FOIA Number: 2006-0467-F

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Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

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Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 19944

FolderID:

Folder Title:
Welfare-to-Work 1/25/99 [2]

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TALKING POINTS ON LOCAL INVOLVEMENT IN WELFARE-TO-WORK

- We all have to do our part. We just heard from Governor Carnahan about the innovative steps he is taking in Missouri to give hope and opportunity to thousands of people who had little hope and few opportunities before we ended welfare as we know it.

- There are many stories just like his. All across the country, local communities are coming together to develop innovative strategies to achieve a common goal -- moving people from welfare-to-work. We don't have all the answers in Washington. That's why we worked with the Congress to create the Welfare-to-Work program. We wanted to build a program that gives mayors and county commissioners in communities across the nation to work with the private sector to create opportunities and develop strategies to help welfare recipients get and keep what they need most of all -- a job.

- The real work of welfare reform is being done in states and local communities across the nation. Where the rubber meets the road, in cities and counties, great and small, urban and rural, people <u>are</u> moving from welfare to work.

Joshua S. Gottheimer
01/20/99 06:09:48 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Jeffrey A. Shesol/WHO/EOP

cc:
Subject: welf wk -- mon jan 25

Welfare to Work -- Jan. 25th

Contact: Cynthia Rice -- DPC [paper to follow] -- and Eli Segal

Message:

1. new state by state numbers -- 43 percent overall. [they might leak these numbers sun]
2. 10,000 companies involved in program -- [last may, it was 5,000]
-- potus challenged them to double numbers
3. emphasize welf to work
-- 1B in budget
-- new housing vouchers -- 25,000
-- welf wk transportation-- 75M to 100M
-- extend welfare tax credit
4. Fathers: emphasize new focus on fathers (propose in reauthorization -- 20 percent money in reauthorization used to support fathers with poor children/ formerly on welfare/child support commitment).
5. target welfare recipients -- hardest challenge go to work

Location:

Room 450, 130 people; 10:15-11am; open press

Program:

1. POTUS
2. Local gov't official -- involved with welfare to work program
3. Father -- welfare to work individual -- with child
4. T: CEO/ business leader-- fr. company that has hired traditional welfare recipient -- but preferably smaller, medium-size company

Attend, but not speaking

Herman, Shelala, Lechance, Slater, Alvarez, Cuomo

Note

VPOTUS doing immigration event in CA same day

Remarks by Vice President Al Gore
Second National Summit on Fatherhood
Monday, June 15, 1998

It's an honor to be here during the week of Father's Day to talk about the critical importance of fatherhood to America's families --and release a new report that will help us learn even more about the role fathers play in the growth and development of their children.

We know that children's most powerful moral teachers are their mothers and fathers. But fathers -- often because of their absence -- make far too little positive use of that power. That is why I believe the single most promising approach for improving our lives, our society, and our world in the next century is helping men become better fathers.

My personal commitment to fatherhood was born out of gratitude for the loving and demanding guidance of my own father. I was also lucky that my wife Tipper understood intuitively that the father must have a central role in his children's lives. So from the moment Tipper and I had our first child, I was eager to be fully involved, Tipper insisted on it, and the children demanded it.

Some of you have heard me tell a story about a conflict I had a few years ago between my responsibilities at work, and my responsibilities as a father. I had scheduled a meeting with a visiting head of state at the White House, and my daughter's soccer game went into double overtime...

Tipper was making a speech on mental health in another city, and it was my turn to give out the snacks at the end of the game.

As we began the first overtime, I was thinking "let's call it a draw, kids." As we began the second overtime, I saw diplomatic catastrophe written right across the front page of the newspaper. Fortunately, the game ended, I gave out the snacks, and the interpreter really earned his pay when I went through my detailed account of what happened. But I knew the head of state; I had met him before, and he understood. He was a father, too.

Now, some people seem to find that story pretty funny. Maybe it's because they don't expect a father to be so current on the time-honored "post-game snack ritual." Or maybe it's unusual that the timing of a high-level diplomatic meeting should be hanging in the balance.

But if that is unusual in our culture, then we should <u>change</u> our culture. William Shakespeare once wrote: "It is a wise father that knows his own child." And -- I would add -- "It is a wise society that <u>insists</u> upon it." Fathers must spend time with their children.

And let's be clear about one point. The quality of the time you spend with your children depends on the quantity of time you spend with your children. When your one-year old's vocabulary is just a few syllables and gestures, she will nonetheless expect you to understand her signals for: "throw me in the air," "find my blanket," or "wind up my frog." If you understand her, it's fun for both of you. If you don't understand her, it's frustrating for both of you. And that can set the tone for your relationship. Whether you child speaks in baby talk or teen talk, you need to learn her language --and that takes time.

But fathers face many obstacles to spending time with their children. Some obstacles come from employers; many come from colleagues. Taking paternity leave, taking kids to the doctor, reciting nursery rhymes, singing songs -- some in the workplace still say that is women's work. I say --the person who says that is not a man --he is just a boy, who fears his peers more than he loves his kids. When someone neglects his child to save face in the workplace, that's a cultural defect we need to correct.

These are the kinds of issues and discussions I was eager to launch nationally when I began meeting with fatherhood groups all over the country in 1993. This initial research culminated in the summer of 1994 with the third in a series of family policy conferences Tipper and I moderate every year in Nashville. We called this one "The Role of Men in Children's Lives." And I'm delighted to see here today so many of the same committed people who attended that conference four years ago. VP's involvement

In the spring following the conference, we announced the creation of Father-to-Father -- a grassroots effort designed to enhance existing community initiatives by creating networks for men to assist one another in the tasks of fatherhood. Father-to-Father

And in June of 1995, President Clinton launched the Federal Fatherhood Initiative by directing all federal agencies to elevate the importance of fathers in their programs, policies, research, and personnel practices.

One year later, in 1996, 800 members of the federal workforce gathered in Washington to talk about what had been done -- and what could still be done -- to advance the interests of fathers and families. As an example, the Department of Labor recently announced new welfare-to-work grants that will help increase the employment of fathers who don't live with their children --to help them increase financial support of their children. DOL new WTW grants to ↑ emp. of fathers

We have learned that financial support often brings with it the greater involvement of the parent who pays it. And we know re-connecting fathers with their children helps the fathers stay off drugs, stay away from crime, and keep a job. By shaping a new federal initiative around these two findings, we have a much better chance to reconnect fathers and their children -- and improve the lives of both.

In another move, just last year, we established the Federal Interagency Forum for Child and Family Statistics -- our first-ever effort to coordinate the work of seventeen federal agencies, dozens of universities and scores of non-profits to advance our knowledge and appreciation of the role of fathers.

I am delighted today to announce the release of the Forum's first report: *Nurturing Fatherhood: Improving Data and Research on Male Fertility, Family Formation, and Fatherhood.* This study provides two sets of valuable findings.

First, the report notes that nearly one in three babies are born out of wedlock, and that one half of all children born to married parents will see their parents divorce. The report confirms earlier findings that children growing up without a father are more likely to do poorly in school, do drugs, and have a hard time finding and keeping a job. On the positive side, a father's involvement, even in a broken family, has a very positive impact on the children.

Second, this report marks out, for the first time, a ten-point plan for expanding approaches to family research -- to gather more information on the special role of fathers. Until now, most of our family research has been a close-up of the mother-child bond, with the father cropped out of the family photograph. We now know that fathers have unique contributions to make. Some early research indicates that fathers may have a powerful ability to curb their kids' indulgence in risky adolescent behavior. Insights like these guide the report's recommendations for new research on fathers, much of which we have already begun.

This report is a stellar example of how government can work with universities, foundations, non-profits, and the private sector to achieve outstanding results that would have been impossible for any of these partners to achieve on their own. In appreciation of the value of this report, and the unprecedented cooperation that produced it, I would like to recognize the Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics with a Hammer Award. The Hammer Award -- an important part of our Reinventing Government initiative -- is designed to recognize teams of government employees and their partners for helping to create a government that works better, costs less, and makes a difference in the lives of the American people.

I am proud to present this Hammer Award to Forum representatives Duane Alexander, Director of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development; and Ed Sondik, Director of the National Center for Health Statistics. *[present award]*

Good fathers help with homework, go to games, listen to their kids, but most important, good fathers guide the moral education of their children. In the Bible, when Moses had just given The Ten

Commandments to the people of Israel, he said: "And these words shall be in thine heart, and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children."

Today Robert Coles points out in his book, The Moral Intelligence of Children: "The most persuasive moral teaching we adults do is by example: the witness of our lives, our ways of being with others."

Just a glance at statistics tells us that a near majority of American children who are learning by their father's example, are learning the lessons of abandonment, instead of the lessons of love. In the last several months, we have heard horrifying stories of children shooting classmates. And one of the teens held for schoolyard murder had written in a journal entry: "No one ever truly loved me. No one ever truly cared about me."

Last year at the White House, I saw the power of this situation in reverse. Secretary Riley and I were releasing a new report on the powerful impact of father's involvement in their children's education, and we were joined by a successful young girl and her devoted father. She told the audience that her father used to pick her up after school every day in a taxi. He was a taxi driver. Standing right next to her father, she told two hundred people at the White House that she was embarrassed to say "my father is a taxi driver" because so many of her friends could say "my father is a doctor" or "my father is a lawyer." But as she grew older, she was no longer embarrassed to say "my father is a taxi driver" -- because she came to realize that she could say something many of her friends could not say. She could say: "My father loves me."

That young woman's life was transformed by that love. So was her fathers. A father's involvement in a child's life changes not only the child's life. It changes the father's life, and the family's life, too. That is why we are here today. To encourage fathers in their irreplaceable role. Nothing holds half so much promise for changing children's lives, and all our lives. I applaud you in your efforts. I commend you for your insights. And I pledge you all my energy and enthusiasm as we work together to awaken the power of fathers and families all across America. Thank you.

Welfare-to-Work Reauthorization
Internal draft: 1/18/99

In 1997, the President insisted that the Balanced Budget Act provide $1.5 billion a year in FY 1998 and FY 1999 for states and local communities to help move long-term welfare recipients in high poverty areas into jobs and help them succeed in the work force. In order to ensure the success of welfare reform for individuals who face the greatest challenges, we propose to reauthorize the Welfare-to-Work program in FY 2000, with several program modifications including a stronger focus on increasing the employment of low income fathers so they can better meet their responsibilities to their children. The Presiden't budget will include $1 billion for the Welfare-to-Work initiative in FY 2000, of which at least $150 million will be dedicated to low-income fathers who agree to work, pay child support, and become part of their children's lives again.

Continuing to Help Those with the Greatest Challenges Get and Keep Jobs

The Welfare-to-Work program funds job creation, job placement and job retention efforts such as wage subsidies and other critical post-employment support services. The program targets welfare recipients with the greatest challenges to employment -- long term recipients with poor work histories, low basic skills, or substance abuse problems. The program also serves noncustodial parents with barriers to employment whose children are long term welfare recipients.

Currently, about 75 percent of the Welfare-to-Work funds are allocated to states on a formula basis, which in turn must pass 85 percent of these funds to local Private Industry Councils or Workforce Boards. The remaining 25 percent of the funds are awarded on a competitive basis by the Department of Labor to support innovative welfare to work projects at a variety of private and public organizations.

In this reauthorization, we propose to retain the program's strong focus on those most in need by retaining the basic individual eligibility criteria, with some modifications. We propose to further target funds on areas of need by 1) committing the Administration to focus competitive grant funds on special high priority needs, including individuals with substance abuse problems, disabilities, and low literacy skills, including limited english proficiency; 2) doubling the funds set aside for Native American tribes; and 3) requiring at least 20 percent of formula funds to be used to help fathers get and keep employment and become financially responsible for their children.

Stronger Focus on Fathers

Because it is critically important that both parents contribute to the support of their children, this Administration has launched an unprecedented and sustained child support campaign and in 1997 we collected a record $13.4 billion in child support, a 68 percent increase since 1992. While every father has a moral obligation to support their children, some need help getting a job and succeeding in the workforce in order to do so. Already, many states are using some of their Welfare-to-Work funds to help fathers of children on welfare get jobs. Now, we propose to ensure every state help committed fathers fulfill their obligations to their children. Under this proposal, states and communities will provide job placement and job retention assistance to low income fathers who sign personal responsibility contracts committing them to work and pay child support. States shall commit at least 20 percent of their formula funds (about $150 million a year) to helping low income fathers get and keep jobs and ensuring they support their families. States that wish to devote more of their formula funds to this population may do so.

