

TANF Analysis:

Report on Engagement in Additional Work Activities – April - June 2011

BACKGROUND

The Claims Resolution Act of 2010, P.L. 111-291, requires each state to prepare two reports on TANF adults (referred to as “work eligible”) engaged in additional work activities that are designed toward attaining self-sufficiency. Each report is comprised of three sections: A - Summary; B - Analysis; and C - Summary of Common Non-Countable Activities.

States must collect and report the following information: (1) whether the individual engages in any activities that are directed toward attaining self-sufficiency and (2) if yes, the specific activities that (a) do not qualify as a countable work activity, but are otherwise reasonably calculated to help the family move to self-sufficiency or (b) that could be a countable work activity, but for the fact that either the work-eligible has not engaged in such activities for a sufficient number of hours; the work-eligible individual has reached a maximum time limit allowed for having participation in the activity count; or the number of work-eligible individuals engaged in such activity exceeds a statutory limitation.

The first report covers the month of March 2011 and the second report covers the period of April through June 2011. The March report is due no later than May 31, 2011 and the April-June report is due no later than August 31, 2011. States must publish these reports on their TANF website. Washington’s TANF website is located at the following location:

<http://www.workfirst.wa.gov/about/tanf.asp>

APRIL – JUNE 2011 REPORT

Section A - Summary

“(A) a summary of the information submitted in the report:”

For the month of April 2011, there were 36,406 families that were subject to the TANF work participation requirements. This number increased in May to 36,475 and decreased in June to 35,197. Within those families, there were 44,060, 42,928, and 42,442 work eligible adults respectively. The number of work eligible adults includes adults in two-parent families; therefore there are more work eligible adults than families. The following table reflects each data element of the required report and the number of work eligible adults in each data element. It also includes the percent that each number represents in relation to the total number of work eligible adults in data element 7. It is important to note that the sum of data elements 8 through 14C will not equal the total in 7, because an adult can be reported under one or more categories.

	Apr	May	Jun
6. Number of families on the monthly sample.	36,406	36,475	35,197
7. Number of work eligible adults in families on the monthly sample frame.	44,060	42,928	42,442
8. Participating in countable work activities for sufficient hours for the family to count toward the work participation rate:	5,398	5,316	4,030
9. Unreported hours of participation in a countable activity:	0	0	0
10. Insufficient hours of participation in countable work activities:	9,358	9,046	8,986
11. Countable hours beyond the statutory limit:	4,069	4,139	4,802
12. Hours of participation in countable work activities that do not meet verification standard:	8,439	8,123	8,777
13. Participating in non-countable activities but move the family toward self-sufficiency:	7,237	7,090	7,433
14A. Participating in a countable activity or a non-countable activity:	24,656	24,136	23,913
14A. Not participating in a countable activity or a non-countable activity:	19,404	18,792	18,529
14B. Principal reason for non-participation:			
01 = Family’s first month on assistance and no work activity assigned	1,343	1,366	1,588
02 = Individual assigned to a work activity that has not yet begun	1,670	1,466	1,581
03 = State/Local agency (or its contractor) has failed to engage individual	n/a	n/a	n/a
04 = Individual relocating from one local jurisdiction within State to another	145	116	145
05 = Work activities reports received too late for inclusion in report to HHS	0	0	0
06 = Family disregarded from participation rate	5,257	5,206	5,540

	Apr	May	Jun
07 = State exempt, single custodial parent with child under age 1, not disregarded due to 12-month limitation	2,147	2,053	1,749
08 = Individual in process of being sanctioned (including fair hearing process) or is subject to a sanction	2,017	2,017	1,961
09 = State exempt, single custodial parent with child under age 6 & child care unavailable	36	42	39
10 = State exempt due to illness or disability of the WEI (including, but not limited to, in process	2,100	2,084	2,056
11 = State exempt, due to illness or disability of child or other family member	3	5	3
12 = State exempt under a domestic violence waiver	47	49	49
13 = Good Cause Exemption	383	406	401
14 = Other State Exemption	n/a	n/a	n/a
99 = Other	3,966	3,732	3,231
14C. Specify Other Reason:			
1. Being Referred to a Work Activity	1,233	1,078	975
2. Client in Last Month of TANF Assistance	1,591	1,542	1,371
3. Client in First Month of TANF Assistance	18	16	13
4. Not a TANF Recipient (Work-Eligible Individual Indicator not equal to "1")	0	0	0
5. Case Eligible after Month Begin	25	44	32
6. Client Exempt, Pregnant	530	496	431
7. Client Exempt, Work Status	64	68	51
8. Client Exempt, Aged 55+	9	11	10
9. Two-Parent: Other Parent Participating	496	475	348
Unknown	280	250	216

Section B - Analysis

“(B) an analysis statement regarding the extent to which the information changes measures of total engagement in work activities from what was (or will be) reported by the State in the quarterly report submitted under subsection (a) for the comparable period; and”

Hours Refresh Process:

Because of the timing for the submission of the report, the report will report fewer hours of participation. The June report was prepared using data that was collected in August. Under our reporting process, this would be our 1st refresh of the June data. The result is to capture the majority of hours for the month of June, but it will not include the final refresh of the data that is scheduled to occur in September.

