VULNERABLE POPULATION: Economically Disadvantaged Persons

The Florida Department of Children and Families ACCESS program provides benefits to economically disadvantaged persons through Food Assistance (FA), Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA), and Medicaid Programs. The Food Assistance Program assists low-income individuals with the purchase of food needed for nutritious low-cost meals to sustain good health. The TCA program provides cash assistance to families with children under age 18 (or under age 19 if they are full-time students in a secondary school or its equivalent) to become self-supporting. The Medicaid Program assists low-income families with children, aged, blind, or disabled individuals with health care coverage for medical care. Food Assistance and Temporary Cash Assistance benefits are issued via an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card.

Key Issues:
- As of January 2013, the Florida Department of Children and Families had 3,612,960 FA participants, 101,246 TCA participants, and 2,833,032 Medicaid participants.
- The vulnerable population for Food Assistance, Temporary Cash Assistance, and Medicaid includes low-income families, the elderly, and homeless individuals who may be displaced.

Planning Considerations:
- Collaborate with over 3,300 community partners to ensure that the customers are able to access benefits.
- Ensure that a Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (DSNAP) plan is in place to assist individuals and families during major disasters such as floods and hurricanes.
- Implement automated processes to providing assistance efficiently and accurately during a disaster.
- Ensure that individuals can apply for assistance 24 hours a day/7 days a week through the online web application.
- Ensure each customer has access to their own case through MyACCESS account. The MYACCESS account allows individuals to view the case status, submit verification, view notices, and a variety of other uses.
- Ensure individuals determined eligible for Medicaid receive coverage beginning the first day of each month and ongoing until determined ineligible by a change in their circumstances.
- Ensure individuals determined eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) cash payment by the Social Security Administration are able to request a Medicaid Gold Card.

Supporting Agency:
ACCESS Florida, Department of Children and Families
http://www.myflfamilies.com/
http://www.myflorida.com/accessflorida/

Additional Information:

Information on Medicaid covered services and benefits can be obtained by viewing the Agency for Health Care Administration's website: http://ahca.myflorida.com/Medicaid/flmedicaid.shtml

Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT), Department of Children and Families
http://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/access-florida-food-medical-assistance-cash/welcome-ebt