

Sample Talking Points: Extending the TANF Emergency Contingency Fund

General/National Talking Points

- The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Emergency Contingency Fund (ECF) dollars help our state provide short-term assistance (such as four months of rental assistance), help create subsidized jobs, and help meet the increased costs of families requiring cash assistance. Unfortunately, the funds expire on September 30, but the needs of families won't abate by then.
- TANF ECF funds help prevent and end family homelessness in our state.
 - They can be used to make Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) go further, both by providing rent assistance and by meeting expenses that HPRP cannot cover, like furniture assistance.
 - They help provide employment for families in our state. ECF dollars can be used to fund part or all of a paycheck, which allows parents with limited job skills to receive on-the-job training while bringing home an income. **An estimated 200,000 jobs have been created nationally through the ECF.** This allows businesses in our state to expand and hire additional staff at a time when they might not otherwise be able to do so.
 - They can help to increase family incomes in our state through cash assistance that they can put toward their housing needs.
- Many states have already used up all/most of their ECF funds, but families' needs persist. With additional resources, our state will be able to serve more families and create more jobs, helping to prevent and end homelessness for families across the state.

Local Talking Points

Note: See "Approved TANF Emergency Fund Applications by Category" for state-by-state information.

- Utah is eligible to access up to over \$19.8 million to create jobs, provide cash assistance, and provide short-term assistance to families through September 30, 2010.
- The funds that have been accessed to date have been used to create 3,200 jobs. TANF resources have also been used with HPRP resources in Salt Lake City to help local providers address the surge in family homelessness that has been caused by the recession.
- If the TANF ECF is included in the Small Business bill, Utah will receive nearly \$23 million for FY 2011 that can be used to put people back to work.

What Congress Should Do:

- Senators should include an extension to the TANF ECF in the Small Business Bill.