



NEW YORK STATE
OFFICE OF TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE
40 NORTH PEARL STREET
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12243-0001

David A. Paterson
Governor

David A. Hansell
Commissioner

April 14, 2009

Mr. Vincent W. Colonno
Commissioner
Albany County Department of Social Services
162 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12210

Dear Commissioner Colonno:

I am pleased to inform you that your enclosed **Intensive Case Services for Noncompliant Families** (ICS3) plan submitted in response to 08-LCM-13 has been approved in the amount of \$52,848.

These ICS3 funds are available to support your efforts to increase work participation by TANF-eligible recipients who are subject to or have been sanctioned for noncompliance with work activities as described in your approved ICS3 plan. If your district's approved plan includes ICS services to TANF-eligible participants who are not fully engaged, please note that no more than 20% of the district's ICS3 allocation may be used to provide services to such recipients.

Financial claims should be submitted to the Bureau of Financial Services as described in the claiming instructions included in 08-LCM-13 *Funding for Intensive Case Services for Noncompliant Families (ICS3)*. Program outcome measures are reported quarterly to OTDA through the TANF Reporting and Control System 2 (TRACS 2). Reporting guidelines are enclosed. Detailed reporting instructions will be provided separately.

Thank you for your continued efforts to engage all families receiving temporary assistance in work preparation activities so they may successfully enter the workforce. If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact Libby McGinn at (518) 486-6106 or your Employment Technical Advisor.

Sincerely,

Russell Sykes
Deputy Commissioner
Center for Employment and Economic Supports

Enclosure

cc: Judy Cocca
Wendy DeMarco
Libby McGinn

"providing temporary assistance for permanent change"

**Program Narrative for Intensive Case Services (ICS3)
Services for TANF-Eligible Participants-Noncompliant**

District Name: Albany

Contact Name and Number: Judy Cocca (518) 447-7272

ICS funds budgeted for services to TANF-eligible **noncompliant participants:**

\$ 52,848

Anticipated number of TANF-eligible **noncompliant participants** to be served during program period:

100

I. Program goals and services

- A. List the specific goals of the project for TANF-eligible, noncompliant participants.
1. Reduce the number of TANF and SN-Moe recipients sanctioned in Albany County due to noncompliance with employment requirements by utilizing case worker staff in the conciliation process.
 2. Increase the number of noncompliant TANF SN-Moe recipients who become engaged in countable activities by identifying and reducing the barriers contributing to their inability to participate in employment activities.
 3. In regards to clients who are currently sanctioned: increase the number of clients ending sanction by participating and complying with work requirements, with a focus on those that have been "happily sanctioned" for long periods of time.
- B. Describe the process that will be used to identify and refer TANF-eligible, noncompliant participants for ICS services.

ACDSS staff will identify this target population:

- by reviewing lists of clientele who are currently sanctioned
- by referring those who receive written Conciliation Notice for failure to comply with employment program requirements, including other related "Employability" determination requirements
- through a referral process of individuals identified by Public Assistance staff as being noncompliant.

- C. Explain the method of outreach that will be used to initiate contact with TANF-eligible, noncompliant participants. Additionally, identify the two different types of outreach that will be used before any action is taken to discontinue public assistance benefits for failure to comply with a public assistance eligibility requirement that is included as a component of an ICS program plan.

- Clients who become noncompliant will be referred to the caseworker involved in our ICS plan through a conciliation notification letter.
 - Clients will contact the caseworker to discuss the noncompliance issue either through a phone or face to face interview, whichever is deemed most appropriate based on the client's needs.
 - For those clients that do not respond to the conciliation notification, the caseworker will attempt to outreach:

- by phone if there is usable phone number
 - by visiting at a provider location if the client is involved in programming
 - through a home visit
- The caseworker supervisor will outreach to clients who are sanctioned by mail to attempt to engage the client in planning for engagement.
 - For clients who do not respond, home visits will be made to outreach to clients.

D. Describe the case management services and other activities that will be provided to assist TANF-eligible, noncompliant participants to identify and address barriers and increase participation in work or work-preparation activities.

- The primary objective of this plan is to problem-solve and move toward resolution any current, ongoing or urgent issue and/or barrier(s) impacting upon the client's ability to participate in employment programming in an effort to shift the client to the utmost positive outcome(s).
- Reaching out to clients at locations other than the DSS office will be used as a method of assessing the clients in an environment where they are comfortable to increase the chance of uncovering the root causes to the noncompliance that is occurring.
- Caseworker staff will work with the participants by maximizing appropriate service referrals through agency and community service providers with the intention of alleviating problematic conditions impacting upon the individual as well as the household [i.e. Substance Abuse, Mental Health, or Medical, Domestic Violence, Crime Victims, Child Care Services, Parenting Skills, and Grief Counseling]. Monies will not be used for medical services.
- The Employment Unit caseworker staff will also serve as a social work counseling resource by assisting the individual in making informed decisions which will connect the client directly to their own future standing by reinforcing their responsibility in making acceptable and appropriate choices, and furthermore by expecting them to follow-through with these decisions and choices by taking advantage of the available agency and service programs (including employment service programs).

