



CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES

ADEQUATE RESOURCES ARE NEEDED FOR IMPOVERISHED FAMILIES TO PREVENT DIMINISHED HEALTH AND DISABILITY

A forum was held by anti-poverty organizations to discuss provisions for reauthorization of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. Presenters at the forum were advocates from anti poverty and disability groups and also researchers and policy experts on poverty issues.

Summary

The data on prevalence of disability associated with TANF are extremely important because TANF is being billed as the greatest social accomplishment of the 20th Century by its advocates. More than 40% of TANF recipients include family members with disabilities. People with disabilities have been disproportionately sanctioned, had their cases closed or were dropped from the rolls because of the five year times limit. Thus, there are millions of people with disabilities who have been left behind with out work or benefits to meet basic human needs.

Disability Prevention Issue

The system issue associated with TANF is that millions of people with disabilities are left behind even with TANF, SSI, SSDI and employment training initiatives because these programs are separate silos unto themselves. As people are decoupled from the TANF program, they may also lose health and nutrition benefits associated with safety net programs. Vulnerable populations require basic human services such as adequate nutrition and health care, which if inadequate can diminish health that can contribute of disability and secondary disabling conditions

Intervention

A letter was written to a presenter to comment on importance of the disability issues of work and/public health initiatives related to diminished health that can lead to secondary disabling conditions.

Recommendation

All people with disabilities should have work and/or benefits to meet basic human needs that prevent diminished health that can lead to secondary disabling conditions