Joshua S. Gottheimer
01/20/99 06:11:31 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Jeffrey A. Shesol/WHO/EOP

cc:
Subject: 1/25 event

--------------------- Forwarded by Joshua S. Gottheimer/WHO/EOP on 01/20/99 06:12 PM ---------------------------

Andrea Kane 01/20/99 04:12:19 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Joshua S. Gottheimer/WHO/EOP

cc: Cynthia A. Rice/OPD/EOP
Subject: 1/25 event

As discussed, here are 3 previous speeches on fathers that should be helpful along w/ draft internal paper on the WTW reauthorization, and Access to Jobs and Welfare to Work Housing Vouchers announcements. I will be getting more to you, in more refined form, but this should give Jeff something to get going.

1. POTUS remarks from bill signing (see bold in particular. while we don't want the main emphasis to be on deadbeat dads, we do want to make the connection between fathers paying their child support obligations and helping raise the incomes of moms/children which helps them move off welfare and become self-sufficient):

Public Papers of the Presidents

June 24, 1998

CITE: 34 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1204

LENGTH: 2036 words

HEADLINE: Remarks on Signing the Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act of 1998 and an Exchange With Reporters

BODY:

The President. Thank you very much, Sonia. And Jonathan and Jesse, welcome to the White House. Thank you, General Reno. Thank you, Senators Kohl and DeWine, for coming. And Congressman Hoyer, thank you for your hard work on this. I'd also like to thank Congressman Henry Hyde, who is not here, for his leadership on this legislation. Welcome Judge David Ross, the Commissioner of the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement; United States Attorney Helen Fahey; child support advocates; and Leslie Sorkhe and Gerri Jensen, two other mothers who are here. I thank you all for being here.

I am very pleased to sign a vital new law that shows what we can achieve when we act in the national interest. For 5 1/2 years now we have renewed our economy with a strategy that balances the budget while it invests and instills the future of our people and in the strength of our families. The key to expanding opportunity in this new century I want to say, though, is education.

I want to say a little more about child support in a minute, but these two young men behind me and all the children of our country deserve a world-class education. I have asked the Congress to help me in that, to help us to reduce class size by hiring 100,000 teachers and building or repairing 5,000 schools. I have asked them to help me institute high standards to connect all classrooms to the Internet, and I've asked them to make child care for working parents more affordable.

Yesterday the Republicans in the House of Representatives took a huge step in the opposite direction. Last night they began to dramatically cut education investments from Head Start to after-school to antidrug programs. This is out of step with our values and with America's shared vision of our future. In the coming months I'll have more to say about this, but you can be sure that I am going to keep fighting to advance education, to invest more in education, to lift education standards, to expand education opportunities. And if they continue to fight against all these things it will, I expect, be the major conflict of the coming months.

I still hope that I will not have to sign an education bill or veto one that short changes the future of our children. I don't intend to sign it. I hope a veto won't be necessary, but there is no excuse for this. We have a balanced budget. We're going to have a surplus. We have the money. We ought to give it to the children and their future.

This bill today is a gift to our children and the future. The quiet crisis of unpaid child support is something that our country and our families shouldn't tolerate. Our first responsibility, all of us, is to our children. And today we all know that too many parents still walk away from that obligation. That threatens the education, the health of our children, and the future of our country.

Deadbeat dads → moms on welfare

One of the main reasons single mothers go on welfare is that fathers have failed to meet their responsibilities to the children. Even when a family

manages to stay out of poverty, a father's failure to pay child support puts mothers who are raising children by themselves under terrible pressure. A lot of women are forced to work two jobs, to work at night, or simply to worry sick about their children either because they're away from them all the time or because they're with them but they don't have enough to support them.

When fathers neglect support of their children, it aggravates all the other problems a family faces. When I was Governor and then when I ran for President the first time in 1992, I made child support enforcement a big part of my concerns. I've always asked parents to take responsibility for their children.
I've always pledged to do my best to force them to do so if they refused....

2. 1996 SOU

In particular, I challenge the fathers of this country to love and care for their children. If your family has separated, you must pay your child support. We're doing more than ever to make sure you do, and we're going to do more. But let's all admit something about that, too: A check will not substitute for a parent's love and guidance. And only you -- only you can make the decision to help raise your children. No matter who you are, how low or high your station in life, it is the most basic human duty of every American to do that job to the best of his or her ability.

3. VP speech from 6/98 on broader theme of fatherhood

vp0615.wp

4. DRAFT internal paper on the Welfare to Work Reauthorization including the stronger focus on fathers (this will be revised, but it should give you some ideas about how to talk about both the WTW reauthorization and fathers focus)

wtwsu118.wp

5. DRAFT internal paper on the housing vouchers and Access to Jobs transportation money

wtw0108.wpd

PRESIDENT CLINTON WILL ANNOUNCE NEW STEPS TO HELP FATHERS SUPPORT THEIR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MOVE FROM WELFARE TO WORK
January 25, 1999 -- 11/22 12:15 pm DRAFT

With welfare caseloads down by nearly half and over 10,000 companies committed to welfare-to-work, today President Clinton will announce a new package of initiatives designed to ensure that those remaining on the welfare rolls make a successful transition from welfare to work, with a new focus on increasing the employment of low-income fathers so they can support their children. The President's $1 billion Welfare-to-Work initiative will provide a minimum of $150 million to ensure every state helps fathers fulfill their responsibilities to their children by working and paying child support. Remaining funds will focus on those long term welfare recipients with the greatest challenges to employment such as limited English proficiency, substance abuse problems, and disabilities. The President will also announce today that his budget will contain new welfare to work housing vouchers, transportation funds, and tax credits to help those on welfare get to work and stay employed. Taken together, these initiatives will provide parents the tools they need to support their children and succeed in the workforce.

Welfare-to-Work Funds with a Focus on Fathers
The President's $1 billion Welfare-to-Work initiative will provide at least $150 million to ensure every state helps fathers fulfill their responsibilities to their children by working, paying child support, and playing a responsible part in their children's lives. Under this proposal, states and communities will provide job placement and job retention assistance to low income fathers who sign personal responsibility contracts committing them to work and pay child support. States shall commit at least 20 percent of their formula funds (about $150 million a year) to helping low income fathers get and keep jobs and ensuring they support their families. States that wish to devote more of their formula funds to fathers may do so. This effort will help further increase child support collections, which have risen 80 percent since the President took office, from $8 billion in 1992 to $14.4 billion in 1998.

The $1 billion in Welfare-to-Work funds are targeted at individuals and communities with the greatest needs and will help 200,000 people go to work. It is an extension of the two-year $3 billion Welfare-to-Work program the President secured in the Balanced Budget Act to help long-term welfare recipients in high poverty areas move into lasting unsubsidized employment. Today, the Department of Labor will announce the availability of $240 million in competitive grants from the current $3 billion which will support innovative local welfare-to-work strategies for individuals with limited English proficiency, disabilities, substance abuse problems, domestic violence, as well as non-custodial fathers. The reauthorized program will also double the welfare to work funding available for tribes.

Transportation and Housing for Families Moving From Welfare to Work
The President will also announce today that his budget will contain $580 million for welfare to work housing vouchers and transportation assistance to help those on welfare get to work and stay employed. The President's budget will provide $430 million for 75,000 welfare-to-work housing vouchers, including $144 million in new funds for 25,000 additional vouchers. This is a 50 percent increase over the 50,000 new vouchers the President secured last year, for which the grant competition will be made available this week by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The vouchers will be used to help families move closer to a new job, reduce a long commute, or secure more stable housing so they can perform better on the job. The President's budget will also increase Access to Jobs transportation funding from $75 million to $150 million, doubling the number of individuals and communities that can receive transportation assistance. This competitive grant program supports innovative state and local transportation solutions such as shuttles, van pools, new bus routes, and connector services to mass transit to help welfare recipients and other low income workers get to work.

Private Sector Hiring from the Welfare Rolls
The President will also announce that his budget will include $530 million to extend for one year the Welfare to Work and Work Opportunity Tax Credits to encourage more employers to hire welfare recipients and other disadvantaged individuals. Already, 10,000 companies have joined the Welfare to Work Partnership and hired, retained and promoted hundreds of thousands of former welfare recipients. Forty-two percent of these companies are very small businesses (25 or fewer employees) while four percent are very large businesses (3,000 or more employees). Together they represent over 10 million employees in every industry and region of the country. The Partnership ranks have doubled in just eight months since the President challenged them to do so in May and have grown from just five members two years ago when the President in the State of the Union challenged the business community to create jobs so that people can move from welfare to work. The President also announced that the federal government -- the nation's largest employer -- is doing its part to make welfare to work succeed, with over 9,900 former welfare recipients now valuable members of our federal workforce.

Welfare Rolls Decline as More Recipients go to Work
The President will release state-by-state data showing welfare caseloads are at their lowest level in 30 years and the welfare rolls have fallen by nearly half since he took office. Since January 1993, 36 states have had caseload declines of more than 40 percent and nationwide the rolls fell by 44 percent from 14.1 to just below 8 million. Recent information released by the Department of Health and Human Services also shows that the percent of welfare recipients working has tripled since 1992, an estimated 1.5 million who were on welfare in 1997 were working in 1998, and all states met the first overall work participation rates required under the welfare reform law.

Joshua S. Gottheimer
01/22/99 07:35:31 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Jeffrey A. Shesol/WHO/EOP

cc:
Subject: RE: Welfare to work event

--------------------- Forwarded by Joshua S. Gottheimer/WHO/EOP on 01/22/99 07:36 AM ---------------------------

Andrea Kane 01/22/99 12:56:35 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Joshua S. Gottheimer/WHO/EOP

cc:
Subject: RE: Welfare to work event

Which CEO speaks on program is still up in the air, but we may use Sam Bishop, am Af American high tech small business owner who has hired 3 welfare recipients and can speak passionately about how welfare to work has been helped his small business grow (here and Chicago). I'll forward more info once we know if he can participate. However, assuming he does, we'll still have Fleet and Xerox officials attending w/ some of their success stories and we should try to recognize them in the speech (I'll forward some ideas for how to do this, but below are more details about both companies and what they're doing, along with success stories that might be nice to weave in a bit).

- Fleet2.doc

- Xerox2.doc

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release August 4, 1998

PRESIDENT CLINTON WILL ANNOUNCE WELFARE TO WORK SUCCESSES
AND NEW STEPS TO PROVIDE HEALTH COVERAGE
FOR MORE WORKING FAMILIES

August 4, 1998

Today, President Clinton will take new action to promote work and responsibility as he sends to Congress a report showing that the welfare reform bill he signed into law nearly two years ago has helped millions of families make the successful transition from welfare to work. Today the President will: 1) announce that he is eliminating an old vestige of the welfare system so that all states can provide Medicaid health coverage to working, two parent families; 2) announce $60 million in new Welfare-to-Work grants for six states and Guam to help the most disadvantaged welfare recipients get and keep jobs; 3) announce the latest numbers showing that the federal government is doing its fair share in the welfare to work effort, hiring 5,714 former welfare recipients since April 1997; and 4) send to Congress the first annual report on welfare reform showing that 1.7 million adults who were on welfare in 1996 were working in 1997. The President will also urge Congress to fully fund his Welfare-to-Work housing vouchers proposal so that welfare recipients who need to move in order to work can do so.

