

Utah - Single Parent Employment Demonstration

Utah received a five year federal waiver to operate the Single Parent Employment Demonstration in October, 1992. The demonstration was implemented in January, 1993. The project is being tested in six cities; two urban, two high unemployment rural, and two small cities.

Secretary Shalala visited the Single Parent Employment Demonstration in Kearns, Utah, on August 27, 1993.

The goal of the Utah Single Parent Employment Demonstration project is to change AFDC from an income maintenance program to an employment program. The key components are:

- All parents and children who are over age 16 and not attending school are expected to participate in an employment program, with a \$100 reduction in the family's monthly grant for non-participation and a \$40 increase for enhanced performance. Previous JOBS exemptions are eliminated.
- Self-sufficiency planning is required prior to eligibility determination for financial assistance, with one-time payments used to divert certain applicants from assistance through employment and child support.
- Eligibility and benefit has been simplified and financial incentives for work have been increased, including: raising the asset limit to \$2,000 and automobile limit to \$8,000; extending case management services for former AFDC recipients; and expanding transitional Medicaid and child care services.
- Child support enforcement is focused on participant self-sufficiency, including: coordinating with AFDC and JOBS; "fast-tracking" certain populations; and prioritizing workloads based on self-sufficiency and collections criteria.
- AFDC demonstration families in public housing are given an opportunity to be included in the housing self-sufficiency program and the escrow provision for earned income.

Preliminary Results:

As of May 1993, the number of families in the Kearns demonstration group receiving financial assistance declined by 151 cases or 14% since implementation of the project in January, 1993. In comparison, the number of financial assistance cases in the control group declined by 5%.

In three of the demonstration sites, Kearns, St. George and Roosevelt, about 98% of the demonstration cases are participating in employment programs and receiving the full grant amount. About 18% of demonstration participants are receiving the \$40 payment for enhanced performance.