II. Project Staff and Duties

Identify the project staff and duties for each provider or district staff providing services to TANF-eligible, noncompliant participants.

Position/Title	Estimated Percentage of Time on ICS Program	Duties
CaseWorker	100 %	Perform conciliation interviews with clients who are in non compliance and assess for previously undiscovered barriers to self sufficiency. Complete home visits and interviews with clients on site at various agencies in the community. Provide case management

		services for those in danger of becoming sanctioned.
CaseWorker Supervisor	40 %	Out reach to clients who are on long term sanctions including home visits to identify needs and encourage participation. Maintain involvement in Family Team Conferencing for clients in danger of non-compliance due to complex circumstances.

III. Data Collection

Briefly describe the mechanism that will be used to collect the data to be reported on the TANF Reporting and Control System (TRACS 2).

All conciliation will be tracked on an access database. In addition to providing the information necessary for TRACS reporting.

Intensive Case Services for Noncompliant Families Baseline Budget Form**ICS 3**

ICS 3 Program Cycle: 1/1/09-12/31/09

Program Cycle must fall within expenditure period of January 1, 2009 - December 31, 2009

Local Department of Social Services _____

Albany _____

Provider Agency _____

Budget Categories

	NON- ADMINISTRATION COSTS	ADMINISTRATION COSTS	TOTAL
SALARY COSTS			
1. Salary Costs	\$ 42,622.00	\$ -	\$ 42,622.00
2. Fringe Benefits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
3. Total Salary & Fringe Benefits	\$ 42,622.00	\$ -	\$ 42,622.00
NON-SALARY COSTS			
4. Contractual Costs *	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5. Staff Travel Costs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
6. Equipment Costs	\$ 1,100.00	\$ -	\$ 1,100.00
7. Supplies	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
8. Other Direct Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
9. Total Non-Salary Expenses	\$ 1,100.00	\$ -	\$ 1,100.00
10. Overhead Costs Allocated		\$ 3,747.83	\$ 3,747.83
11. A-87 Costs Allocated		\$ 5,378.17	\$ 5,378.17
PARTICIPANT RELATED COSTS			
12. Work-Related Supports	\$ -		\$ -
13. Participant Transportation	\$ -		\$ -
14. Other Participant Related Costs			\$ -
15. Total Participant Related Costs	\$ -		\$ -
16. Total Project Costs	\$ 43,722.00	\$ 9,126.00	\$ 52,848.00

* If the District plans to subcontract with a local provider agency for program services, a separate Baseline Budget Form must be completed and submitted for each subcontractor.

Budget Narrative - Please use Budget Form 3A to provide a brief narrative for categories 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13 and 14.

Intensive Case Services for Noncompliant Families Baseline Budget Narrative Form

ICS 3

Local Department of Social Services _____ Albany _____

Provider Agency _____

Budget Categories

4. Contractual Costs:

5. Staff Travel Costs:

6. Equipment Costs:

A laptop computer will be purchased and used by the caseworker during field work to allow for accurate documentation of assessments, plans, and other information related to the home visit, family team conference, or program visit with the client.

7. Supplies:

8. Other Direct Expenses:

12. Work-Related Supports:

13. Participant Transportation:

14. Other Participant Related Costs:

**Intensive Case Services (ICS) 3
Program Outcome Measures
Reporting Guidelines**

March 2009

Districts are required to report program outcome measures supported by Intensive Case Services (ICS) funds. Districts previously reported program outcomes for the SFY 06-07 ICS and SFY 07-08 ICS programs via the TANF Reporting and Control System (TRACS) based on the number of participants served and the associated program outcomes achieved during the respective reporting quarter.

Districts will report ICS3 program outcomes achieved during Calendar Year 2009 through TRACS2. Program outcomes will be submitted quarterly as in previous cycles, however, instead of reporting one (grand) total number for the quarterly reporting period for each question, the screen will prompt the user to input a number for each of the three months for that quarter. The due date for such reports are as follows:

Reporting Quarter	Due Date
January, 2009 - March, 2009	4/30/09
April, 2009 - June, 2009	7/15/09
July, 2009 - September, 2009	10/15/09
October, 2009 - December, 2009	1/15/10

The system changes needed to support the reporting of ICS3 outcomes are under development, but the following guidelines should be used to identify the program outcomes to be reported on TRACS2.

Districts will receive detailed reporting instructions, including information on how to access TRACS2 before April 15, 2009. The information below provides a summary of the program outcomes that districts will be required to submit for the ICS3 program.

Note: Financial claims are not submitted through TRACS 2 and should be submitted to the OTDA Bureau of Financial Services consistent with the Claiming Instructions described in 08 LCM-13.