Eliminating Anti-Work and Anti-Family Rules
that Denied Families Health Coverage

Today, the President will eliminate a vestige of the old welfare system by announcing that the Department of Health and Human Services will revise its regulations to allow all states to provide Medicaid coverage to working, two-parent families who meet State income eligibility. Under the old welfare regulations, adults in two-parent families who worked more than 100 hours per month could not receive Medicaid regardless of income level, while there were no such restrictions on single-parent families. Because these regulations provided disincentives to marriage and full-time work, the Administration allowed a number of states to waive this rule. The new regulation eliminates this rule for all States, providing health coverage for more than 130,000 working families to help them stay employed and off welfare. (See attached sheet for more details)

$60 Million More in Welfare-to-Work Grants

Today, nearly one year after obtaining $3 billion in new Welfare-to-Work funds in the Balanced Budget Act, the President will release funds for Maine, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Virginia, West Virginia, and Guam. These funds help long-term recipients who have significant barriers to employment obtain and retain jobs and can be used to help fathers as well as mothers go to work. With the $60 million released today, the Department of Labor has now approved $759 million for 38 states and Guam under the Welfare-to-Work program. (See attached sheet for more details)

The Federal Government is Doing Its Share

The President will announce that the federal government has now hired 5,714 new workers off the welfare rolls, which is over half-way to its goal of 10,000 by 2000. Nearly 80 percent of these new workers live and work outside the Washington Metropolitan area. The Vice President is leading this effort to ensure that the federal government does its fair share to employ welfare recipients. The White House pledged to hire six welfare recipients and has already exceeded this goal. (See attached sheet for more details)

Two Years Later, Millions of Welfare Recipients are Working

The President will release the First Annual Report to Congress on the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program showing a dramatic increase in the number of welfare recipients who have gone to work since he signed the welfare law in August 1996. Data from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey show that the rate of employment of individuals on welfare in one year who were working in the following year increased by nearly 30 percent between 1996 and 1997. As a result, 1.7 million adults on welfare in 1996, were working in March 1997. The report also finds that families moving from welfare to work enjoy increases in income.

The report highlights the dramatic decline in welfare caseloads, showing that welfare rolls have declined 27 percent since the welfare reform law was signed and that the percentage of the population on welfare is at its lowest point since 1969. The report also finds that, on average, states are spending more per person on welfare-to-work efforts than they did before the passage of the 1996 law.

Several other reports also confirm that welfare reform is on the right track. The Urban Institute recently found that, on average, a family's income goes up 51 percent when they move from welfare to a part-time entry level job, and increases even more as they move to full-time work. The Earned Income Tax Credit, which this Administration fought hard to expand in the 1993 budget, is a major factor in making work pay, especially if families take the option to get part of this tax credit in their regular paycheck. And the National Governors' Association recently reported that state spending on child care has increased by more than half, while spending on helping welfare recipients succeed at work has increased by one-third. (Copies of report available in lower press)

☆ incos ↑
EITC is crucial

The President Will Call for Full Funding for Welfare-to-Work Housing Vouchers

The President will call on Congress to fully fund his proposal for 50,000 Welfare-to-Work housing vouchers to help welfare recipients get or keep jobs by moving closer to job opportunities, reducing long commutes, or securing more stable housing. Although both the House and the Senate have appropriated some funds for this purpose, they have funded less than half of the President's request. (See attached sheet for more details)

BACKGROUND ON THE MEDICAID "100-HOUR RULE"

OVERVIEW. The new "100-hour rule" regulation gives states increased flexibility to offer Medicaid to low-income, working parents. Under previous welfare and Medicaid rules, a two-parent family could only be eligible for assistance if the primary wage earner was unemployed, defined in regulation as working less than 100 hours per month. Because this tended to discourage parents from working and was not applied to single-parent families, a number of states received a waiver of this "100-hour rule" prior to welfare reform. However, states that did not receive such a waiver cannot do so now because welfare reform locked in place the states' eligibility rules as of 1996.

The revision of the regulation allows all states, including those without waivers, to change the 100-hour rule, thus allowing them to cover two-parent, working families. As such, it eliminates a vestige of the old welfare system that provided disincentives against marriage and full time work. Combined with flexibility in setting income eligibility, this provision also enables all states to cover many low-income, two-parent families under Medicaid.

PROBLEM. Historically, Medicaid was an add-on to welfare, so that, in general, only people receiving welfare were eligible for Medicaid. Welfare (prior to reform in 1996) was limited to certain types of families -- in particular, single-parent families or two-parent families where the primary wager earner is unemployed. These "deprivation rules" date back to the creation of the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program, which was targeted toward "broken" rather than poor families.

Since President Clinton took office, the inequities of limiting cash assistance and Medicaid to only a narrow group of two-parent families led to changes designed to encourage work and marriage. Rather than using the regulatory definition of "unemployed" under the old welfare law -- working less than 100 hours per month -- many states received waivers to encourage work by considering parents working more than 100 hours a week as "unemployed." As of 1996, 32 states had received such waivers.

Welfare reform in 1996 limited other states from changing the 100-hour rule to allow them to cover two-parent, working families under Medicaid. It replaced it with a rule that states must, at a minimum, offer Medicaid to people who would have been eligible for welfare prior to the law. States could cover additional groups of people, but only if their income or resources were higher -- not if they worked more hours. While states that received waivers of the 100-hour rule prior to 1996 could continue those waivers, the remaining 18 states plus the District of Columbia were locked into their pre-1996 rules.

REVISED REGULATION. To allow all states the flexibility previously offered under welfare waivers, the Secretary of Health and Human Services is revising the regulations at 45 CFR 233.101(a)(1) to permit states to extend Medicaid eligibility to families whose parents would not have met the 100-hour rule contained in the existing definition. This is a final regulation with a 60-day comment period.

EFFECTS OF THE CHANGE

The following 18 states (plus District of Columbia) did not, at the time of welfare reform, have statewide waivers of the 100-hour rule:

Alabama
Alaska
Arkansas
Colorado
Florida
Kentucky
Louisiana
Maine

Nevada
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New York
North Dakota
Oklahoma
Pennsylvania
South Dakota
Virginia
Wyoming

States with waivers for only subsets of families (e.g., certain counties; only parents under the age of 21) also can broaden eligibility through this revised regulation.

There are two main benefits of this change. First, it eliminates an anti-work and anti-family vestige of the old welfare system. Instead of rewarding work, the 100-hour rule took away health care from two-parent families who increased their hours at work. And instead of rewarding marriage, it punished single mothers who married and gave preference to single over two-parent families.

Second, the revision allows all states the important option of covering low-income parents. While Medicaid coverage of children has expanded, most states have not been able to extend coverage to their parents because of this rule. This change gives all states the flexibility to give the whole family, and not a fraction of it, health coverage. With this flexibility, approximately 135,000 people could gain Medicaid coverage.

WELFARE TO WORK HOUSING VOUCHERS

The President's FY99 budget takes further steps to promote work and welfare reform through a plan to provide 50,000 new housing vouchers to welfare recipients who need housing assistance in order to get or keep a job. Families could use these housing vouchers to move closer to a new job, to reduce a long commute, or to secure more stable housing to eliminate emergencies that keep them from getting to work every day on time. These targeted vouchers will give people on welfare a new tool to make the transition to a job and succeed in the work place.

The $283 million proposal will help address the problem, in many regions, that jobs are being created far from where many welfare recipients live. Currently, about two-thirds of new jobs are being created in the suburbs, but three of four welfare recipients live in rural areas or central cities. The funding for the Administration's Access to Jobs initiative in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) will assist states and localities to develop flexible transportation alternatives for welfare recipients and other low income workers. But in some cases it makes more sense for someone to move closer to work -- and this new proposal will make that move from welfare to work possible.

How It Will Work

These vouchers will provide States and communities with a new flexible tool to help families who need housing assistance in order to achieve self-sufficiency.

The additional vouchers will be available on a competitive basis to local housing agencies, including Indian housing authorities. Applications must be developed in consultation with the state, local, or tribal welfare agency and the local Welfare-to-Work formula funds grantee (typically the Private Industry Council), to ensure that services are coordinated.

The vouchers will be used where they are essential to a successful transition from welfare to work -- that is, where housing assistance is critical for a family to get or keep a job.

Families who receive the vouchers must be eligible for or currently receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or have received TANF within the past year.

The initiative recognizes the direct link between affordable housing and self-sufficiency. Along with the Administration's proposal to increase the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, this initiative will make decent, affordable housing available to more Americans.

Current Status

Congress has recognized the need for housing vouchers to promote welfare reform, but so far has provided insufficient funding for them. The HUD/VA Appropriations bill passed by the House provides $100 million for 17,700 Welfare to Work Housing Vouchers. The bill passed by the Senate provides only $40 million for 7,000 housing vouchers. The HUD/VA Appropriations conference committee is expected to occur after the August recess.

08/04/98

partnership #3

Points for speech:

- Congratulate Partnership on 10,000 companies. They represent 10.5 million employees, and they represent xx% of the workforce. They range from small growing high tech companies like Sam Bishop's to major corporations such as Fleet Bank and Xerox Business Systems who are here with us today. These companies include some of the tremendous growth industries propelled by our dynamic economy and provide exciting opportunities for these new workers to take advantage of the growth in our economy.

- Most people don't think small businesses or high tech when they think about jobs for welfare recipients -- but here we have examples that defy those myths.

- nontraditional industries are hiring welfare recipients and welfare to work is not about dead end jobs but about promotion.

good. obs, too.

Info about Fleet and Xerox:

Fleet Bank
President and COO are scheduled to attend. Fleet has a strong partnership with a Private Industry Council in Rhode Island that has trained and sent Fleet several candidates who have been hired and remain at Fleet. (See attachments.) Several were long-term welfare recipients, one is hispanic. Fleet has promoted within and can show increasing salary histories. They are also sending us success stories from other states. (Josh - I'll email stories separately)

Xerox Business Services
Senior Vice President is available to speak. They have a fabulous story with some great successes. Most important, they show increasing salary ranges. One woman was trained by Xerox and was hired away by a Xerox client to a $29,000 salary. (Josh, I'll email stories separately)

- These companies are finding that by investing up front in their workers by training, mentoring, and benefits everybody wins-- employees dignity and pride of work, companies have productive workers who can be promoted into higher positions within the company.

investing in new workers

caseload ↓

- Caseload Declines: 19 states have now cut their welfare caseload by more than half in the last 6 years and 16 have reduced their caseloads by 20% or more just since welfare reform was enacted in 8/96.

- Caseload Decline and the Economy:we're proud of our booming economy and the jobs it provides. Many are inclined to dismiss the historic caseload declines as simply a lucky result of a strong economy. Analysis by CEA [not released but similar to what will be in ERP] finds: "Based on estimates of the relationship between economic conditions and caseload trends conducted by the CEA, only 20 percent of the decline in the caseload between 1994 and 1998 can be explained by economic conditions. Moreover, only 8 percent of the decline since 1996 can be accounted for by the strong economy." That means something else is at work...We've fundamentally changed the way welfare works, its now about work and responsibility, and states have shifted from handing out checks to helping people find jobs, parents on welfare want to work if they have the tools and opportunities, employers and non-profits, churches and every sector of society is stepping up to the plate.

more than just a good econ.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release May 27, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT TO THE WELFARE TO WORK PARTNERSHIP BOARD

East Room

1:17 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Secretary Herman, Secretary Shalala, Administrator Alvarez, Director LaChance, thank you. Let me begin by thanking all of you for coming. I thank especially three members of the House of Representatives who are here, Congressmen Payne, Gordon, and Davis, who are up here on the front row. I can't thank Eli Segal enough for the wonderful work he has done. He has now given birth to two of the most important initiatives of this administration: first our national service corps project, Americorps, which now has about 100,000 alumni to its credit who have earned money for college by serving in their communities; and now the Welfare to Work Partnership.

I want to thank Jerry Greenwald for being willing to take on the leadership of this operation when no one could have known that it would turn out as well as it has. I thank the members of the board of directors and the other business supporters who are here. I thank the former welfare recipients and others who have supported them who are here.

I want to say a word about Rhonda, but first I want to tell you that Tonya Oden, who is over here sitting to my left, spoke on a program like this at the Cessna corporation in Wichita, Kansas, and she did a great job and all of her folks were cheering for her. And I was listening to Rhonda, thinking, the best part of this program is over. After she finished, I thought, the best part of this program is over.

When you hear someone like Rhonda talk, you look at the people who are here and see these fine children, this is really a case where a picture is worth a million words. We will see a lot more of Rhonda pretty soon because the Welfare to Work Partnership is airing some new national public service announcements with her as the spokesperson. And I want to thank Time Warner for helping us to put them on the air and say that I am quite confident that she will inspire a lot of other people to follow her lead.

