

# Career Link Fact Sheet

## 1. What is Career Link?

Career Link is a subsidized employment program which provides services to recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) who are:

- ▶ Over age 20 that need to obtain their GED
- ▶ Need additional skills training or experience in their career path
- ▶ Have significant barriers that need intensive case management services

## 2. History of Career Link

- ▶ Implemented July 1, 2013 as a Pilot Program for Transitional Employment for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 14 in Bernalillo County
- ▶ Career Link was approved for an additional year (SFY16) in Bernalillo and Sandoval (Rio Rancho) Counties, and expanded to Dona Ana and Chaves Counties
- ▶ Career Link was approved for a third year (SFY17) and expanded to Curry, Cibola and Valencia Counties

## 3. The Goals of the Career Link Program

- ▶ Create a bridge to unsubsidized employment
- ▶ Allow the individual to gain marketable skills while providing support to address barriers
- ▶ Increase participant's income and give them access to the Earned Income Tax Credit
- ▶ Make training available and address skill attainment
- ▶ Provide intensive support, mentoring and engagement
- ▶ End dependency of needy parents by promoting educational support and job preparation

## 4. Funding

- ▶ Legislative appropriation through HSD/ISD provided \$1,100,000 additional funding from the TANF Block Grant during SFY 2015, \$3,200,000.00 for SFY 2016 and \$6,751,000.00 for SFY 2017.
- ▶ SFY 15 Budget

PROGRAM	REVENUE SOURCE (in \$1,000s)		
	TANF		TOTAL
Federal TANF Block Grant	\$1,700.0		\$1,700.0

- ▶ SFY 16 Budget

PROGRAM	REVENUE SOURCE (in \$1,000s)		
	TANF		TOTAL
Federal TANF Block Grant	\$3,200.7		\$3,200.7

► SFY 17 Budget

PROGRAM	REVENUE SOURCE (in \$1,000s)		
	TANF		TOTAL
Federal TANF Block Grant	\$6,751.0		\$6,751.0

**5. Career Link Eligibility**

► In order to be eligible for TANF benefits, participants must meet the following requirements:

Non-Financial Eligibility	Financial Eligibility
► Resident of New Mexico	► Gross Income <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 85% of the Federal Poverty Guideline</li> </ul>
► U.S. Citizen or Qualified Legal Immigrant	► Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ \$1,500 or less in liquid resources, such as a bank account</li> <li>○ \$2,000 or less in non-liquid resources, such as real property</li> </ul>
► Families with Dependent Children	
► Social Security Number	
► Cooperation with work programs and child support enforcement	

**6. Processes/Activities**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| ► Screening for Barriers to Employment          | ► Housing                                |
| ► Assessments & Referral to Community Resources | ► Linkage to Work Supports               |
| ► Work Assessments & Employment Planning        | ► Child Care Assistance                  |
| ► Job Search, Matching & Placement              | ► Transportation                         |
| ► Life skills Development                       | ► Income supplements such as tax credits |
| ► Training                                      | ► Financial Aid for Students             |
| ► Education                                     | ► Subsidized Employment Placement        |

**7. Outcomes**

Measures	Performance for SFY 16	Performance for SFY17 (as of 1/27/2017))
Total Placements	474	323
Completed High School Equivalency	6	0
Completed Program	267	81
Transitioned to Unsubsidized Employment	214	144
Average Wage at placement	\$9.86	\$9.92
Highest Wage at placement	\$16.07	\$20.81

**8. Contact Information:**

**Vida Tapia-Sanchez, Deputy Director**

Work and Family Support Bureau

Human Services Department, Income Support Division

Phone (505) 827- 1300

Fax (505) 827 -7259

Email: [Vida.Tapia-Sanchez@state.nm.us](mailto:Vida.Tapia-Sanchez@state.nm.us)