Eligible Population

Participants served under the ICS Program must be eligible to receive TANF-funded non-assistance services and must be in receipt of TANF (case types 11 or 12) or Safety Net MOE (case type 16 or 17 with state charge code 63 or 64). This includes two-parent families eligible for TANF-funded non-assistance as described in 06 LCM-09. Eligible participants also must be:

- individuals who are noncompliant (subject to penalty or in sanction status for failure to comply) with work requirements, or
- individuals who are not fully engaged in countable work activities, including those employed part time (up to 20% of a district's allocation may be spent on efforts to target this population).

The outcomes for **each** eligible population served under the Intensive Case Services Program will continue to be reported separately for those districts serving both eligible populations as described below. Districts that have targeted 100% of their ICS3 allocation only need to report program outcomes associated with the noncompliant population.

The program outcome reporting elements are broken down into 4 categories and are described below.

I. Participants served during the report month

1. **Unduplicated number of participants served during the report month:** Report the unduplicated number of participants that received one or more ICS funded service during the report month. An ICS funded service may include, but is not limited to: providing information to clarify the reason for the sanction and how the family's grant is affected; enhanced assessments; home visits or other ICS related contact with family, and case management services.

II. Participants successfully contacted during report month

2. **Number of participants contacted by letter/call-in:** Report the number of participants that responded to a contact letter/call-in sent during the reporting month.
3. **Number of participants contacted by phone call:** Report the number of participants that responded to a phone contact made during the reporting month.
4. **Number of participants contacted by home visit:** Report the number of participants that received a home visit during the reporting month.
5. **Number of participants contacted by other means:** Report the number of participants that responded to outreach made during the reporting month by some means other than those listed above.

Note: A participant who responds to more than one method of outreach during the reporting month would appear in all those that applied.

III. Engagement outcomes for report month

6. **Number of participants successfully engaged in work activities for the first time following contact:** Of the number of participants served, report the number of participants who began participation in work activities, including employment, during the reporting month.

Notes:

Participants who continue to participate in work activities during subsequent report months would not be reported in this data element, but would be reported in #10, if he/she

continues to participate in such activities for a minimum of 3 months following the initial placement in work activities.

Participants determined to be exempt and engaged in treatment or rehabilitation should be reported under reporting element #8 even though the district may report the activity on WTCMS as job readiness training.

7. **Number of participants successfully engaged in necessary treatment for the first time following contact:** Of the number of participants served, report the number of participants determined exempt and who began participation in treatment, rehabilitation or medical care during the reporting month.

Note: Participants who continue to participate in necessary treatment in subsequent report months would not be reported in this data element, but would be reported in #10, if he/she continues to participate in such activities for a minimum of 3 months following the initial placement in necessary treatment.

8. **Number of participants that remain unengaged without good cause:** Report the unduplicated number of participants served who continue to refuse to engage in work activities or other appropriate services during the reporting month.
9. **Number of participants with newly reported income:** Report the number of participants who obtain employment during the reporting month, or whose current employment was obtained before the reporting month, but is discovered by the district during the reporting month.
10. **Number of participants that remain engaged in work activities or necessary treatment for a minimum of 3 months following initial placement:** Of the number of participants successfully engaged in work activities (including employment) or necessary treatment in a previous report month (outcomes #6 and #7), report the number of participants who remain successfully engaged in such activities for a minimum of 3 months following the initial placement.

IV. Cases closed during the report month

11. **Number of cases closed due to income from employment obtained during the report month:** Report the number of cases closed during the reporting month due to income obtained during the reporting month. (Note: These participants should also have been included in reporting element #9.)
12. **Number of cases closed because district was unable to locate the participant:** Report the number of cases closed during the reporting month because the district was unable to locate the participant.
13. **Number of cases closed for failure to respond to outreach (excludes households the district was unable to locate):** Report the number of cases closed during the reporting

month for failure to comply with public assistance eligibility requirements which have been included as a component under the ICS program.

- 14. Number of cases closed because of newly reported income obtained prior to report month:** Report the number of cases closed during the reporting month due to income that was obtained prior to the reporting month, was previously unreported, and when budgeted, makes the household ineligible.
- 15. Number of cases closed at the request of the participant:** Report the number of cases closed during the reporting month at the request of the participant.
- 16. Number of cases closed for any reason other than those listed:** Report the number of cases closed during the reporting month for reasons other than those listed above.

OTDA is required to provide quarterly performance and expenditure data for programs funded by TANF, including the Intensive Case Services program. Districts are reminded that the program outcomes reported in the TRACS 2 system will be summarized with ICS3 expenditures based on claims submitted by districts and posted to the ICS Performance and Accountability matrix that will be available on the OTDA website at <http://www.otda.state.ny.us/main/pma>. Therefore, districts should ensure that program outcomes and claiming information are up-to-date, complete and accurate when submitted.

If you have any reporting questions, contact Libby McGinn at (518) 486-6106.