **Recipe for Replication**
Michael Hayes (*Administration for Children and Families*)
- **Integration and Dissemination of BICS in Ohio**
Rachael Balanson (*Cuyahoga County Office of Child Support Services*)

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1:00 p.m.

Food Insecurity and Its Effects on Family Well-Being 

This panel investigates food insecurity and its effects on family well-being. The first presentation examines the long-term consequences of the frequency, timing, and severity of food insecurity exposure in childhood on health and healthcare utilization in adulthood. The next presentation discusses evidence-based approaches to address administrative churn (when a household exits a social program and then returns within four months). The final presentation examines where Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and TANF customers live versus where they purchase foods, and how food deserts can affect families' health and well-being, as well as their employment outcomes. **Katherine McKinney** (*Administration for Children and Families/Business Strategy Consultants*) will moderate.

- **The Long-Term Health Consequences of Childhood Food Insecurity**
Angela Fertig (*University of Minnesota*)
- **Using Evidence to Redesign the SNAP Recertification Process**
Colleen Heflin (*Syracuse University*)
- **The Relationship Between Food Deserts and Electronic Benefits Transfer Spending Patterns of SNAP Customers**
Ainslie MacLeod (*District of Columbia Department of Human Services*)

2:15 p.m.

BREAK







2:30 p.m.

Emerging Scholars Poster Session: Lightning Round 2

Please tune in to the second set of five-minute "lightning round" presentations from the Emerging Scholars—researchers and scholars early in their careers who were selected to participate in the conference. A question-and-answer session will follow the presentations. Scholars' posters will also be available for viewing in the virtual Poster Gallery throughout the conference. This session will be moderated by **Selma Caal** (*Administration for Children and Families*).

- **Anne Byrne** (*Cornell University*)
Behavioral Effects of Sliding Scale Mechanisms on Participation in Assistance Programs
- **Brittany English** (*Mathematica*)
Assessing Readiness for Change and Supporting Change Management
- **Emily Hanno** (*Harvard University*)
A Novel Approach to Professional Development for Early Childhood Educators and Caregivers

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(Emerging Scholars Poster Session, continued)

- **Mattie Mackenzie-Liu** (*Syracuse University*)
Testing for Differential Treatment by Child Welfare Providers Toward Sexual Minorities
- **Weston Merrick** (*University of Minnesota*)
Using Behavioral and Design Science to Reduce Administrative Burdens: Evidence From Public Housing
- **Maggie O'Reilly Treter** (*University of Denver*)
Evaluating the Impact of Relationship Education on Postpartum Depression
- **Tess Thorman** (*Public Policy Institute of California*)
The Role of SNAP and TANF as a Population-Based Safety Net in California
- **Samantha Trajkovski** (*Syracuse University*)
The Long-Run Effects of Exposure to Universal Free Meals in the Early Childhood Grades

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CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Lessons From TANF Studies Across Cities, Territories, and States 

There is an array of methodologies states and local agencies use to evaluate and improve their TANF programs. This panel features work about TANF programs in four localities, examining why TANF recipients leave the program in Colorado, efforts in the District of Columbia and Philadelphia to redesign their assessment tools and organizational processes, and the viability of the U.S. Virgin Islands' TANF program. **Gabrielle Newell** (*Administration for Children and Families*) will moderate this session.

- **Colorado's TANF Exit Survey: Findings From Child-Only Households**
Shelley Osborn (*ICF International*)
- **Developing a Revised Customer Flow to Assist Customers in Stabilizing Their Lives**
Patricia Blumenauer (*Philadelphia Works*)
- **An Examination of Programmatic Factors and External Influences on the Viability of the U.S. Virgin Islands' TANF Program**
Noreen Michael (*University of the Virgin Islands*)
- **Assessment Redesign: Lessons From the Field**
Meika Berlan (*District of Columbia Department of Human Services*)

1:00 p.m.

Engaging Employers in Workforce Development: Obstacles and Lessons Learned 

The workforce development system and job training programs are often disconnected from employers and their needs. These presentations feature findings from three studies that are engaging and gaining insights from employers to improve outcomes for job seekers and workers, highlighting the many obstacles and lessons learned. **Maureen Conway** (*The Aspen Institute*) will moderate this panel.

- **The Employer Perspectives Study: Insights on How to Build and Maintain Strong Employer-College Partnerships**
Molly Scott (*Urban Institute*)
- **Reducing Inefficiencies and Waste: Realizing a Better Experience for Participant and Employer Partners**
Mark Ezzo (*Mathematica*)
- **Genesis Initiative Evaluation: How Chicago Manufacturers Are Improving Business Success and Creating Self-Sufficiency Jobs**
Ranita Jain (*The Aspen Institute*)



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22 | 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

 TANF
  Employment
  Youth
  Families & Fatherhood
  Evidence
  Alleviate Poverty

TIME EVENT

1:00 p.m. Performance Partnership Pilots for Disconnected Youth: Using Federal Flexibility to Improve Systems for Serving Youth 

The Performance Partnership Pilots for Disconnected Youth (P3) was designed to test whether providing flexibilities to states and localities to pool funds and to obtain waivers would reduce barriers to providing effective services for disconnected youth. The session will include perspectives of the federal agencies that developed a system to implement P3, the pilots that identified and implemented their local approaches, and the evaluation contractor. **Deborah Martierrez** (*U.S. Department of Labor*) will moderate the session.

