

TANF Emergency Fund January 26, 2010

Maximize draw down of federal funding for Temporary Assistance of Needy Families (TANF).

Iowans are continuing to struggle in the economic downturn.

- In December 2009, there were over 46,000 recipients of the Family Investment Program, Iowa's version of TANF, an increase of over 5,000 from the previous year.
- Greater numbers of Iowans are calling 211 asking for assistance (over 130,000). Top need requests for 2009 were:
 - Housing/shelter/utilities
 - Income support and assistance
 - Individual/family support
 - Foods and meals

Iowa is eligible for up to \$65 million dollars in federal stimulus funding to help with TANF related expenses.

- United Way is prepared to mobilize community partners to identify if United Way funds provided to community organizations can be utilized as a match to drawdown federal funds. United Ways of Iowa collectively raise approximately \$60 million each year; we could help leverage some of these investments for match dollars.
- The U.S. Congress will analyze how the additional TANF funds were used (or not used) as an indicator of Iowa's state needs in reauthorization of the federal TANF legislation.
- As of January 7, 2010, 34 states have been awarded a total of \$ 1.07 billion. California and New York have received the largest amounts of funding. They have used the dollars to:
 - Pay for increased basic assistance & subsidized employment (CA)
 - Back to School Initiative (NY)
 - 11 states have accessed more than 60% of their possible allocations

Questions:

- How much and what information will agencies need to give?
- Clarify the types of eligible activities. We need to know who to invite to these meetings. Range of organizations could grow.
- What's the probability of back-billing? Or what is the timeframe that will be used?