The Welfare to Work Partnership was based on the simple premise that now that we have passed the welfare reform law which required all able-bodied people who could work to work, we had a moral obligation as a society to provide a job to all those people who were about to lose their guaranteed benefits for idleness. It began with an understanding that we had to change the welfare system. And the conversation Rhonda related between herself and her daughter says more than I could ever say.

I began working on this problem almost 20 years ago now. And I used to -- when I was a governor, I used to gather up former welfare recipients and put them on panels and make governors listen to people talk about the difference in their lives as parents , as citizens, the difference in their self-image when they were productive members of society. *As gov.*

After I became President, we worked with 43 different states to get them out from under federal rule so they could start programs that would help move more people from welfare to work, and then in 1996 I signed a historic bipartisan welfare reform law that literally ended the old welfare system as we knew it. It said that we would continue to guarantee health care and nutrition to low-income families and children, but that after a certain amount of time, people who could go to work, had to go to work. It also said that we had to provide more in the way of child care and other supports for people who did move from welfare to work. *Early efforts* *What's in welfare reform*

But that left a big gap. How were all these people going to find jobs? Would the existing system do it? That's what led to the creation of the Welfare to Work Partnership a year ago. And again let me say I am profoundly indebted to the businesspeople who are here and those who they represent. *Why the partnership*

* *The # of businesses*

We announced a year ago 100 companies had joined the Partnership. We set a goal of reaching 1,000 companies within a year. We underestimated by a factor of five; there are now more than 5,000 companies in this Partnership. And what Eli and Jerry didn't say that I want to make clear is, they didn't just put their name on the dotted line. All sorts of businesses, large and small and middle size, have together in the last year hired 135,000 welfare recipients who are now employees thanks to what they have done. That's an astonishing record in only a year and I thank them for it.

Let me point out to the skeptics, 70 percent of that 135,000 jobs are full-time jobs with full health benefits. Yes, that's really worth clapping for. *vast maj are full-time jobs*

Now, as Jerry pointed out and as many of the members of the board of directors told me earlier, right before we came over here, this is not just good for America and not just good for these families, it's also turned out to be good for the businesses involved, many of whom find that these new workers stay on the job longer, with less turnover, and later work to motivate their coworkers.

We've tried to do our part -- Aida Alvarez and the Small Business Administration are trying to connect new workers to small businesses to make sure that our most vibrant, growing sector of the society in terms of employees takes on a fair share of people from welfare to work. We've tried to mobilize religious and civic and nonprofit groups under the Vice President's leadership to provide mentoring and support and help people get into and stay in jobs. The federal government has hired 4,800 people from welfare to work in the last year; our goal is 10,000 by the year 2000 and we will make that. Seven work in the Executive Office of the President, and I'm particularly proud of them.

The Balanced Budget Agreement I signed into law last summer provides $3 billion to help our communities move long-term, harder-to-place welfare recipients into jobs.

$3 b in budget

Now, these combined efforts have produced, along with the rising economy, rather stunning results. When I took office, there were more than 14 million people on welfare; about 5.5 percent of the nation's population. It actually peaked in February of '94; it's the highest percentage we'd ever had. Today there are fewer than 9 million people on welfare; 3.3 percent of the population -- the lowest percentage of the population on welfare since 1969.

Now, this is a very hard-won victory for everybody who was a part of it. But the most important part of it are the families.

I think when we look at Rhonda, when we look at Tonya, when we look at Rhonda's kids there, when we look at all of the other people who have moved from welfare to work who are here, we have to ask ourselves, what else do we have to do. Because I can promise you that there still are going to be people who can be moved from welfare to work who aren't there yet.

First, we have to find more private sector jobs. I would like to ask the Welfare to Work Partnership in 1998 to double the number of people they hire and to double the number of companies that are participating. Now, that sounds outrageous, but I just asked for 1,000 companies and you produced 5,000 so mathematically I'm asking for less. I got good grades in math, I know about that.

And, again, I hope that the people who will watch the public service announcements that Rhonda will do will understand this is an enormous opportunity. One of the things that our economists sit around and worry about here in Washington all the time is, they say, well, we've got 4.3 unemployment; we've had average way over 3 percent growth the last couple of years; how can we keep growing this economy without having inflation? The answer is go into the neighborhoods where there are still a lot of poor people who are unemployed and on public assistance and give them a chance to be a part of the American free enterprise system. That's an inflation-- free way to expand the American economy. So we have to do this.

The second thing we have to do is to help more welfare recipients succeed in the work place. The employers today told me that one of the hardest things for people moving from welfare to work is still providing transportation, providing child care, making sure for the smaller businesses that may not be able to afford all the training and education that there's support there. We have to do more.

the challenge

Let me say that the highway bill, which just passed the Congress, I'm proud to say, has a substantial amount of money in it to help defray the transportation costs of people moving from welfare to work.

The tobacco bill, which has not yet passed, but which I hope and pray will pass, has in it or will have in it a provision, if the agreement we've made with the governors prevails, which will lead to a substantial investment in helping to defray the child care costs. The Labor Department has awarded grants to support 49 innovative efforts around the country that provide training and education that help people move from entry-level jobs to higher-paying positions, that help fathers go to work so they can take more responsibility for their children. So we have to do more, and we're going to.

Now, finally, I think we've got an obligation to continue to fix -- we've already made a good start -- but to continue to fix parts of the Welfare Reform Bill that didn't have anything to do with welfare reform. Last year, Congress acted -- and I appreciate it -- to restore important disability and health benefits to legal immigrants, people who come here legally and have a right to work and have, in my view, a right to supports.

Two weeks ago, the Senate voted overwhelmingly to restore food stamps to elderly, disabled, and very young legal immigrants; and I hope the House will follow their lead. That's the right thing to do -- at this moment of prosperity when we're trying to support each other, move more people into the work place, when a lot of immigrants are filling needed work positions and we have low unemployment, we owe it to ourselves to do the right thing here.

Now, again, let me say that the best part of this program was before I ever got up here. And I want you to remember when you walk out of here what Rhonda looked like when she got up here and what her kids looked like when they stood up, being proud of their mother, and how Jerry's happier doing this than he would have been if he'd won that $100 million lottery. He may not know that, but he is. And I want us to go out and double our results by next year.

We've got to prove that we did the right thing in welfare reform for all the American people that are willing to do the right thing by themselves, their children, and our country. And if we ever needed evidence that it is right, we've got it here today in full.

Thank you all and God bless you.

END 1:30 P.M. EDT

Andrea Kane 01/22/99 01:23:09 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Jeffrey A. Shesol/WHO/EOP

cc: Lynn G. Cutler/WHO/EOP, Clyde E. Williams/WHO/EOP, Cynthia A. Rice/OPD/EOP, Karin Kullman/WHO/EOP

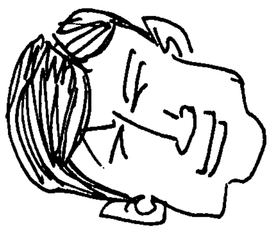
Subject: 1/25 speech

Since we now have Governor Carnehan on the program and not a local elected, it's important to work into the speech something about the critical role that our local elected friends -- cities and counties-- have placed in fighting for welfare to work funds. They are on the front lines and they know how important it is to provide employment, transportation, housing and other supports to families moving from welfare to work. I'm working w/ DOL to identify a city we can specifically mention and will get that soon -- it may well be New Orleans since DOL is ready to release the grant for the state of Louisiana of which a substantial amount [getting exact figure] goes to the N'Orleans.

Here are DOL's releases on both MO and LA FYI. I assume POTUS will want to congratulate the Gov on his grant.

lawtw.wpd Louisiana

mowtw.wpd Missouri



Kathy Mary - Bruce 66515

Laura Emmet - Elena 65565

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION

CONTACT: Peggy Lewis (202) 219-8211 For
Release: Immediate David Stewart (202) 219-6871
January

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND LABOR SECRETARY ALEXIS M. HERMAN ANNOUNCE $22.1 MILLION WELFARE-TO-WORK GRANT FOR LOUISIANA

President Clinton and U.S. Labor Secretary Alexis M. Herman today announced that Louisiana has been awarded its second year Welfare-to-Work (WtW) state formula grant in the amount of $22,112,662 as part of the historic $3 billion, two-year initiative. The state's first-year formula grant was for $23,707,338 in January 1998.

"Since 1996 we have moved millions of Americans from welfare to jobs," said President Clinton said. "But the work we have started isn't finished. This grant will help long-term welfare recipients in Louisiana also make the successful transition from welfare rolls to payrolls."

"Our goal is to make sure that Louisiana's newest workers not only get jobs but keep them," said Secretary Herman. "These funds will enable those with multiple barriers to employment get the support services they need to get on a successful career path. That may mean
assistance with housing, transportation or child care, which can make the difference between success and failure."

Louisiana will use the WtW grant to assist the integrated One-Stop/WtW local management teams to ensure that all available services are provided to the WtW clients in an integrated fashion. The Private Industry Councils (PICs) and local transportation agencies will develop strategies that will meet the transportation needs of their clients.

The state is also encouraging the PICs to include public housing agencies to avoid duplication of efforts and reach out to faith and community based organizations, senior citizen agencies, health providers and other available organizations to assist in providing transportation services. The funds will also be used for services such as job readiness, job retention, as well as post-employment services and other support services, including child care and substance-abuse treatment.

In addition to the funds earmarked by law for local programs, the governor's office will retain these funds at the state level for administrative costs and projects designed to help the long-term Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients successfully transition into unsubsidized employment and an independent evaluation/follow-up on the impact of WtW on the participants.

Forty-eight states and territories were approved for WtW formula grants during the first year of the initiative, which ended September 30, 1998. Two other states received partial allocations, and six others did not apply for funds.

Under the 1997 Budget Reconciliation Act, $2.2 billion is being allocated by formula over two years to states based on their population of poor people and the number of adult recipients of TANF. Another $711.5 million is being awarded on a competitive basis directly by the secretary of labor to local communities for projects that are innovative.

****

FEDERAL FUNDS TO BE PROVIDED TO LOUISIANA: $22,112,62
STATE MATCH: $11,056,331
AGENCY ADMINISTERING THE PROGRAM: Louisiana Department of Labor
P.O. Box 94094
Baton Rouge, La. 70804
STATE CONTACT: Ms. Sujuan M. Williams
Assistant Secretary, Office of
WorkplaceDevelopment
225/ 342-7693

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U.S. Labor Department news releases are accessible on the Internet at: http://www.dol.gov. The information in this news release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. TDD Message Referral Phone: 1-800-326-2577; Voice phone: (202) 219-7316.

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION

CONTACT: Peggy Lewis (202) 219-8211 For
Release: Immediate David Stewart (202) 219-6871
January 1999

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND LABOR SECRETARY ALEXIS M. HERMAN ANNOUNCE $18.4 MILLION WELFARE-TO-WORK GRANT FOR MISSOURI

President Clinton and U.S. Labor Secretary Alexis M. Herman today announced that Missouri has been awarded its second year Welfare-to-Work (WtW) state formula grant in the amount of $18,431,857. It is part of the historic $3 billion, two-year initiative. The state received its first-year formula grant of $19,767,398 in March 1998.

"I am proud to say that my administration has helped move millions of Americans from welfare to jobs," said President Clinton. "But the work we started isn't finished. This grant will help us continue the effort to help long-term welfare recipients in Missouri successfully make the transition from the welfare rolls to a payroll."

"Our goal is to ensure that when Missouri's newest workers get jobs, they can keep them," Herman added. "These funds will enable people with multiple problems that keep them from getting a job to get the support services they need. We have found that assistance with things like housing, transportation and child care can mean the difference between success and failure."

Missouri is exploring innovations in non-traditional case management methods that, if proven effective, will implemented on a wide scale throughout the state. The state is currently implementing a transportation coordination demonstration project. Under this project, WtW service providers will set in motion an array of strategies designed to meet the transportation needs of WtW recipients.

Local coordination also includes outreach with local housing authorities and with housing finance agencies to ensure that employment efforts for WtW clients will not adversely affect reductions in housing costs until they are placed in permanent jobs.

The funds will also be used for services such as recruitment and orientation programs, work readiness information and education, work experience/community service, on-the-job training, job creation, job placement, post employment/job retention, and support services including child care, transportation, housing, substance abuse treatment.

