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TANF: Looking Backward, Looking Forward

August 22 marks the 10th anniversary of the passage of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act (PRWORA), which transformed the provision of cash assistance to low income families. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities has released "TANF AT 10: Program Results are More Mixed Than Often Understood" evaluating the mixed impact of the program, which includes greater work participation among parents in single, female-headed households and deepening poverty over the last few years.

Ten years after implementation, the TANF block grant program is being transformed again. Under the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA), TANF was reauthorized and several changes to the program were adopted. The interim regulations issued by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) very narrowly defines what counts as work—undermining states' capacity to provide services such as mental health and substance abuse counseling, rehabilitative services, and secondary education. HHS is accepting comments on the interim regulations through August 28. The Coalition on Human Needs (CHN) in partnership with the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) is offering guidance and sample talking points for organizations interested in submitting comments to HHS.

More Information (PDF)

San Francisco: The Aging Homeless Population

From 1990 to 2003, researchers from the University of California, San Francisco; San Francisco General Hospital; and the Department of Medicine conducted a 14 year cross-sectional study of the homeless population in their city. This study found that the median age of homeless people in San Francisco increased by 9 years (from 37 to 46) over the 14 year period, far exceeding the aging rate for the general population. In addition to aging, the median time spent "literally homeless" increased from 12 months to just less than 40 months. According to this study, these trends are not unique to San Francisco, as New York, St. Louis, Los Angeles, and Pittsburgh have experienced similar trends in their homeless populations. An aging homeless population suggests a cohort effect which could be reduced drastically by a one-time increase in their respective supportive housing stock, according to this study's authors. An aging homeless population also requires more attention to health care and homelessness. Approximately 85 percent of homeless over the age of 50 report at least one chronic health issue. This study calls for increased attention to the integration of health care and stable housing as important to addressing this issue.


ACS Data Released

On August 15, the US Census Bureau released the 2005 American Community Survey (ACS) data on social and demographic characteristics. This is the first time ACS data has been available for areas with populations of less than 250,000 people. The social and demographic characteristics data released on Tuesday included race.
and ethnicity, origins and language, age and sex, education, marital status, grandparents as caregivers, veterans status, disability, and citizenship and year of entry. This data was given for all areas with populations of 65,000 or more, including 761 counties, 436 congressional districts, 602 metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas, all 50 states, and the District of Columbia.

On August 29, the Census Bureau will release the 2005 ACS economic data, including income, poverty, and employment. On October 3, the housing characteristics are scheduled to be release. Continue to read the Alliance Online News for updates.

**New Orleans: A One-Year Look at Recovery**

A recent Brookings Institute report, “Special Edition of the Katrina Index: A One-Year Review of Key Indicators of Recovery in Post-Storm New Orleans,” reviewed many social and economic indicators on the progress of recovery in New Orleans a year after Hurricane Katrina. According to the latest estimates, 160,000 homes and apartments in New Orleans were either destroyed or suffered debilitating damage, displacing a million people. Though suburban regions have experienced a growth in home-purchases and an increase in average purchase price in the last year, the most damaged part of the metro region, Orleans Parish and St. Bernard Parish, have seen home prices fall, in St. Bernard by 190 percent since Katrina. At the same time, rental housing has become less affordable and harder to find, with rents rising 39 percent since last year. The U.S. Department of Labor estimates that 278,000 workers were displaced by the storm and 23 percent remain unemployed and are no better off than they were six months ago. Many households are still living in temporary housing and under economic strain and, thus, continued focus is needed to help those who have remained displaced find both housing and employment.

**DataPlace: Upcoming Demonstration**

On Wednesday, August 23 at 3:30 pm, KnowledgePlex will be hosting an online demonstration of DataPlace, a free, online resource that has mapping technology and statistical databases. It provides housing and demographic data about communities, regions, and the nation. It features a mapping tool, a chart and table builder, quick statistical snapshots of specific geographic areas, and guides on how to analyze and use the data. Troy Anderson, managing director of knowledge management at the Fannie Mae Foundation, and Patrick Simmons, director of housing demography at the Foundation, will serve as guides to the site.

**Additional Conference Presentations Available**

Additional presentations and resources from the Alliance’s 2006 Annual Conference have been posted to our website. In particular, presentations on reentry, mental health and the homeless, developing plans to end homelessness, and services for homeless children have been added. Any speaker who would like their presentation added to our website, please email the Alliance.

**Conference Presentations**

email: info@naeh.org
web: http://www.endhomelessness.org

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