Needy State Status:

At the time of this report, Washington has not been deemed a “needy state” by the Administration for Children and Families for the month of June. The effect is to limit the countable hours under the Job Search / Job Readiness category to 6 weeks (120 hours for a single custodial parent with a child under age 6, and 180 for all others). We anticipate being notified of our status as a “needy state” to be received in the near future and the hour limit will increase to 12 weeks (240 hours for a single custodial parent with a child under age 6, and 360 for all others). This will result in an increase in the number of adults that are participating in Job Search / Job Readiness, Life Skills Training, DVD/DDR Planning, Alcohol / Substance Abuse Treatment, Family Violence Intervention, Mental Health Services, and Learning Disability Services.

This will reduce the number of adults being reported under the federal Other Work Activities (reporting element P63) and move them into the countable activities of Job Search / Job Readiness (reporting element P55).

State Approved Self-Sufficiency Activities:

This report will contain self-sufficiency activities that are not contained in the TANF data report. These are activities that are deemed to help families prepare for employment and to achieve self-sufficiency, but do not fall within the existing permissible TANF work activities.

Under the existing TANF regulations, the 12 permissible work activities:

- (1) Unsubsidized employment;
- (2) Subsidized private sector employment;
- (3) Subsidized public sector employment;
- (4) Work experience (including work associated with the refurbishing of publicly assisted housing) if sufficient private sector employment is not available;
- (5) On-the-job training;
- (6) Job search and job readiness assistance;
- (7) Community service programs;
- (8) Vocational educational training (not to exceed 12 months with respect to any individual);
- (9) Job skills training directly related to employment;
- (10) Education directly related to employment, in the case of a recipient who has not received a high school diploma or a certificate of high school equivalency;
- (11) Satisfactory attendance at secondary school or in a course of study leading to a certificate of general equivalence, in the case of a recipient who has not completed secondary school or received such a certificate; and
- (12) The provision of child care services to an individual who is participating in a community service program.

State recognized self-sufficiency activities include issue resolution and barrier removal which do not fall within the definition Job Readiness Assistance as the result of changes mandated by the Deficit Reduction Act. These activities are intended to help the individual find ways to participate in WorkFirst activities while also assuring the family's other needs are addressed.

Issue resolution begins with identifying potential barriers or issues that may interfere with their ability to participate in countable work activities. When issues are identified, necessary supports are provided to help the parent engage in activities that will lead to employment. Employment remains a major focus with self-sufficiency as the ultimate goal.

Section C – Summary of Common Non-Countable Activities

“(C) a narrative describing the most common activities contained in the report that are not countable toward the State participation rates under section 407.”

The most common activities that are not countable toward the work participation rate are reported under data element 13, Participating in activities that do not qualify as countable activities but move the family toward self-sufficiency. There are 9 state activities that are permissible under the WorkFirst Program but which do not meet federal criteria.

The largest category of activities involved parenting programs and personal development activities which do not meet the definition of Job Skills Preparation. These activities help adults prepare for work or enhance personal development to help the adult become job ready.

	Apr		May		Jun	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
13f Family life skills activities, e.g., teen parent skills, parenting programs, mentoring, personal development activities, organization skills workshops, and budgeting skills workshops.	5,316	73.5%	5,191	73.2%	5,503	77.6%
Pregnancy-to-Employment (PI)	1,090	15.1%	1,042	14.7%	1,005	14.2%
Job Search Preparation (RI)	4,068	56.2%	3,996	56.4%	4,323	61.0%
Parenting Skills, Nutrition Classes & Family Planning for Pregnant Clients (XP)	243	3.4%	239	3.4%	264	3.7%

The next largest category of activity was treatment for short-term physical incapacity or medical assessment including treatment which prohibits the adult from being able to work or look for work.

	Apr		May		Jun	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
13e Treatment Activities (e.g., physical or mental health, substance abuse treatment, domestic violence, physical or developmental disabilities, attending to physical or mental health conditions)	1,088	15.0%	1,067	15.0%	1,099	15.5%
Temporary Physical Incapacity, Medical Treatment (XM)	1,088	15.0%	1,067	15.0%	1,099	15.5%

The third largest category of activity involves adults that are being assessed for other types of benefits that would reduce or eliminate their need to receive TANF. This includes being assessed for a facilitated SSI application or accepted for a facilitated SSI application.

	Apr		May		Jun	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
13h In Assessment	737	10.2%	728	10.3%	726	10.2%
Pursuing SSI, Labor & Industries, Veterans or Other Benefits (XB)	737	10.2%	728	10.3%	726	10.2%

The next group involves adults (including teen parents) who are accessing work support activities such as resolving homelessness by finding stable housing so they can work or look for work, obtaining citizenship verification for adults that do not have Medicaid coverage because of their citizenship and who have an activity requirement that is dependent on Medicaid coverage, or elimination of barriers for teen parents so that they can continue their high school or GED completion.

	Apr		May		Jun	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
13g Accessing Work Support Activities such as finding childcare, obtaining, and a driver's license.	183	2.5%	164	2.3%	166	2.3%
Citizenship Verification (CV)	2	0.0%	2	0.0%	2	0.0%
Teen Parent Barrier Removal (TP)	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Resolution of homelessness (XH)	181	2.5%	162	2.3%	164	2.3%

The final group are those adults attending English as a second language activity combined with other activities.

	Apr		May		Jun	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
13c Adult Basic Education / English as a Second Language	178	2.5%	178	2.5%	189	2.7%
English as a Second Language (ES)	178	2.5%	178	2.5%	189	2.7%