In addition to the funds earmarked by law for local programs, the governor's office will utilize these funds for special projects at the local level designed to help long term Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients successfully transition into unsubsidized employment and for monitoring and tracking activities at the state level.

Other grant programs already in place includes programs in Wellston and Jackson County funded at $4,718,238 and $5 million respectively.

In Wellston a YouthBuild model is in place to help welfare-eligible populations achieve self sufficiency. The program provides academic, vocational, life, and leadership skills training. Participants enter a 9-12 month community service/work experience subsidized employment program, while also receiving construction trade-skills training. At the same time, they earn their high school equivalency degrees and receive classroom academic instruction and life skills counseling. Participants are placed into unsubsidized employment upon graduation.

Jackson County is providing intensive case management and transitional employment support services, which includes: individualized interventions; pre-apprenticeship and other employer sponsored vocational skills training offered in conjunction with work-first activities; personal effectiveness training; close ties to union jobs, and long-term follow-up. The project will target those TANF recipients with disabilities and serious health problems, non-custodial parents, and public housing residents.

Forty-eight states and territories were approved for WtW formula grants during the first year of the initiative, which ended September 30, 1998. Two other states received partial allocations, and six others did not apply for funds.

Under the 1997 Budget Reconciliation Act, $2.2 billion is being allocated by formula over two years to states based on their population of poor people and the number of adult recipients of TANF. Another $711.5 million is being awarded on a competitive basis directly by the secretary of labor to local communities for projects that are innovative.

****

FEDERAL FUNDS TO BE PROVIDED TO Missouri : $18,431,857
STATE MATCH: : $9,215,929
AGENCY ADMINISTERING THE PROGRAM : Department of Economic Development

Division of Job

Development

and Training
2023 St. Marys
Boulevard
Jefferson City,
Mo. 65109

STATE CONTACT : Mr. Michael Pulliam
Director
573/ 526-8229

# # #

1ST STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

U.S. Newswire

November 20, 1998 14:28 Eastern Time

SECTION: NATIONAL DESK

LENGTH: 2283 words

HEADLINE: Gore Announces Over $273 Million in Welfare-to-Work Competitive Grants

CONTACT: Office of the Vice President, 202-456-7035

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, Nov. 20

BODY:
Vice President Gore announced today the awarding of over $273 million for 75 federal Welfare-to-Work Competitive grants to fund innovative local projects helping people move from welfare to work and retain good jobs.

The projects -- run by local governments as well as business, labor, educational, and other groups -- will address the need for jobs, child care, transportation, basic skills, and English proficiency as well as substance abuse and mental health issues that some individuals face as they move from welfare to work. The grants, which come from $3 billion in Welfare-to-Work funds that the President won in the 1997 Balanced Budget Act, will go to communities in 44 states, with 61 percent for urban areas, 15 percent for rural areas, and 24 percent for areas that include both urban and rural communities.

"I congratulate these communities for helping welfare recipients across this country move off welfare into good jobs -- this is civic commitment at its best," Vice President Gore said.

"For our country to continue to prosper," he added, "we must continue to work with our communities to help our long-term welfare recipients break the cycle of dependency and become productive workers, creating a brighter future for themselves and their families," Gore said at a town hall meeting where he was joined by Labor Secretary Alexis Herman, Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala, employers, former welfare recipients, grant recipients, and members of the Vice President's Welfare to Work Coalition to Sustain Success -- a broad-based group of non-profit, faith-based, and civic organizations helping families move from welfare to work through mentoring and other critical support services.

Today's town hall meeting marked the Vice President's sixth event with his Welfare-to-Work Coalition to Sustain Success, which he launched in May 1997 to help those moving from welfare to work succeed on the job. Members include the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, the Baptist Joint Committee, Goodwill, Salvation Army, the United Way, the YMCA, the YWCA, Women's Missionary Union and Women in Community Service.

With the President leading efforts to reform welfare, caseloads have fallen dramatically and are at their lowest level in 29 years. To build on this success, the President and Vice President have led a multi-faceted effort that includes participation by the private, non-profit, and religious communities and the federal government.

The Vice President, for instance, is working with Cabinet secretaries to ensure that the federal government hires at least 10,000 former welfare recipients; the government is 80 percent of the way toward reaching its goal.

Welfare-to-Work Competitive Grants Round Two Awardees -- By State
-- ALABAMA -- Stillman College, Tuscaloosa, AL Dr. Ernest McNealey, 205-366-8808, Proposed Award Amount: $3,723,620

-- ALASKA -- Nine Star Enterprises Inc., Anchorage, AK David Alexander, 907-279-7827, Proposed Award Amount: $1,279,499

-- ARIZONA -- Pima County Community Services, Tucson, AZ Charles Casey, 520-740-5205, Proposed Award Amount: $3,180,776

-- CALIFORNIA -- City of Long Beach Department of Community Development, Long Beach, CA Ray Worden, 562-570-3811, Proposed Award Amount: $5,000,000

Goodwill Industries of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA Margaret O'Brien, 213-223-1211 ext. 105, Proposed Award Amount: $4,098,265

Beyond Shelter, Los Angeles, CA Tanya Tull 213-252-0772, Proposed Award Amount: $1,199,700

African American Unity Center, Los Angeles, CA Curtis Owens, 213-789- 7300, Proposed Award Amount: $1,357,885

Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA Rev. Monsignor Gregory A. Cox, 213-251-3400, Proposed Award Amount: $3,037,423

Jobs for Homeless Consortium, Oakland, CA Michael Daniels, 510-251-6241, Proposed Award Amount: $1,365,336

San Diego Workforce Partnership Inc., San Diego, CA Lawrence G. Fitch, 619-238-1445, Proposed Award Amount: $5,000,000

County of Tulare Private Industry Council Inc., Visalia, CA Kathy Johnson, 209-737-4246, Proposed Award Amount: $3,824,201

-- COLORADO -- United Cerebral Palsy of Colorado, Denver, CO Judy Ham, 303-691-9339, Proposed Award Amount: $1,321,825

City and County of Denver, Denver, CO Sue Boyd, 303-376-6730, Proposed Grant Amount: $3,598,915

-- CONNECTICUT -- Community Action Agency of New Haven Inc., New Haven, CT Marcial Cuevas, 203-387-7700, Proposed Award Amount: $2,923,000

The Access Agency Inc., Willimantic, CT Ingrid Walker, 860-450-7446, Proposed Award Amount: $1,000,750

-- DISTRICT of COLUMBIA -- Washington Alliance, Washington, DC Henry A. Burnett, 202-526-8755, Proposed Award Amount: $5,000,000

-- FLORIDA -- Goodwill Industries of North Florida Inc., Jacksonville, FL Robert Thayer, 904-384-1361, Proposed Award Amount: $5,000,000

Miami-Dade County, Miami, FL Sergio Gonzalez, 305-375-2041, Proposed Award Amount: $4,470,000

Latin Chamber of Commerce of USA, Miami, FL Anselmo Alliegro, 305-374- 8236, Proposed Award Amount: $2,100,000

-- GEORGIA -- DeKalb Economic Opportunity Authority Inc., Decatur, GA Lois J. Burns, 404-292-2166, Proposed Award Amount: $2,224,375

City of Savannah, Savannah, GA Freda Rutherford, 912-651-4280, Proposed Award Amount: $4,067,000

-- HAWAII -- Hawaii County Economic Opportunity Council, Hilo, HI George Yokoyama, 808-961-2681, Proposed Award Amount: $4,200,000

-- ILLINOIS -- Chicago Housing Authority,Chicago, IL Denise Eligan, 312-674-4405 ext. 10, Proposed Award Amount: $5,000,000

Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County, Inc., Chicago, IL Patricia Doherty-Wildner, 312-795-8884, Proposed Award Amount: 5, 000,000

-- INDIANA -- City of Gary, Department of Health & Human Services, Gary, IN Jewell M. Ross-Brown, 219-881-5724, Proposed Award Amount: $5,000,000

-- IOWA -- Labor Institute for Workforce Development, Des Moines, IA Twila M. Glenn, 515-253-2626, Proposed Award Amount: $2,118,235

-- KANSAS -- City of Topeka, Topeka, KS Joan Wagnon, 785-368-3895, Proposed Award Amount: $1,999,917

-- KENTUCKY -- Community Action Council, Lexington, KY Mark B. Hundley, 606-244-2211, Proposed Award Amount: $2,833,736

-- LOUISIANA -- City of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA Thelma H. French, 504-565-6414, Proposed Award Amount: $5,000,000 MAINE Workforce Development Centers, Augusta, ME Stephen R. Duval, 207-287-3378, Proposed Award Amount: $3,212,516

-- MARYLAND -- The Baltimore City Office of Employment Development, Baltimore, MD Linda A. Harris, 410-396-1910, Proposed Award Amount: $3,330, 199

Prince Georges Private Industry Council, Landover, MD Joseph Puhalla, , 301-386-5522, Proposed Award Amount: $4,976,254

-- MASSACHUSETTS -- Boston Technology Venture Center Inc., Boston, MA Mark Ferri, 617-424-3888, Proposed Award Amount: $1,139,388

Action for Boston Community Development Inc., Boston, MA Mark Isenburg, 617-357-6000 x219, Proposed Award Amount: $1,139,388

-- MICHIGAN -- (Detriot will be served by the Marriot International

Multisite Project - see below)

-- MINNESOTA -- City of Minneapolis, Minneapolis, MN Chip Wells, 612-673-2630, Proposed Award Amount: $1,860,000

Rise Incorporated, Spring Lake Park, MN John J. Barrett, 612-783-2812, Proposed Award Amount: $3,099,779

-- MISSISSIPPI -- Hinds County, Jackson, MS Dr. Roy DeBerry, 601-968- 6501, Proposed Award Amount: $3,294,191

-- MISSOURI -- Advent Enterprises Inc., Columbia, MO Russell Doumas, 573-474-8560, Proposed Award Amount: $3,435,301

Full Employment Council Inc., Kansas City, MO Clyde McQueen, 816-471- 2330 ext. 256, Proposed Award Amount: $4,420,558

-- MONTANA -- S & K Holding Company Inc., Polson, MT Joe Durglo, 406-883-4317, Proposed Award Amount: $2,542,700

-- NEVADA -- (Las Vegas will be served by the Marriot International Multisite Project - see below)

-- NEW HAMPSHIRE -- Southwestern Community Services Inc., Keene, NH William A. Marcello, 603-357-6510, Proposed Award Amount: $1,000,000

-- NEW JERSEY -- Mercer County Office of Training & Employment, Trenton, NJ Virgen Velez, 609-989-6824, Proposed Award Amount: $4,219,582

County of Essex, Newark, NJ Stephen Cornman, 973-621-4740 , Proposed Award Amount: $4,900,000

-- NEW MEXICO -- Santa Fe SER-Jobs for Progress Inc., Santa Fe, NM Alex A. Martinez 505-473-0428 Proposed Award Amount: $5,000,000

-- NEW YORK -- New York City Partnership & Chamber of Commerce, New York, NY Sandra K. Mancini, 212-493-7442, Proposed Award Amount: $5,000,000

City of New York Human Resources Administration, New York, NY Jason A. Turner, 212-274-2664, Proposed Award Amount: $2,934,705

Wildcat Service Corporation, New York, NY Jeffrey Jablow, 212-219-9700 x5151, Proposed Award Amount: $2,007,017

Buffalo & Erie Private Industry Council, Buffalo, NY Marie Kaczmarek, 716-885-9840, Proposed Award Amount: $4,917,903

-- NORTH CAROLINA -- UDI Community Development Corporation, Durham, NC R. Edward Stewart, 919-544-4597, Proposed Award Amount: $3,728,134 Bennett College, Greensboro, NC Jean Humphrey, 336-370-8659, Proposed Grant Amount: $5,000,000

-- OKLAHOMA -- Eastern Workforce Development Board Inc., Muskogee, OK Luther R. Sowder, 918-683-8553, Proposed Award Amount: $2,848,115

-- OHIO -- Private Industry Council of Columbus and Franklin County, Inc. , Columbus, OH Frankie L. Coleman, 614-228-3907, Proposed Award Amount: $4, 997,630

Columbus Urban League, Columbus, OH Sandra Cephas, 614-257-6300 ext. 120, Proposed Award Amount: $3,149,984

