



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

2007 TANF Task Force Annual Report

2007 Activities

The Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program was reauthorized as part of the Deficit Reduction Act in 2006. The legislation conveyed authority to HHS to clarify the activities that states could engage families in to meet their required work participation rate or face financial sanctions. Interim final regulations were released on June 29, 2006. The regulations do not allow states to receive credit for engaging families that include a person with a disability in activities that would help them address challenges and prepare for greater self-sufficiency. States could receive credit for providing a person with a disability with rehabilitative services, mental health or substance abuse counseling for no more than four weeks consecutively. The regulations do not provide sufficient flexibility for parents who are caring for a child with a disability.

S. 1730 the Pathways to Independence Act of 2007 was introduced in response to the problems arising from the changes to TANF that were included in Deficit Reduction Act (P.L. 109-171) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) interim final rules which implemented the DRA changes. Senator Gordon Smith (R-OR) introduced S. 1730 in June. Senators Stabenow (D-MI), Conrad (D-ND) and Collins (R-ME) joined Senator Smith as original co-sponsors. Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR), Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) Senator Blanche Lincoln (D-AR) and Senator Tom Carper (D-DE) have also cosponsored.

2008 Goals and Priorities

The Task Force's goals for 2008 include:

- Coordinating with partners in the substance abuse treatment and child welfare advocacy communities to develop strategies to address our concerns.
- Increasing support for S. 1730.
- Working with state agencies and state advocates on strategies to ensure that people with disabilities in the TANF program are receiving the services and supports they require.
- Educating Members of Congress about these issues and seek support for legislative provisions to address our concerns.

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