



Jeb Bush
Governor
Susan Pareigis
Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 16, 2005

TO: Regional Workforce Board Executive Directors

FROM: Lois A. Scott, Program Manager, One-Stop and Program Support

SUBJECT: Emergency Temporary Cash Assistance-Welfare Transition Program Requirements

As a result of Hurricane Katrina, individuals are entering Florida in need of basic humanitarian services and job search assistance. Many families do not have transportation, temporary shelter, food and water, clothing, documentation/paper work, the ability to communicate with families or friends, etc. These families have experienced traumatic and devastating circumstances. Most of these families are in need of services to meet their basic needs. Some families who have evacuated from Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi will be applying for Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) in the State of Florida. Some program elements should be modified to meet the emergency needs of Hurricane Katrina victims.

1. The work registration process should be expedited in an appropriate manner.
 - a. Multiple day Welfare Transition (WT) Work Registration processes may need to be condensed to less than one day.
 - b. Applicants should receive information regarding participation requirements, program requirements, support services, as well as rights and responsibilities without delay.
 - c. Eligible applicants should be provided support services to complete the application process. This may include transportation and childcare.
 - d. Individuals may need intensive counseling and assistance with navigating processes established by local agencies. Individuals should be referred to social services and community partners based on assessed needs.

2. Applicants of TCA should be reviewed for Up-Front Diversion and Relocation Assistance, as appropriate.
 - a. Individuals applying for cash should be evaluated for diversion candidacy.
 - b. Individuals must be both eligible and good candidates.

Agency for Workforce Innovation

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- c. It is critical to remember, Up-Front Diversion payment receipt requires an agreement to refrain from reapplying for cash assistance for three months or repay the diversion payment.
 - d. It is critical to remember, Relocation Assistance payment receipt requires an agreement to refrain from reapplying for cash assistance for six months or repay the diversion unless the individual received Relocation Assistance as a result of domestic violence.
3. The RWB and RWB provider may choose to partner with the DCF district office to provide applicant services and work registration support in an innovative and expedited manner based on local needs.
- a. Some regions have emergency/disaster centers where staff may opt to provide direct applicant services, employment services, program review and work registration confirmation in collaboration with the DCF.
 - b. The RWB or provider may opt to collaborate with the DCF and place a staff member in the DCF district office temporarily to provide applicant services, employment services, program review and work registration confirmation.
 - c. The RWB or provider may opt to offer applications for benefit eligibility in the One-Stop Career Center, as well as collaborate with the DCF to drop off the completed applications at disaster centers or district offices.

Essentially, collaboration with the DCF district offices are critical, especially while serving families who are suffering the devastation brought about by Hurricane Katrina. Efforts to provide services and consolidate processes for benefit eligibility will provide needed aid to families who have been displaced by Hurricane Katrina quickly.

LAS:eam

cc: Barbara Griffin
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