-- OREGON -- (State will be served by the Johns HopkinsUniversity and The Enterprise Foundation Multisite Projects)

-- PENNSYLVANIA -- District 1199C Training and Upgrading Fund of the National Union of Hospital and Healthcare Employers, Philadelphia, PA James T. Ryan, 215-735-5555, Proposed Award Amount: $4,449,928

-- PUERTO RICO -- Centro de Capacitacion y Asesoramiento, Caguas, PR Elier J. Rodriguez, 787-745-4430, Proposed Award Amount: $5,000,000

-- RHODE ISLAND -- Providence/Cranston Private Industry Council, Providence, RI Richard Andrade, 410-861-0800, Proposed Award Amount: $3,859, 284

-- SOUTH DAKOTA -- Oglala Lakota College, Kyle, SD 57752-0490 Thomas Shortbull 605-455-2321, Proposed Award Amount: $2,293,326

-- TENNESSEE -- Tennessee Urban League Affiliates, Chattanooga, TN Warren E. Logan, 423-756-1762, Proposed Award Amount: $5,000,000

Nashville/Davidson County Private Industry Council, Nashville, TN Bill Tharp, 615-880-2492, Proposed Award Amount: $4,016,694

-- TEXAS -- Dallas County Local Workforce Development Board, Dallas, TX Laurie Bouillion Larrea, 214-290-1000, Proposed Award Amount: $5,000,000

Tarrant County Workforce Development Board, Fort Worth, TX Jann Miles, 817-531-6755, Proposed Award Amount: $3,254,864

County of Webb, Laredo, TX Juan Vargas, 956-718-8602, Proposed Award Amount: $1,000,000

-- UTAH -- Five County Association of Governments, St. George, UT John S. Williams, 435-673-3548, Proposed Award Amount: $3,000,000

-- VERMONT -- Central Vermont Community Action Council, Barre, VT Hal Cohen, 802-479-1053, Proposed Award Amount: $3,120,140

-- VIRGINIA -- Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Arlington, VA Dr. Beverly Howard, 703-549-7115 ext. 215, Proposed Award Amount: $1,090, 000

Richmond Private Industry Council, Richmond, VA Charles G. Tetro, 207-469-6385, Proposed Award Amount: $4,993,775

-- WASHINGTON -- Washington State Labor Council (AFL - CIO), Seattle, WA Raymond E. Mason, 206-281-8901, Proposed Award Amount: $4,619,684

Seattle-King County Private Industry Council, Seattle, WA Alfred L. Starr, 206-448-0474, Proposed Award Amount: $5,000,000

-- WEST VIRGINIA -- Human Resources Development Foundation, Morgantown, WV Homer R. Kincaid, 304-296-8223, Proposed Award Amount: $4,934,876

-- MULTI-STATE PROJECTS -- Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore City, MD Dr. Arnold H. Packer, 410-516-4556, Proposed Award Amount: $4,996,535 Serving: MD, IL, ME, IA, CT, CA, OR, RI, FL, AZ.

The America Works Partnership, Washington, DC Edward J. Gorman III, 202-639-8811, Proposed Award Amount: $7,872,505 Serving: CA, NJ, FL, AK, & IN.

The Enterprise Foundation, Columbia, MD Patrick Jackson, 410-772-2751, Proposed Award Amount: $8,000,000 Serving: MD, CO, TX, MO, DC, and OR.

International Association of Jewish Vocational Services, Philadelphia, PA Arlene D. Cohen, 215-854-0235, Proposed Award Amount: $4,204,777 Serving: MN, NJ, PA & two sites in MA.

Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, San Antonio, TX Antonio Flores, 210-692-3805, Proposed Award Amount: $4,321,269 Serving: AZ, CA, TX.

Marriott International Community Employment & Training Programs, Washington, DC Fred Kramer, 301-380-8583, Proposed Award Amount: $3,536,250 Serving: Multisite in serving 20 cities in CA, CO, FL, GA, IL, KY, LA, MD, MI, MO, NV, NC, OH, PA, TX, and VA.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: November 20, 1998

25TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

January 3, 1999, Sunday, Orange County Edition

SECTION: Metro; Part B; Page 1; Metro Desk

LENGTH: 622 words

HEADLINE: WELFARE TO WORK: A JOB THAT WON'T GET EASIER;
SERVICES: COUNTY RELIEF ROLLS ARE SMALLER, BUT A SLOWER ECONOMY IN '99 COULD MAKE PLACING RECIPIENTS TOUGHER. AND A JOB ISN'T ALWAYS ENOUGH.

BYLINE: ESTHER SCHRADER, TIMES STAFF WRITER

BODY:

A year into welfare reform, Orange County has made significant gains in moving recipients off public assistance and into jobs, according to the latest figures released by the Social Services Agency.

Officials attributed the success in large part to the county's booming economy, which has supplied plenty of jobs for welfare recipients to take. But it remains unclear how the groundbreaking welfare-to-work program will fare this year when the local economy is expected to slow down.

Moreover, some experts are urging caution in analyzing the results for 1998. While the decreasing numbers of people on welfare rolls inspire optimism among advocates of reform, organizations who aid the poor warn that full-time employment is not always enough to lift people out of poverty.

From October 1997 to October 1998, the number of families on welfare in the county declined 20%, from 30,985 to 24,638, said Angelo Doti, director of family self sufficiency at the Social Services Agency. Of that total, about 16,000 were enrolled in the county's welfare-to-work program. More than a third of those work more than 32 hours each week, Doti said.

New applications for welfare benefits are also down. In October 1997, 2,289 people applied for welfare assistance at the county's four offices. In October 1998, there were 2,079 new applicants, Doti said.

People are taking advantage of the welfare-to-work program in myriad ways, enrolling in English as a second language classes, other adult education programs at local community colleges and private industry training programs, Doti said.

"The concept is get a job, get a better job, get a career and successfully exit welfare," Doti said. "We have seen our recipients for the most part really embrace this program."

But among some advocates for the poor, optimism about reform is tempered by concern.

Jean Forbath, founder and former executive director of Share Our Selves, a 29-year-old, nonprofit social services agency in Costa Mesa, lauded the welfare-to-work program for "giving people the support they need to find and maintain jobs."

But Forbath said it is still too early to tell how successful the new law will be. Of particular concern, she said, is the fate of people who are illiterate or barely literate, and of those, often with families, unable to secure jobs for more than the minimum wage.

"At SOS I know that we are still terribly busy. If the welfare rolls have been cut back, our caseload has not been cut back at all," Forbath said. "If people are going back to work there are still an awful lot of people who need help because the work that they have is not taking care of their basic needs."

Another concern to social services officials: how welfare reform will fare this year, when the Asian currency crisis is expected to slow down the local economy.

According to a Chapman University study, the slowdown will translate to lackluster job growth of 1.9% next year, or 25,000 new jobs, down from 1998's projected 3.8%--or 45,000--rise in employment.

Orange County's progress so far mirrors gains around the state and across the country. Every county in California, including those with double-digit unemployment, showed steady decreases in welfare rolls this year, state officials said. Ones with booming economies, such as Santa Clara and San Mateo, reported drops of nearly 25%.

Nationwide, 28% of adults on welfare rolls are now participating in some type of work, according to data released last week from the federal Department of Health and Human Services.

The data is the first released from the federal government since the 1996 welfare reform law went into effect. The law gave states broad authority to run welfare.

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: January 3, 1999

11TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Congressional Press Releases

December 2, 1998, Wednesday

SECTION: PRESS RELEASE

LENGTH: 689 words

Commentary

HEADLINE: PROGRESS IN THE WELFARE-TO-WORK EFFORT

BYLINE: STEPHEN HORN , REPRESENTATIVE , HOUSE

BODY:
CONTACT: Matthew Phillips (202) 225-6676 RELEASE: December 2, 1998 629 words WEEKLY COMMENTARY PROGRESS IN THE WELFARE-TO-WORK EFFORT Although the holiday season is a joyful time for most people, it can be a heart-wrenching time for those who cannot afford to provide a Thanksgiving feast for their family or give their children the presents they want. From Salvation Army bell ringers and holiday meals at soup kitchens, to homeless shelters that are overflowing because of colder weather, the holidays remind us of the hardships that many face. These reminders may fade somewhat with the end of the holiday season, but the cycle of poverty does not. It is more important than ever to continue the momentum of our welfare-to-work effort. And we must emphasize the "work"part of the equation. Removing individuals from welfare rolls does them no good if they have not found jobs. That is the idea behind a new $ 5 million federal grant for Long Beach's Welfare-to-Work Transitional Assistance Program. This innovative program will provide post-employment services to welfare recipients and match them with child-care providers and other services. The Long Beach Department of Community Development will operate the program, which is expected to begin shortly after the new year. The Private Industry Council of Long Beach will oversee the implementation of the program and monitor performance standards. This project recognizes that welfare reform can only succeed with the support of the entire community. The Transitional Assistance Program was developed by the Long Beach Workforce Development Network, which brings 35 local entities together in this effort from several different segments of the community. The goal of the program is to move families in the Housing Authority's Family Self-Sufficiency Program from welfare into work in order to become gainfully employed and hence self-sufficient. Heads of households can build their skills, rather than receiving job training first and finding employment later. It also emphasizes serving the whole family, including noncustodial parents. Noncustodial parents are an important part of the welfare reform process because they are sometimes responsible for child support. The program's escrow account incentive encourages participants to save money while working. Hopefully, the Long Beach program and others like it will build on the historic success of welfare reform. A few months ago, the President's First Annual Report to Congress on the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program showed a dramatic increase in the number of welfare recipients who have gone to work since the enactment of welfare reform in 1996. The President challenged the nation in his State of the Union address last year to move two million more Americans off of the welfare rolls by the year 2000. That goal was reached two years ahead of schedule. The welfare reform law of 1996 includes strong work requirements and time limits. It rewards states for moving welfare recipients into Jobs,

improves child support enforcement, and increases funding for child care. Through enactment of other measures during the past two years, Congress ensured that the federal government did not rest on its laurels in welfare reform. The Work-force Investment Act expands the flexibility that states and local communities have in establishing efficient "one-stop shops" for employment and training services. This year's housing reform law encourages public housing residents to find work and makes public housing sites safer. And the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century improves mass transit services, helping to remove a significant roadblock that many welfare recipients have faced in finding jobs to which they can commute. Let us hope that these and other initiatives help continue the success of welfare reform - one of the most important social policy changes of the 20th Century. In this holiday season, Congress and the President should make a New Year's resolution to work- together to make even more progress in 1999 and bring economic self-sufficiency to more people on welfare.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: December 4, 1998

13TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

The Tennessean

November 11, 1998, Wednesday CITY EDITION

SECTION: LOCAL, Pg. 1B

LENGTH: 640 words

HEADLINE: WELFARE WORKING ON HARD CASES

BYLINE: BONNA M. de la CRUZ Staff Writer

BODY:

As the state's welfare reform program matures, there's been a shift to more flexibility for the hardest to help and a focus on teaching welfare participants how to keep a job rather than simply get one.

The welfare system also is doing a better job through a new post-employment program that follows a participant for a full year after she's found a job and is off welfare, said Judy Smith, director of family assistance at the Davidson County Department of Human Services. Welfare recipients also will be getting more exposure to the workplace with field trips to companies and offices that might hire them, Smith said.

"There's not so much an emphasis on finding that one job; the emphasis is on continuous employment," said Lisa Pote, program manager for Welfare to Work at the Nashville Career Advancement Center.

There were 57,288 cases on the Families First welfare program at the end of October. A smaller number are getting supplemental help through Welfare to Work, a federally funded program for the most dire welfare cases.

Families First was a central theme in Gov. Don Sundquist's re-election campaign, in which he noted its success with a 60% drop in the rolls. Sundquist implemented Families First in 1996, the same year the country overhauled its welfare laws by placing time limits and responsibilities on welfare beneficiaries.

Davidson County will spend $ 2.6 million in the next two years to help 600 people in the most difficult straits get jobs through Welfare to Work. Those who qualify must have a combination of hardships, such as no high school diploma, a drug or alcohol abuse problem, or be close to reaching their time limit or have already been dropped from the rolls.