- **The Federal Perspective on the Performance Partnership Pilots for Disconnected Youth**
Sara Hastings (*U.S. Department of Labor*)
- **Findings From the National Evaluation of the Performance Partnership Pilots for Disconnected Youth**
Elizabeth Brown (*Mathematica*)
- **Los Angeles P3: Changing the System That Serves Opportunity Youth**
Robert Sainz (*City of Los Angeles*)

1:00 p.m. Highlighting the Role of Fathers in Research, Practice, and Policy 

As research suggests that high-quality father-child relationships play an important role in children’s development, states have supported programs and developed policies that encourage father engagement. This session discusses the importance of father engagement, evaluation findings from state-funded fatherhood programs, and how the state of Michigan has implemented parenting time in its orders while ensuring payers are able to support their children. **Kriti Jain** (*Administration for Children and Families*) will moderate this session.

- **Testing the Father-Child Activation Relationship Theory: A Replication Study With Unmarried Parents With Low Incomes**
Joyce Lee (*University of Michigan*)
- **Program Outcomes for Fathers and the Consideration of Contextual Influences on Fatherhood Program Participants’ Experiences**
Francesca Adler-Baeder (*Auburn University*)
- **Setting the Stage—Parenting Time in Child Support**
Paul Gehm (*Michigan Supreme Court*)

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TIME

EVENT

1:00 p.m.

Improving Efforts to Build Measurement Capacity: Lessons Learned for Funders and Grantees 

While nonprofits recognize the value in using data to inform strategy, support practice, and convey impact, many still struggle to do so effectively or consistently. This session will offer lessons learned from the Pew Charitable Trusts' Evidence Capacity Building Initiative, an ongoing effort to build measurement and evaluation capacity among nonprofits in Philadelphia. The Pew Charitable Trusts will share results from an independent, developmental evaluation of the initiative, and two grantees will describe their experiences. **Marie Lawrence** (*Administration for Children and Families*) will moderate the session.

- **Joshua Joseph** (*The Pew Charitable Trusts*)
- **Meridith Polin** (*The Pew Charitable Trusts*)
- **Cecilia Arce** (*Maternal and Child Health Consortium of Chester County*)
- **Justine Philyaw** (*YouthBuild Philadelphia*)







1:00 p.m.

Employment Programs for Nonresident Parents: What Have We Learned and What's Next?  

This panel will first describe the results of three demonstrations that provided noncustodial parents and fathers with employment and other related services and then will discuss efforts by ACF to gather information from a wide array of stakeholders on what programmatic and evaluation questions remain unanswered about employment programs for nonresident parents. The session will end with a practitioner's perspective on providing employment services to noncustodial parents and lessons learned from the experience. **Michael Hayes** (*Administration for Children and Families*) will moderate.

- **Impact Findings From Three Recent Evaluations of Employment-Oriented Programs for Noncustodial Parents and Fathers**
Elaine Sorensen (*Administration for Children and Families*)
- **Next Steps to Support Research on and the Development of Employment Programs for Nonresident Parents**
Nicole Constance (*Administration for Children and Families*)
- **Connecting Noncustodial Parents to Employment: New York City's Experience**
Michele Ahern (*New York City Office of Child Support Services*)

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 TANF
  Employment
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  Families & Fatherhood
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TIME EVENT

1:00 p.m. Strategies for Using Social Capital in Human Services Programs to Increase Economic Mobility 

Social capital is the value that arises from an individual’s connections, networks, or relationships. Research has shown that individuals with higher levels of social capital find better jobs and experience faster economic growth. This session will describe specific strategies for how human services can help participants build and tap into their social capital to increase economic mobility. This panel discussion will start with a description of emerging practices and tools being used by human services programs to incorporate social capital into their work, and then two different human services program practitioners will describe the successes and challenges of doing this work on the ground. **Sofi Martinez** (*U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*) will moderate this session.

- **How Human Services Programs Can Use Social Capital to Improve Participant Well-Being and Economic Mobility**
Laura Erickson (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services)
- **Building Relationships With Disconnected Youth and Disengaged Youth to Achieve Success**
Shayna Scholnick (Latin American Youth Center)
- **Social Capital Improves Mental Health and Employment: Evidence From the Network**
Mariana Chilton (Drexel University)

2:15 p.m. BREAK

CLOSING REMARKS

Emily Schmitt (*Administration for Children and Families*)

Plenary: Linking Evidence to Practice: OPRE Launches the Pathways to Work Evidence Clearinghouse 

The Pathways to Work Evidence Clearinghouse is a powerful new tool to help researchers, program administrators, and policymakers quickly and easily access and understand the evidence about interventions designed to help people with low incomes succeed in the labor market. This session will offer a tour of the recently launched website, describe the process and outcomes of the Clearinghouse’s development, and explore the Clearinghouse’s unique contribution to the field. **Diana McCallum** (*Mathematica*) will moderate the session.

