



What is the grant about?

Jefferson County Human Services was awarded a five-year, two million dollar grant to create a collaborative case planning model between Colorado Works (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, TANF) and child welfare (Division of Children, Youth & Families, CYF) to serve their clients better.

The grant was awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Oversight of the grant will be administered by the Children's Bureau under the Administration of Children and Families, which works with State and local agencies to develop programs to prevent child abuse.

Where do we start?

Families who need services from TANF and/or CYF and live in the target area will be invited to participate in this project. Families will begin with collaborative case planning meetings called Family Group Conferences (FGC), which is the main component of the grant model.

The meetings include:

- The family
- Their support system
- Facilitator
- TANF case manager
- CYF case worker
- Career Services
- Parent Partner

Go to Where the Families Live

This grant will service the people living in Edgewater and the surrounding area. Families living in this community have a difficult time traveling to Jefferson County Human Services in Golden to attend case conferences and other required meetings. For this reason, the grant staff will be conducting the Family Group Conferences in the community where the families live.

Parent Partner Mentoring Program

Another component of the grant is the Parent Partner Program. Parent Partners are former clients who have successfully completed their TANF and CYF services and have achieved self-sufficiency. They have created safe and healthy homes for their children and families. These former clients are recruited to help current families to better understand the TANF and CYF processes while utilizing those services. The idea is that current clients can benefit from having a mentor, who has been in their shoes, to help guide them through the system.

Information Sharing

The grant will also fund the development of an information-sharing software program. A big obstacle to collaboration between social service systems is often the inability to share important information about clients who are in more than one system. The data-sharing program will allow the appropriate TANF and child welfare staff to keep in touch with each other about the case plans of shared clients.

Cross-System Training

Another obstacle for TANF and child welfare staff who have common clients is their lack of knowledge about each other's systems. The grant will develop cross-system trainings on the rules, regulations and requirements of each system. This will give case workers and managers the ability to help families to create case plans that will work for them, but that will also conform to the rules of both systems.

Career Services

Career Services planning with the Jeffco Workforce Center is another component of the grant. Workforce staff will help families who are in both the TANF and child welfare systems find jobs with employers in their community. The goal is to find permanent jobs that offer liveable wages and will help families become self-sufficient. Workforce staff will recruit employers who understand the unique needs of the families, such as time to attend treatment sessions, or to visit with their children in foster care.

Why this grant project is needed

Significant problems exist for families at risk for entering the TANF and child welfare systems. Interagency collaboration is absolutely essential to providing dual-system families the best possible chance of getting on their feet. The work of this grant is aimed at helping families to build on their strengths to become self-sufficient, and to sustain safe and healthy homes for their children.



families

Natalie Williams, Project Manager
Phone: 303.271.4003

Jan Hopkins, Facilitation Specialist
Phone: 303.271.4758

Linda Leeper, Parent Partner Coordinator
Phone: 303.271.4762

Rick Emerick, Administrative Specialist
Phone: 303.271.4794

Fax: 303.271.4708



JEFFCO COMMUNITY CONNECTION
TANF/Child Welfare Collaboration Project
3500 Illinois Street, Suite 2200
Golden, CO 80401



JEFFCO COMMUNITY CONNECTION Collaboration Project

