



Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

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General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

Transmittal:	23 TA/DC043 Upstate and New York City
Date:	May 30, 2023
To:	Subscribers
Suggested Distribution:	Commissioners, TA Directors, HEAP Coordinators, SNAP Directors, Staff Development Coordinators
From:	Valerie Figueroa, Deputy Commissioner Employment and Income Support Programs
Subject:	Required Gender Based Violence Training for Local District Staff
Effective Date:	Immediately
Contact Information:	Temporary Assistance Bureau at: 518-474-9344 or: tabureau@otda.ny.gov

Section 2

The purpose of this GIS message is to notify social services districts (districts) of an available training for district staff that has been recently updated and is now a required training. The training, formerly known as *Domestic Violence Awareness Training for Social Services District Staff*, will now be known as *Gender Based Violence (GBV) Awareness Training*, provided by the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV) in consultation with the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA). The training has been updated to expand upon the populations affected by domestic and gender-based violence and includes language and procedures relating to gender-based violence, which encompasses the nature and dynamics of sexual harassment, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Background:

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022, signed on March 15, 2022, amended section 402(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 602(a)), adding a new provision which requires states to ensure that personnel administering the TANF program receive training related to the identification of victims of sexual harassment or survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Additionally, the new provision requires that districts provide these survivors with information about available services. A key element of this new requirement is to ensure that case workers and other agency personnel responsible for administering the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program are trained in: the nature and dynamics of sexual harassment and domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking; state standards and procedures relating to the prevention of, and assistance for, individuals who are victims of sexual harassment or survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking; and methods of ascertaining and ensuring the confidentiality of personal information and documentation related to applicants for assistance and their children who have indicated experiencing sexual harassment, domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Section 3

Required Actions

This course is required for **all** district staff that are responsible for administering the TANF program, including, but not limited to, all new staff and those who have already taken the *Domestic Violence Awareness Training for Social Services District Staff* course. To take this training, district staff must be registered in Human Services Learning Center (HSLC) by their staff development coordinator or training coordinator. Districts must ensure that **all** district staff that are responsible for the administration of the TANF program have completed the GBV training within six (6) months from the release of this GIS. Districts must submit an email to the Temporary Assistance (TA) Bureau mailbox at: tabureau@otda.ny.gov once they have ensured that all appropriate staff have taken the updated training. Districts who may be unable to meet this timeframe may contact the TA Bureau to request an extension.

OTDA is in the process of assessing additional policy and forms changes that may be necessary as a result of the changes effectuated by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022. Further guidance will be forthcoming related to such changes.