

WorkFirst Orientation Talking Points

These talking points will help you cover the key points with parents when you tell them about the benefits of participating in WorkFirst (WF). Keep the language simple.

1. Welcome

- TANF/SFA is temporary assistance for needy families
- Everyone who is able is expected to participate in WorkFirst
- Participation is an opportunity to learn skills and earn a living
- The goal of WF is to help find employment, increase income, become self-sufficient

2. ~~Reasons Why You Might Be Here~~What can WorkFirst do for you?

- You're afraid that there's no work out there that will pay you enough Help you develop a plan toward achieving your goals
- You're alone and there's no one really that can help you in your particular situation Provide supports to build a stable foundation to start your journey
- You're feeling overwhelmed by some tough circumstances and not sure what to do Help you overcome obstacles that may be standing in your way.

—AND...

—You want to provide a stable income for you and your kids

—You want to feel a sense of pride and satisfaction every day that you've contributed

—You really want the peace and calm that comes with knowing your needs are taken care of and that you worked hard to make it happen—

You've already taken the first step to achieving these things and the WorkFirst program can provide opportunities toward reaching your goals. This orientation will provide details of the services we provide. Use this next 30 minutes or so to learn about the opportunities WorkFirst provides, and which would be most useful to you and your family.

3. How does Work Pay?

- Go over how much the grant is when converted to a wage
- Show how much client would receive if working PT/FT

2.4. WorkFirst Partners

- Child Care - Department of Early Learning
- Work Readiness; Job Search – Employment Security Department
- Work Experience – Department of Commerce
- Education & Training - State Board of Community and Technical Colleges

5. Expectations & Requirements

- Comprehensive Evaluation
- Individual Responsibility Plan
- Communication with your case manager is key

- ~~Child Care – Department Early Learning~~

3-6. Child Support

- DCS will help collect child support
- Good Cause

7. Obstacles

- Physical/mental health, Family violence, Legal, housing and substance abuse
- DVR, Social Security options

8. Family Violence

- DSHS mission to help individuals live in a safe environment
- Types of family violence- emotional or physical abuse to you or your children
- Provide statewide domestic violence hotline number

9. What services are available to help find employment?

- WorkFirst Support services
 - Transportation
 - Work Clothes
 - Tools for Work

10. Child Care

- Talk about the two options for childcare (In-home or Licensed)
- Reinforce the need for a back-up plan
- Give clients the web address and 1 800 childcare number

11. Sanction

- Discuss how to get out of sanction
- Explain full family termination

12. TANF ~~60-Month~~ Time Limit

- Explain total of 5 years maximum for TANF
- Extensions

13. Life After ~~Beyond~~ TANF

- Transitional Food Assistance (TFA)
- Basic Food benefits
- BFET, Childcare, Medical, Child Support and Earned Income Tax Credit

14. Other Options & Resources

- Diversion Cash Assistance (DCA)
- Basic Food Employment Training (BFET)
- Healthcare
- ~~_____~~

4. ~~How does Work Pay?~~

5. ~~Go over how much the grant is when converted to a wage~~

6. ~~Show how much would receive if working PT/FT~~

7. ~~—~~

8. ~~Sanction~~

- ~~• Discuss how to get out of sanction~~
- ~~• Explain full family termination~~

9. ~~What services are available to help find employment?~~

10. ~~Child Care~~

11. ~~Talk about the two options for child care (In home or Licensed)~~

12. ~~Reinforce the need for a back-up plan~~

13. ~~Give client the 1-800 child care number~~

14. ~~WorkFirst Support services~~

15. ~~Transportation~~

16. ~~Work Clothes~~

17. ~~Tools for Work~~

18.

19. 15. Questions

- WorkFirst is a partnership between you and the parent. Encouraging questions is another opportunity to engage the parent.
- Remind the parent that they can ask you questions in the future.