- **Dana Rotz** (*Mathematica*)
- **Clare DiSalvo** (*Administration for Children and Families/Business Strategy Consultants*)
- **Ella Gifford-Hawkins** (*Pathways TANF Expert and Stakeholder*)
- **Harry Holzer** (*Georgetown University*)

4:00 p.m. CONFERENCE ADJOURNS

Networking Opportunities & Special Events

Symposium: Equity, Evidence, and Action: How Can We Bring It All Together, From Federal Policy to Local Practice?

Wednesday, October 14, 1–2 p.m.

During the 2020 RECS Symposium, Mary Ellen Wiggins (*The Forum for Youth Investment*), Ivan Lui (*Brooklyn Bridge Alliance for Youth*), and representatives of the Brooklyn Bridge Alliance Youth Data Squad will discuss real-world examples of and needs for equity, from federal policy to youth-driven research and knowledge generation in local communities.

Emerging Scholars Poster Session Lightning Rounds

Wednesday, October 14, 2:15–3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 21, 2:30–3:45 p.m.

The Emerging Scholars Poster Sessions are an opportunity to hear five-minute “lightning round” presentations from researchers and scholars early in their careers who were selected to participate in the conference. A question-and-answer session will follow the presentations. Scholars’ posters will also be available for viewing in the virtual Poster Gallery throughout the duration of the conference.

Panel Discussion on Careers in Research Related to Poverty, Family Self-Sufficiency, and Social Welfare

Monday, October 19, 2:45–3:45 p.m.

This discussion—which is open to all conference attendees—will feature panelists with experience working in federal and state government, research firms, and academia. They will provide insights and advice about career building in their respective fields and answer attendee questions.

Facilitated Networking Roundtable Discussions

Monday, October 19, 4–5 p.m.

Listed on pages 23-24

The roundtables will provide an opportunity for attendees to engage in interactive discussions of family self-sufficiency and related topics.

Visit the Networking Lounge in the virtual RECS venue to connect with other conference participants and speakers!

Exhibitors

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Exhibitors (continued)



Introducing: The MAST Center

Visit the newly-launched MAST Center website for

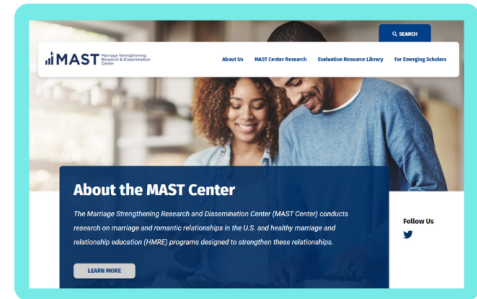
- Research on relationship trends and patterns,
- Research on HMRE program implementation and evaluation,
- Resources for emerging scholars, and more.

www.mastresearchcenter.org

Join the MAST Center breakout session at RECS:
Wednesday, October 21, 1-2:15 p.m. EST

and meet us in our booth!

 Follow @MASTResearchCtr on Twitter



ABOUT THE MAST CENTER

The Marriage Strengthening Research and Dissemination (MAST) Center conducts research on marriage and romantic relationships in the U.S. and healthy marriage and relationship education (HMRE) programs designed to strengthen these relationships.



NAWRS IS A NON-PROFIT ASSOCIATION WHOSE PURPOSE IS TO PROMOTE THE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS ON HOW RESEARCH AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT AN ADMINISTRATION OF **EFFECTIVE HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS.**

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Exhibitors (continued)



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES
Office of Family Assistance



The PeerTA Model

Accessible

Dynamic

Evidence-Informed

User-Oriented

TANF Technical Assistance Opportunities

The Peer Technical Assistance Network (PeerTA) is a responsive training and technical assistance resource for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) agencies and their partners serving low-income families at the State, local, and Tribal level.

PeerTA is dedicated to promoting continued learning and establishing linkages among TANF partners to foster innovation and improve programs.

PeerTA is funded through the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Family Assistance (OFA).

Sample Topic Areas

Workforce Partnerships

Trauma-Informed Care

Organizational Change Readiness

Effective Case Management

Would you like assistance from the PeerTA Team? **Submit your request online!**



1 Navigate to peerta.acf.hhs.gov



2 Select Technical Assistance, then Request TA



3 Fill out the request form and submit it to the PeerTA Network

OPRE **Mathematica**

PATHWAYS TO WORK

Evidence Clearinghouse

The Pathways to Work Evidence Clearinghouse is a comprehensive, transparent, and systematic assessment of the effectiveness of interventions designed to help low-income job seekers succeed in the labor market.

PathwaystoWork.acf.hhs.gov

HAGER SHARP
IMEF ASSOCIATES

Exhibitors (continued)



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Improve the Lives of
Children and Families.

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Stay Connected

We invite you to use the tools displayed here to engage with OPRE, conference participants, and others interested in well-being and self-sufficiency among low-income families during the conference and throughout the year.



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ABOUT THE RECS: RECS is a leading forum for researchers, practitioners, program operators, state and local administrators, federal officials, and policymakers to discuss cutting-edge research on family self-sufficiency and social welfare programs and policies.

