Building Assets for Fathers and Families: Washington State

NAWRS Presentation, August 18, 2014
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BAFF Overview

• Three-year grant from OCSE to support increased asset building services for NCPs
• Washington DCS one of seven states to receive funding in 2010
• Collaboration between DCS and AFI grantees in two sites (Spokane and Vancouver)
• Goals
  – Serve 600 NCPs in 3 years
  – Promote increased financial stability, asset ownership, and ability to meet child support obligations
• Evaluation
  – Characteristics of participants
  – Describe implementation
  – Participant outcomes
Program Design

• Target low-income NCPs
• Provide case management and asset building services
  – Financial education
  – Other asset building services
  – Referrals to supportive services
  – More intensive child support services
### Program Participant Characteristics

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<tr>
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<th>Spokane</th>
<th>Vancouver</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>78%</td>
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<td>Shelter/transitional housing</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>16%</td>
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<tr>
<td>No un/earned income at enrollment</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>39%</td>
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<td>Previously incarcerated</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>71%</td>
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<td>Total participants</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>248</td>
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- **Child Support Characteristics**
  - 85% had current support due, median order amount of roughly $230.
  - Median arrears: Over $7,000 in both sites
  - Limited payments in months leading up to enrollment
BAFF Services

• Case management and navigation
  – Employment
  – Legal (parenting plans)
  – Referrals to supportive services (e.g., housing, food, chemical dependency, Veteran’s services)

• Asset building
  – IDAs
  – Financial education
  – Banking, budgeting, and credit

• Child support
  – Case information
  – Negotiation on payments
  – Licenses
  – Modifications and debt write-off
Child Support Outcomes

- 81% of BAFF NCPs with current support due at enrollment made a payment
  - Median payment: $1,212
- 66% of BAFF NCPs with past support due at enrollment made a payment toward this debt
  - On average, 91 days to payment
  - Median payment: $952
- 37% received modifications
- Change in median arrears from point of enrollment
  - $605 increase in Spokane
  - $263 decrease in Vancouver
- 50 Cases closed
Conclusions

• Means to engage disconnected NCPs
  – Help with child support is the carrot
• NCP distrust of DCS and misconceptions about child support
• Service needs of non-compliant NCPs
  – Child support
  – Supportive services – employment and housing
  – Specific needs for ex-offenders
• Who you target matters
  – Willing, but not able NCPs
  – Identifying right service mix (considering payment history and income)
• Leveraging community partners
  – Disseminating child support knowledge
Contact Information

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