Those who are victims of domestic abuse or with mental health conditions and those in remote areas where jobs and transportation are limited or those in inner-city, high-poverty areas also can get Welfare to Work help.

"This gives me something to get up early for," said Barbara Grant, 34, who was at a Welfare to Work employment seminar Friday.

She'll learn this week if she passed her high school equivalency exam, a must for her to pursue career goals. She wants to be a probation officer, a social worker or counselor.

"I've never worked in an office building or nothing like that," said classmate Marilyn Lake, 36. Her past work history included housekeeping and baby-sitting.

The workshop, designed to help the women get holiday jobs, included making a good first impression, dressing for success, and how to change jobs and write resignation letters.

Although some of those topics are covered in Families First programs, women in Welfare to Work get the added benefit of intense one-on-one case management that is unavailable in Families First.

Instead of sitting in a classroom talking about how to get a job, they get to sit with a job coach who will go through job listings with them, Pote said.

When Pote's staff realized many of the welfare mothers were missing telephone calls from prospective employers because they were out job hunting, the staff decided to lend out voice mail boxes.

They get help solving everyday problems from child care to family fights that would otherwise distract them from getting and keeping jobs, said Vivian Mathis, a Welfare to Work case manager.

Every person on welfare is required to be in 40 hours of activity weekly under rigid standards in Families First. Welfare to Work can be more flexible.

One welfare mother who spent time organizing her son's football team is able to count 20 hours of that volunteer time as work activity a novel concept in welfare circles.

"She's working," Pote said. "That takes organization and communication skills and having to hold to commitments and be on time. Those are soft skills that employers say are lacking."

GRAPHIC: PHOTO: Karen DeBerry talks to welfare recipients about job interviews during a Welfare to Work session at Nashville Career Advancement Center. PHOTO BY FREEMAN RAMSEY / STAFF

LOAD-DATE: November 16, 1998

The Washington Times

Anti - commentary

November 17, 1998, Tuesday, Final Edition

SECTION: Part A; COMMENTARY; OP-ED; Pg. A19

LENGTH: 816 words

HEADLINE: Welfare to work myths

BYLINE: James F. Dausch

BODY:

As more than 400 local companies converge on the MCI Center this week for a conference on welfare to work, it is worth noting how far we have come since the signing of the federal welfare reform bill in 1996. Those with long memories might recall some of the doomsday predictions that followed the signing of the legislation.

This act will leave a moral blot on our nation that will never be forgotten, according to a national children's advocate. A welfare activist in New York was even more apocalyptic. We'll have tent camps. We will have a boom in homelessness so extreme that nobody in modern times could have imagined it.

Just two years later, this kind of overblown rhetoric seems almost disconnected from reality. After all, the welfare rolls are down across the country, while the indicators of poverty are down as well.

Much of that success is due to the strong economy, of course, and we cannot count on robust economic growth forever. However, a year and half after five businesses -United Airlines, UPS, Burger King, Sprint and Monsanto - joined together to form the "Welfare to Work Partnership," more than 6,800 companies have made the commitment to hire and retain former welfare recipients.

The private-sector welfare to work movement is not about charity or philanthropy. At a time when the labor supply is dwindling in many industries, businesses need reliable entry-level workers, and they are finding that former welfare recipients can help fill their hiring needs.

I know first hand. Mills Corporation is a developer of large shopping malls, including Potomac Mills in Woodbridge. We are opening new malls all over the country, and even with local advertising and job fairs, we invariably have difficulty filling entry-level jobs. That is why we have started a new welfare to work program to train former welfare recipients for jobs at these malls.

This is a bottom-line issue. Many companies, including industry leaders like Chase Manhattan Bank, CVS/Pharmacy, Marriott, TJ Maxx and Salomon Smith Barney have found that retention rates for former welfare recipients are actually higher than retention rates for more traditional entry-level employees. That means a more stable workforce and better customer service.

In a short time, we have learned a great deal. We know enough, in fact, that we can put to rest many of the myths that were raised at the time of the signing of the bill.

Myth one: There will be a race to the bottom. Many experts predicted that states, freed from federal regulations, would trip over each other in a mad rush to cut welfare benefits. In fact, a study by the National Governors Association shows precisely the opposite. States actually have more money to spend per recipient, because state block grants remain basically the same even as the rolls fall. More than 35 states budgeted at least 30 percent more per welfare family in 1998 as a result of welfare reform. This is just the right approach, since many of those who remain on the rolls the longest will need the most help to get off.

Myth two: Welfare to work will mean low-wage jobs without benefits. A study by Wirthlin Worldwide shows that welfare recipients receive basically the same salary and benefits as other entry-level hires. More than 76 percent of companies hiring welfare recipients hire them for full-time positions, and more than 71 percent also provided full health care benefits. On average, welfare recipients hired for hourly wage positions are paid $7.20/hour (more than 40 percent higher than the federal minimum wage). Those hired for salaried positions are paid nearly $17,000 per year on average.

Myth three: Welfare jobs are dead-end jobs. Of all the misguided critiques of welfare to work, this is the most paternalistic. It is also dead wrong. Wirthlin Worldwide found that 79 percent of companies hire welfare recipients for promotion track positions, and 87 percent offer training that can lead to a promotion. What's more, one-third have already promoted welfare recipients. This may be a surprise to some old-school elitists who believe that welfare recipients are only capable of menial work, but it is the reality of the modern-day job market. Welfare recipients are learning skills and gaining experience, and they are moving up the ladder of work.

When we look at the big picture, it is easy to understand why we see no tent camps cluttering our inner-cities. Welfare to work is a success because it makes sense. No CEO need choose between doing what is right and what is smart. Every day businesses find out that welfare recipients are ready and able to work - and that welfare to work improves the bottom line.

Now there's a prediction we did not hear in 1996.

James F. Dausch is executive director of the Mills Corporation and a board member of the Welfare to Work Partnership.

GRAPHIC: Illustration, NO CAPTION

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: November 17, 1998

18TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Anchorage Daily News

November 25, 1998, Wednesday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: BUSINESS, Pg. 1F

LENGTH: 581 words

HEADLINE: WELFARE-WORK GRANT AIDS 270

BYLINE: Mike Hinman; Daily News Reporter

BODY:

An Anchorage company was awarded a $ 1.3 million grant last week to help welfare-to-work recipients wean themselves from the public dole.

People enrolled in a welfare-to-work program often get lower-paying entry-level jobs, but still get some public assistance. The grant will help about 270 people on temporary public assistance move up the career ladder toward self-sufficiency, said Ruth Schoenleben, vice president for Nine Star Enterprises, which received the federal grant.

Welfare-to-work is part of a 2-year-old national welfare-reform effort to help people get off welfare and into the working environment through life, job and work skills training. Reform measures include not financially penalizing people for working while receiving public assistance and a five-year cap on lifetime welfare benefits.

Nine Star is just one of many Alaska companies that provide services to help people work toward self-sufficiency. The new program will be set up in the Muldoon Mall as part of one-stop shopping for services for people on public assistance, from job search to housing, according to Schoenleben.

Nine Star runs a four-week work-search program. That program provides a week of skills workshops, including tips on interviewing, resume writing and finding ''hidden'' job markets -- other places to look besides the newspaper want ads, Schoenleben said.

The other three weeks are spent helping people organize their work search and coaching them about their interviewing and job-search skills.

The grant, part of a larger package of grants from the U.S. Department of Labor, will allow Nine Star to do follow-up work with people who already have been placed into jobs, Schoenleben said.

''Most of them will already have jobs, but they are 'underemployed,''' Schoenleben said. Underemployment means they still need some form of public assistance, she said.

Case management looks at a person's life to see what barriers may be preventing them from keeping or finding better work.

''A lot of the public believes that people on public assistance want to be on public assistance,'' Schoenleben said.

No one she has worked with wants to be on welfare, she said, but they are there because of divorce, loss of a job or abuse.

The Alaska grant is part of a $ 273 million package to fund 75 projects in 44 states. Nine Star will use the grant money to target people who have few job skills, poor basic education or English-speaking abilities, or trouble with transportation or day care, Schoenleben said.

All of the pieces are in place for the new program, she said; the company just needs more bodies to run it. The company will hire about five people for the 17-month program, which should receive the grant money by the end of the year, Schoenleben said.

Alaska's welfare reform started in July 1997. Reform measures have reduced the agency's temporary assistance caseload by 15 percent to the lowest levels since 1991 and saved the state $ 24 million, according to a report from the Division of Public Assistance.

There were 9,312 families on state temporary assistance at the end of September, about 40 percent of them in the Anchorage area, according to the state.

q Reporter Mike Hinman can be reached at mhinman@adn.com.

CUTLINE

Ruth Schoenleben, vice president of Nine Star Enterprises, says a federal grant will allow her company to help people on temporary public assistance move up the career ladder toward self-suffiency.

GRAPHIC: Photo By Jim Lavrakas; Daily News Photographer

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: November 26, 1998

22ND STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

The Buffalo News

December 29, 1998, Tuesday, S-TIER EDITION

SECTION: LOCAL, Pg. 5B

LENGTH: 177 words

HEADLINE: WELFARE-TO-WORK EFFORT IS CALLED SUCCESS AS CASELOAD DROPS; 50%

BYLINE: SHEILA McCARTHY; News Chautauqua Correspondent

DATELINE: MAYVILLE

BODY:

Welfare-to-work programs are working in Chautauqua County, according to Social Services Commissioner Edwin Miner.

Miner said Monday that the county has seen its welfare caseload drop by more than 50 percent in the last four years, from more than 5,000 cases to about 2,200 cases.

The key, Miner said, has been welfare-to-work. "In some areas, for example in home relief for single individuals, we are down by 75 percent over that four-year period. Our economy helps because of low-wage jobs, and we have done a pretty good job of moving people from welfare to work," he said.

But Miner also said there is a downside to the change.

"We are very concerned about the stresses that two minimum-wage jobs can have on working families, particularly the stress for child care, and the stress of being able to continue to scrape by when those jobs are not necessarily permanent jobs," he added.

Miner said the county has cut its welfare rolls more dramatically than the state, where Gov. Pataki's figure is 36 percent for the same four-year period.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: December 31, 1998

30TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

November 3, 1998, Tuesday, AM cycle

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 406 words

HEADLINE: Philadelphia's welfare-to-work may not be working

DATELINE: PHILADELPHIA

BODY:

The Greater Philadelphia Works program, which is supposed to move women from welfare to pay rolls, has gotten off to a slow start.

Six weeks after the $ 44.3 billion job-placement program debuted, it has only enrolled 229 of the 25,000 welfare recipients most in danger of losing their benefits this March.

"Most people are not going to engage until January, or later. Why would they?" said Donna Cooper, the deputy mayor heading the city's welfare-to-work initiative. "I have no qualms with where we are now. If the system isn't operating at optimal levels by mid-November or December, then we have a problem."

Of the seven neighborhood service centers that are supposed to be running the program, six don't have permanent locations. The seventh hasn't opened.

While the program is already being advertised on television and radio, a direct-mail campaign is awaiting approval from the Department of Public Welfare.

Cooper blamed the slow start on skepticism among welfare recipients, who have been hearing politicians threaten cutoffs for years.

Another snag is getting caseworkers to spread the word about the program.

Fred Bostwick, director of community services for the 19 Philadelphia County Assistance Offices, said their 1,250 caseworkers were promoting the 24 job-placement and training programs when the Greater Philadelphia Works program started.

"Our staff wasn't prepared completely," Bostwick said. "There's been some confusion."

Pennsylvania set a two-year continuous and five-year lifetime limit on welfare March 3, 1997.

This March, 44,800 adults across the state, most of them women, could lose their benefits if they're not working at least 20 hours a week. Nearly 60 percent of those people live in Philadelphia.

If a similar initiative in New Jersey is any indication, it could take six months before the program really gets off the ground.

WorkFirst New Jersey started in April 1997 with a required meeting about the mandatory three-week job search. Few of the 77,000 heads of households from welfare families attended the meeting.

"We had a very high no-show rate," said Jacqueline Tencza, a spokesman for New Jersey's Department of Health Services.

New Jersey's program cut welfare benefits with each missed appointment. After three strikes, recipients were kicked off welfare permanently.

