

PROGRAM GOALS

- Decrease the number of TANF clients (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) in sanction status.
- Identify barriers that may hinder compliance.
- Educate individuals on TANF program requirements.
- Assist clients in achieving compliance by referrals to the Department of Labor or DSS Case Management as needed for follow-up.
- Encourage clients to follow through with appointments to maintain compliance & receive restored benefits/services.
- Identify and refer clients to specialized community resources.

This program serves all sanctioned TANF families in Suffolk County.



The Sanctions Intervention Project is funded by the Suffolk County Department of Social Services.



EAC Network is a not-for-profit human service agency with over 113 programs throughout Long Island and New York City and has been providing human service programs in the fields of aging, youth, families, education, and criminal justice since 1969. Last year EAC Network helped over 82,000 people.

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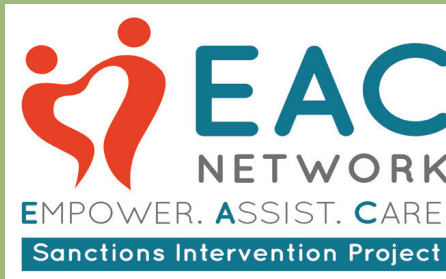
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Helping public assistance recipients meet the requirements to receive benefits.

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How the Sanctions Intervention Project can help you:

What is the Sanctions Intervention Project?

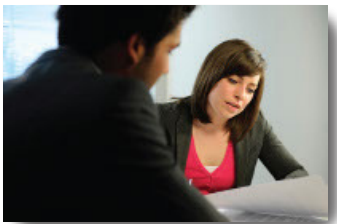
The Sanctions Intervention Project is a collaborative effort between the Department of Social Services and EAC Network. This program evaluates needs, identifies barriers and helps sanctioned public assistance recipients come into compliance with TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) requirements. Individuals are assessed and educated through an interview process and then referred to appropriate programs and services.

Referral Process

The program referrals come directly from the Suffolk County Department of Social Services.

Is there a fee for participation?

No.



What types of sanctions does the program address?

- Employment sanctions
- Drug/alcohol assessment & treatment sanctions
- Child support sanctions
- Medical documentation sanctions

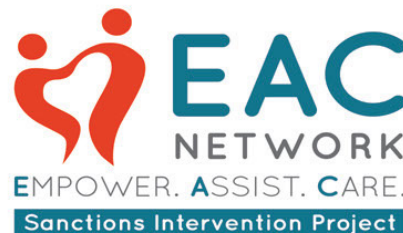
Program Description

Some families have an inability to meet regulatory requirements and to maintain compliance with the TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) program. In such cases, the recipients are sanctioned, which results in a loss of (financial) benefits.

The Sanctions Intervention Project uses Case Managers to interview sanctioned clients in order to identify reasons for non-compliance. A financial assessment is completed at the time of the interview.

If eligible, individuals are then assisted through a referral process to achieve compliance and full restoration of benefits.

This collaboration is effective in meeting the goals of welfare reform, through communication and an individualized needs assessment, with an emphasis on developing and maintaining family self-sufficiency.



Why is it beneficial to be in compliance with TANF requirements?

When an individual does not comply with or abide by requirements outlined in welfare reform legislation and policy, they are sanctioned, resulting in a reduction of benefits. Sanctioned individuals may be at risk of loss of additional services such as housing and transportation subsidies. The Sanctions Intervention Project has successfully engaged more than 86% of referred individuals into compliance.



Client Feedback

“Without this program I would still be spinning in circles” – L.B.

“I feel this was helpful because I really did not understand what was going on with my case. I now know what things are and what I have to do to remain in compliance.” – R.S.

“I was happy to deal with people who cared and really wanted to help me. It was greatly appreciated.” – M.D.