Performance Based Contracting for Human Service Providers

April 10, 2014

Department of Human Services

Economic Security Administration



The Problem:

The District of Columbia had a growing TANF caseload, and families were languishing on TANF with little movement towards self-sufficiency

The Solution

Invest in an individualized service model facilitated by a comprehensive individual assessment and supported by intelligent referrals utilizing performance based contracting.

The TANF redesign includes several programmatic enhancements

Current TEP	Redesigned TEP
Primary focus is Federal Work First mandate	Balanced focus on Work First, remediation of barriers to employment, educational enhancement, and skills acquisition.
Only customers who are referred to vendors receive orientation and assessment	Orientation and assessment will be a condition of eligibility
Breadth and depth of orientation varies across vendors	Comprehensive and standard orientation will be conducted by DHS
Assessments are high-level and inconsistently administered across vendors	Centrally administered by DHS, assessments will be holistic, rigorous and in-depth

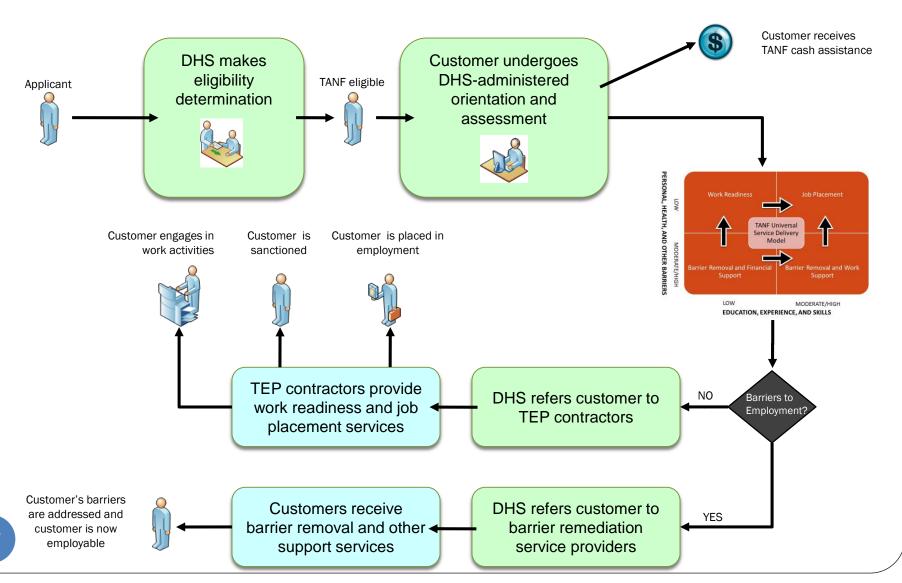
The TANF redesign includes several programmatic enhancements (cont.)

Current TEP	Redesigned TEP
Walk-in allowed	Walk-ins will be referred back to DHS for orientation and assessment
Sanction policy limited to removing adult portion of the grant	Progressive, graduated sanction policy
Case management services are "lightweight"	Individualized, intensive wraparound case management services
Vendors compensated for assessments and home visits that do not always lead to outcomes	All payments points are tied to specific and measurable outcomes

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High-level process: redesigned TEP



An accountable welfare-to-work program with clear goal and outcomes

Goal

Move TANF customers towards greater levels of self-sufficiency by assisting them in preparing for, finding, and retaining unsubsidized employment that provide family-sustaining incomes

Outcome #1 Increase the number of customers who overcome education and skill

barriers to become employable

Outcome #2
Increase the
number of
customers
who meet
work
participation
requirements

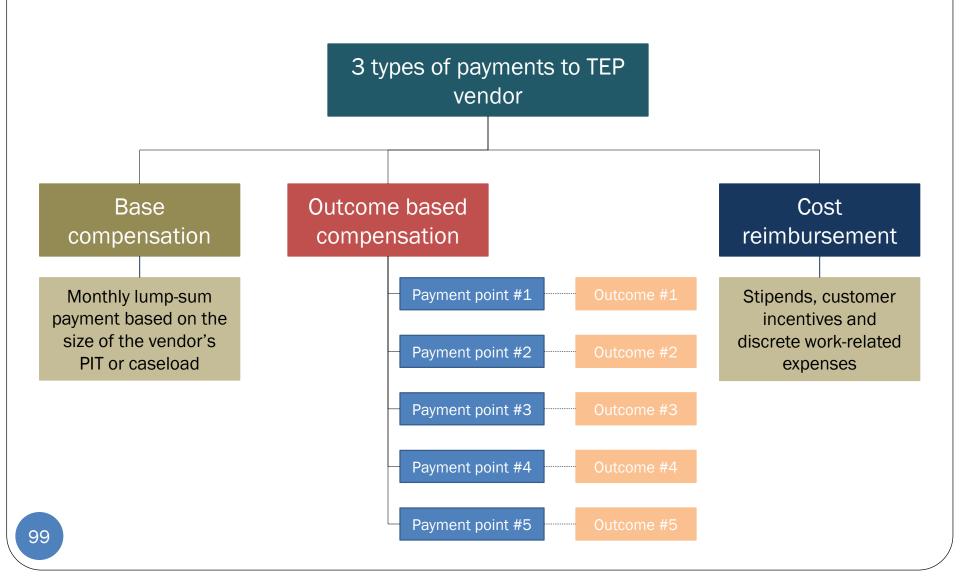
Outcome #3 Increase the number of customers who gain employment

Outcome #4
Increase the
number of
customers
who secure
high wage
jobs

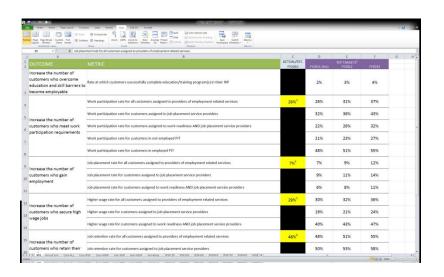
Outcome #5 Increase the number of customers who retain their jobs

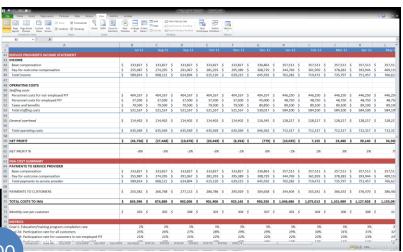
Outcome #6
Increase the number of customers who move-off TANF

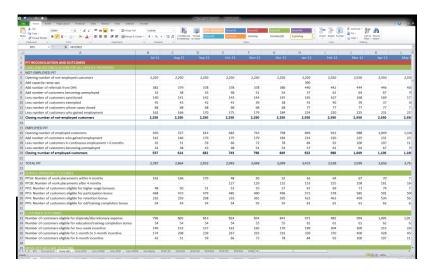
Vendors' compensation is heavily tied to achievement of outcomes

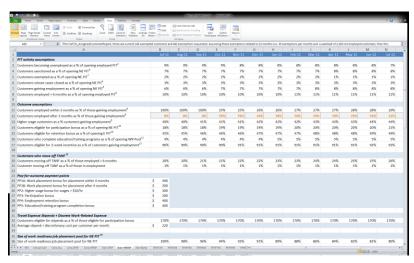


The compensation is grounded in an extensive cost model









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Recommendations

- Grants should allow for outcome based contracting
- Funding model should be full grants vs matching grants
- Meet the provider to collaborate and continuously improve the program
- Should include monitoring and review, and technical assistance

- Provide flexibility to scale based on performance
- Programs should be designed to target "hot jobs" in the area, and include core competencies for entry level positions.
- Should have an integrated person-centered focus.

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