"Once word got out on the streets that we were serious, people started coming," Ms. Tencza said.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: November 3, 1998

39TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Star Tribune (Minneapolis, MN)

December 27, 1998, Metro Edition

SECTION: Welfare to work; Pg. 16A

LENGTH: 1519 words

HEADLINE: BEYOND WELFARE: A year later // Traveling a bumpy road, mom wonders ... Where now?

BYLINE: Jean Hopfensperger; Staff Writer

BODY:

Like last Christmas season, Nina Collaso's home was dark - even during the day. The shades were drawn, lamps were dim - reflecting the young mother's spirits.

The holidays, it seems, remind Collaso more of losing than of giving. This year her spirits are particularly low. She lost her job. She's facing a stack of unpaid bills. And she just received a letter from Hennepin County saying it may cut her welfare benefits.

"I'm so confused I don't know which way to turn," the 22-year-old said shortly before Christmas. "The bills are piling up, and I don't have a dime to buy my kids Christmas presents.

"If I go to work now, I can get me and the kids some things. If I go to school, it's better for my future. I don't know what to do."

Collaso, it seems, has fallen through the cracks of Minnesota's new welfare system. The helping hand that was extended to her in May when she enrolled in the system seems to have disappeared. But, then, Collaso didn't reach back for it, either.

The Minneapolis mother is much like the thousands of other parents trying to sort through their personal crises while staying the course on their welfare-to-work plans. By law they have to follow those plans, drawn up by their job counselors earlier this year, or face significant cuts in their welfare benefits.

Collaso is supposed to be completing her high school education and either working or looking for work. About 33,000 Minnesota parents - the vast majority of the about 49,000 families on public assistance - are supposed to be doing much the same. They are either looking for work or combining their job search with education.

A surprisingly large number of the parents aren't finding or keeping jobs because they have multiple barriers to employment, job counselors say. In Collaso's case, that means no high school diploma, four kids under age 6 and an unreliable car.

The young mother seems frozen, unable to aggressively pound on doors for work, unable or unwilling to call her job counselor to ask for help. Her limited energies are directed at landing a job at a meat-packing plant near her house in hopes of scrounging up some money to buy presents for her children.

"I'm reading a book called 'Mama' about a woman with five kids," Collaso said last week. "She had a nervous breakdown. Sometimes I feel like I'm going to have one, too."

A good beginning

Last summer, it looked as if the clouds finally had parted over Collaso, a single mother from Chicago who moved here a few years ago to be with her parents and other relatives. She had grown up fast, bearing her first child when she was 16 and getting pregnant each year for the next three years. She said she loved the children's father, but the father never made any commitments. He lives in Madison, Wis., and occasionally visits.

The stress and isolation of raising the children alone began to melt this spring. That's when she enrolled in the new welfare system and met with a job counselor. The counselor told her she could have free child care and other help if she would work toward two goals - getting her high school diploma and looking for a job.

About the same time, a friend moved into her Uptown apartment. Collaso, at last, could venture outside occasionally without four preschoolers in tow.

This new freedom and focus were apparent this summer, as an increasingly confident Collaso walked to school at night to bone up on her math and reading. And when she found a job in October, it looked as if all her goals were in place.

Five nights a week, she would hop a bus or catch a ride to an upscale office building in Bloomington. Wearing a T-shirt and jeans, she'd punch a time clock in the basement of the 10-story building, grab a ring of keys, and take the elevator to the ninth floor closet where her cleaning cart was stored.

Riding the elevator, gentle "beeps" announcing the passing of each floor, Collaso explained, "I clean toilets on all these floors.,"

For the next five hours, Collaso swished brushes into about 110 toilets, scrubbed 22 bathroom floors and mirrors, polished faucets and tidied up unpleasantries she found along the way.

Collaso was a good worker, said the building's cleaning supervisor. She could be promoted to foreperson, which meant supervising about 10 cleaning people, he said. From there, they could talk about more career goals. He said the the job could be "a wonderful stepping stone" for Collaso.

That was Oct. 30. About a week later, the stepping stone disappeared. Collaso's son suffered an asthma attack and was hospitalized. She wanted to be at his bedside, so she decided to quit.

"I didn't quit the same day it happened," said Collaso. "I finished that day so they wouldn't have a hard time finding someone to do the bathrooms.

"But I don't understand why they wouldn't let me take a day off," she said. "They [hospital staff] want a parent with the child in the hospital. And his dad isn't here. Besides, he's only 4. I just wanted to be there with him."

Collaso felt disappointed and frustrated. She had dropped her high school studies after taking the job. Now she had neither.

"I don't have a problem getting jobs; it's keeping jobs that's the problem," she said. "I get sick. The kids get sick. I have a WIC [Women, Infant, Children program] appointment.

"All my jobs I end up getting fired or quit, mainly because I'm sick or the kids are. And if one gets sick, they're all sick."

Challenge of work

Sick kids are among the chief reasons that parents are fired, said Monica Williams, Collaso's job counselor at Hennepin County employment services.

"I ask them when they start a job, 'If your child gets sick, where will you take them? Is there a back-up? Is there a back-up of the back-up?,' Williams said.

"But when the time comes that the child has to go to the hospital, the parents don't want a back-up. They want to be there.

"That's been a real problem with new employees, wanting time off right away."

Collaso landed hard from that experience. However, she never called Williams for help. Nor did Williams call her. The last time Williams contacted Collaso was in September, in a letter telling her to come to the office. (Letters, she said, are more reliable than phone calls.)

This lack of communication, or meaningful communication, isn't rare. Most parents on welfare aren't comfortable revealing their personal problems to county workers. And job counselors, juggling about 150 clients each, don't have the time to develop the kind of rapport needed to learn when their clients are in crisis, officials say.

So even though the county has lots of services that could help parents like Collaso, such as mentors, job coaches and staff who could act as an intermediary with an employer, Collaso doesn't know about them. She was told about some of the services briefly during her first meeting with a counselor. That's a distant memory for her now. And no one has reminded her since.

Now what?

Collaso was sitting in her small bedroom, squeezing a curling iron to make neat rows of curls in her hair - as if to create order in some corner of her life.

"I got this today," she said, handing over a letter from the county saying it would cut her welfare benefits if she didn't meet with her job counselor. "They shouldn't do that over the holidays."

Then Collaso started reminiscing about her mother, who died when Collaso was 11. While her stepmother and dad have been good to her, she says she can't help thinking of her mother. Collaso pulled a box from her closet. At the top was a tattered funeral program for "Elizabeth Johnson Collaso, 1943-1987." "I look at it a lot," she said.

Collaso also looked at the books tucked in her dresser - study guides for her high school diploma. "Sometimes I pull them out just to see if I can still do the work," she said. "I can."

And so, as the year ends, Collaso remains in limbo. Should she push to land the meatpacking job, which would mean weekly paychecks to pay her bills? Or should she go back to school? For Collaso, it seems to be an either/or decision. She seems unable to juggle both.

"Like I said last December, they [welfare officials] always say they have these good programs. But they're never what they seem."

She paused.

"Maybe they're doing all they can. It's just not working for me."

For Nina Collaso, there has been plodding progress

Feb.

- Starts job, then quits after disagreement with boss.

March

- Attends orientation session on new welfare system.

April

- Moves to bigger apartment in safer neighborhood.

May

- Meets job counselor.

- Begins search for child care, job.

June

- Finds child-care provider.

- Starts classes to finish her high school diploma.

Oct.

- Starts job cleaning bathrooms in large office building.

- Stops taking classes.

Nov.

- Loses job after son is hospitalized for asthma attack; she wants to be with him.

Dec.

- Looks for another job.

- Considers returning to classes.

GRAPHIC: Photograph; Photograph; Photograph; Cartoon; Cartoon

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: December 29, 1998

42ND STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

PR Newswire

December 21, 1998, Monday

SECTION: State and Regional News

DISTRIBUTION: TO CITY AND TRANSPORTATION EDITORS

LENGTH: 521 words

HEADLINE: SEPTA Helps Put the 'To' in City's Welfare-To-Work Effort; Route Improvements and Transit Pass Incentives Support Access to Jobs

DATELINE: PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 21

BODY:

In a new strategic partnership to help Philadelphians access jobs, SEPTA General Manager John K. Leary Jr. and Private Industry Council (PIC) of Philadelphia President and CEO Ernest E. Jones have announced transit pass distribution initiatives and service enhancements to growing employment centers at the Philadelphia International Airport, the Columbus Boulevard corridor and the King of Prussia Route 202 corridor.

SEPTA is now offering frequent, faster and targeted service to the Philadelphia International Airport, better connecting people with jobs at UPS, PNC, the Airport Interplex and Bartram Avenue hotels. Bus routes 37 and 68 now provide more direct service and a one-transfer ride to Airport-area employers from the SEPTA Broad Street line.

Easing transportation to growing businesses on Columbus Boulevard, including Wal-Mart and Home Depot, service improvements have also been made to the Routes 7 and 25 bus lines.

Bus service from Philadelphia to the King of Prussia area was boosted by twenty-five (25) percent to employers at the King of Prussia Court and Plaza, Industrial Park and Sheraton, all areas of major job growth.

"These service enhancements help us to the put the "to" in welfare-to-work by extending access to many of the region's major job growth areas," says Jones whose organization manages the City's welfare-to-work program, Greater Philadelphia Works. "Transportation is a major barrier for job seekers moving from welfare to work. Our partnership with SEPTA is critical to ensuring the success of our work."

Route improvements are only a small part of SEPTA's commitment to its riders. In a related effort, SEPTA and the Philadelphia County Assistance Office are co-managing a bulk purchase and distribution transit pass program through the local district offices designed to get much needed transportation passes into the hands of welfare recipients seeking employment. "This component of our commitment to our riders enables as many as 12,000 daily trips on our system, easing job search for thousands of Philadelphians," says John K. Leary Jr. of SEPTA.

In addition to supporting job search efforts, SEPTA and PIC have a new initiative to put "opportunity passes" in the hands of 7,500 newly employed individuals over two years. Transit passes, valued at more than $900,000, will be available to Greater Philadelphia Works' participants as they take their first step into employment. These passes will help to ensure a smooth transition into employment by providing two-weeks of transportation to new employees, helping remove one of the most serious barriers to employment faced by low-income workers.

As part of its Five Year Plan for Strategic Change, SEPTA is committed to attracting and keeping businesses in the region with quick, affordable and convenient services that benefit employers and their employees. For more information on SEPTA service please call 215-580-7800.

For more information on Greater Philadelphia Works please contact 215-567-JOBS.

SOURCE Private Industry Council of Philadelphia

CONTACT: Kristen Rantanen of Private Industry Council (PIC) of Philadelphia, 215-963-2110, or Stephan M. Rosenfeld of SEPTA, 215-580-7842

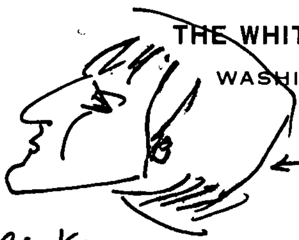
LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: December 22, 1998

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Cynthia
Rice
1/21/98



asst's:
Andrea Kane
Eric Gould

Josh — history/backgrd (Rice will send)

What's new (post-SOTU)

★ 1) $1b reauth. [see Post 1/19]
(w/ new focus on dads)
- SOTU sp.: didn't mention either
- so details aren't out there
- why we need the $

2) Housing vouchers
+29,000
- totally new

3) Transpo
$150 m
- totally new

4) will extend WTW tx cred. [totally new]
extend for 1 yr.
not big part of sp.

→ package

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

4) Also, state by state caseload #s
1st time below 8m in 30 yrs.
— key stat.

POTUS started before welf ref (8/96)
- waivers to 43 states for ref.
→ so, since 1993 ...
and 1996

- most impressive states

→ that employ 1/10 of Am.

5) now, 10,000 business in WTW ~~Partnerships~~
2 yrs. ago - called on them
[see SOTU]
huge network - hired 100s of 1000s ...
last may - 5000 → challenged to double
(will probably have CEO speak)

Overall - thematic
ach. far more than ever expected
people left on rolls are ones who face greatest challenges
- these progs are targeted at long-term recip. in high-pov, high-UE areas

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Fathers

- 20% of $
- ensure that they have reg. jobs, pay support
- it takes two
- young men in cities who want to do more — must help them