



February 21, 2008

## NACHSA e-Alert

Greetings NACHSA Members:

*This e-Alert provides you with information on the upcoming NACo Legislative Conference, new federal regulatory and legislative developments, and some new human services resources that have crossed my screen in recent weeks.*

### NACo Legislative Conference

The NACHSA Board of Directors and general membership will be meeting during the National Association of Counties' Legislative Conference, March 1-5. NACHSA members will hear from federal policymakers and participate with their peers and elected county officials nationwide in developing county policy on federal human services legislation. [Click here](#) to go to NACHSA's legislative conference page which contains links to human services sessions and the overall NACo conference.

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## Federal Developments

### TANF

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities has published a [13 page summary](#) of the recently released TANF regulations. Additionally, HHS has a [link on its site](#) providing the reader with all state work verification plans.

### Child Welfare Legislation

A comprehensive child welfare bill (H.R. 5466) has been introduced by Representative McDermott (D-WA), chair of the House Ways and Means Subcommittee with jurisdiction over human services. The Subcommittee will hold a February 27 hearing on child welfare issues, including his bill, The Invest in KIDS Act. [Click here](#) to view a short summary of the legislation.

### Food & Nutrition Programs

Negotiations to resolve the differences between the House and Senate farm bills continue to move slowly. At issue is the overall amount of new funding that would be made available for new investments in farm bill programs, including the nutrition title. The administration and House Democratic and Republican leadership are proposing new investments that are half the amount of funding of what the Senate Democrats and Republicans have requested. A short-term extension of the overall farm bill expires March 15, 2008, but nutrition programs are funded through September 30.

## Child Support Information Requested

Efforts continue to repeal the cuts made to the child support program. There are now 80 House and 30 Senate co-sponsors of the Child Support Protection Act.

*NACHSA is gathering information from counties on the initial impact of the cuts in terms of staffing and potential loss of support payments collected.*

If your county has such information, please contact Tom Joseph at [tj@wafed.com](mailto:tj@wafed.com). For a list of current co-sponsors, [click here](#).

## Human Services Studies

**Child Support Pass Through:** This Urban Institute [child support report](#) increasing child support payments to families receiving TANF benefits. The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 provides incentives for states to distribute additional child support to TANF families. According to the report, if all states adopted the new incentive, child support payments to families on TANF would double and have the potential to raise annual incomes by \$500 annually. (8 pp.)

**Website for Aging Out Foster Youth:** Last year, Michigan developed a web site containing information on a variety of issues important to current and former foster youth. The site provides links on how to develop supports, find services, get answers to important questions and just keep a person posted on what's new. It is updated by members of Michigan's Youth Boards from locations across the state. [Click here](#) to view the site.

**State Child Abuse and Neglect Fact Sheets: Fight Crime: Invest in Kids** has a collection of [two-page state briefs](#) which summarize the number of abused and neglected children in the State, the impact abuse has on future criminality, and the need to invest in programs proven to prevent child abuse and neglect.

**Family Involvement in Child Welfare Systems:** The HHS Children's Bureau has published this eight page summary of [challenges and strategies for involving families](#) involved in the child welfare system and discusses what administrators can do to support family-agency partnerships for system transformation.

**Key Findings from Fatherhood Initiatives:** This 11-page Urban Institute brief discusses key findings from [five major fatherhood demonstration programs](#) that focused on improving employment and earnings, child support payments, and parental involvement among low-income noncustodial fathers.

## NACHSA Dues are Due!

Don't delay, please pay your dues today! [Click here](#) to access the form to ensure that your membership remains current.

Tom Joseph  
National Association of County Human Services Administrators

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