FORM ACF-202 – TANF CASELOAD REDUCTION REPORT

Date of Completion **December 24, 2015**

State: **Washington** **Fiscal Year to which credit applies:** **2016**

Overall Report _XX_ Two-parent Report ___ (check one)	Apply the overall credit to the two-parent participation rate?	_XX_ yes ____ no

PART 1 –Eligibility Changes Made Since FY 2005
(Complete this section for EACH change)

1. Name of eligibility change: Full-Family Sanctions

2. Implementation date of eligibility change: 09/01/2006

3. Description of policy, including the change from prior policy:

Families in which the head of household refuses to engage in work participation activities are terminated after six months of noncompliance. During the six month period, the grant is reduced by the parent's share or 40%, whichever is greater. Prior to this change, there was no limit on being in sanction. This policy was implemented effective 09/01/2006. The first month in which families were terminated was February 2007 (terminations were effective 02/28/2007). Effective 07/01/2009, the sanction policy is changed to require full family sanction after 4 consecutive months of sanction. As a result, there were no cases sanctioned from July 1 through September 30, 2010. Effective November 1, 2014 the period in sanction was further reduced to two months before termination.

4. Description of the methodology used to calculate the estimated impact of this eligibility change (attach supporting materials to this form):

In November, 2015 a list of cases terminated during FFY 2015 using the Sanction Reason Code 252 was reviewed to determine if the case had at least a one-month break in service after the case was closed. This identified any cases that were reinstated. The results are displayed in the chart below.

	Total # of Families Terminated
01OCT2014	295
01NOV2014	309
01DEC2014	376
01JAN2015	721
01FEB2015	581
01MAR2015	387
01APR2015	371
01MAY2015	338
01JUN2015	370
01JUL2015	347
01AUG2015	394
01SEP2015	359

5. Estimated average monthly impact of this eligibility change on caseload in comparison year: _-5,426_

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1. Name of eligibility change: Child-Only Means Testing
2. Implementation date of eligibility change: : 11/01/2011
3. Description of policy, including the change from prior policy:

The rules for determining eligibility for a non-parental "child-only" TANF/SFA cash grant requires means testing non-parental child-only grants by counting the income for all household members in addition to the recipient child's income to determine eligibility.

a. Means testing applies to kinship or legal guardian child-only cases.
b. Households with income:
   i. At or below 200% of FPL receive a grant based on the payment standard for TANF/SFA families.
   ii. Between 200% and 300% of FPL receive a grant based on reduced payment standards:

FPL	Payment Standard
201% thru 225% of FPL	80% of payment standard
226% thru 250% of FPL	60% of payment standard
251% thru 275% of FPL	40% of payment standard
276% thru 300% of FPL	20% of payment standard

   iii. Over 300% FPL are not eligible for a child-only cash grant.
c. Requires SSN for anyone in the household when needed to verify income.
d. Children who have been placed by a state or tribal child welfare agency and have an **open** child welfare case are **not** be subject to means testing.
e. The means testing assistance unit (household) includes the person applying on the child's behalf, any dependents of the caregiver, and other persons who are financially responsible for the caregiver or the TANF child. For example: the caregiver/relative, caregiver's spouse, caregiver's children, and TANF/SFA recipient child(ren).
f. There is no resource test for non-parental child-only caretaker relative households.
g. Budgeting of the recipient child(ren)'s income and resources against the payment standard will remain the same but will occur only after the household means test has been applied.
h. Means testing doesn't change medical, food and child care eligibility.

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4. Description of the methodology used to calculate the estimated impact of this eligibility change: (attach supporting materials to this form)

In November, 2015 a list of child only cases terminated as over income was reviewed to determine if the case had at least a one-month break in service after the case was closed. This identified any cases that were reinstated. The results are displayed in the table below.

	Total
	# of Families Terminated
01OCT2014	4
01NOV2014	5
01DEC2014	1
01JAN2015	0
01FEB2015	0
01MAR2015	2
01APR2015	2
01MAY2015	4
01JUN2015	0
01JUL2015	4
01AUG2015	1
01SEP2015	3

5. Estimated average monthly impact of this eligibility change on caseload in comparison year: -55

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1. Name of eligibility change: 60-Month Non-Recipient Parent Time Limit

2. Implementation date of eligibility change: 11/01/2011

3. Description of policy, including the change from prior policy: In accordance with *Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 5921*, the department initially imposed the 60-month time limit on all parents of children who receive Child-Only TANF, provided this is "consistent with federal funding requirements and makes hardship extensions available to these parents effective September 1, 2011.

4. Description of the methodology used to calculate the estimated impact of this eligibility change: (attach supporting materials to this form) In November, 2015 a list of child-only cases terminated in FFY 2015 as over the 60-month limit was reviewed to determine if the case had at least a one-month break in service after the case was closed. This excluded any cases that were reinstated. The result was a list of cases that closed due to 60-month time limit for non-recipient parent child-only cases and which were not reinstated as shown below.

	Total
	# of Families Terminated
01OCT2014	29
01NOV2014	22
01DEC2014	36
01JAN2015	29
01FEB2015	23
01MAR2015	25
01APR2015	25
01MAY2015	26
01JUN2015	19
01JUL2015	23
01AUG2015	14
01SEP2015	16

5. Estimated average monthly impact of this eligibility change on caseload in comparison year: -549

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1. Name of eligibility change: Permanent Disqualification Due to 3 or More Non-compliance Sanction (NCS) Terminations

2. Implementation date of eligibility change: 11/01/2011

3. Description of policy, including the change from prior policy:

   Permanent TANF/SFA disqualifications for clients who have had 3 or more WorkFirst non-compliance sanction (NCS) terminations since March 1, 2007 when the NCS termination policy was implemented.

4. Description of the methodology used to calculate the estimated impact of this eligibility change: (attach supporting materials to this form)

   In November, 2015 a list of cases terminated NCS the third time was reviewed to determine if the case had at least a one-month break in service after the case was closed. This identified any cases that were reinstated on appeal. The result was a list of cases that closed due to having had 3 or more WorkFirst NCS terminations and which were not reinstated as displayed below:

	Total # of Families Terminated
01OCT2014	4
01NOV2014	4
01DEC2014	4
01JAN2015	11
01FEB2015	11
01MAR2015	7
01APR2015	12
01MAY2015	8
01JUN2015	13
01JUL2015	10
01AUG2015	14
01SEP2015	7

5. Estimated average monthly impact of this eligibility change on caseload in comparison year: -91

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1. Name of eligibility change: Mandatory Orientation

2. Implementation date of eligibility change:

   Effective June 1, 2014, completion of a new WorkFirst (WF) Orientation is required as a condition of eligibility for all Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and State Funded Assistance (SFA) applicants.

3. Description of policy, including the change from prior policy:

   Effective June 1, 2014, completion of a new WorkFirst (WF) Orientation was required as a condition of eligibility for all Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and State Funded Assistance (SFA) applicants. The new orientation was implemented to ensure clients receive consistent information statewide about the TANF program, including the services and supports available and activities that may be required for participation in the program. Previously, some local offices offered their own orientation, all of which differed greatly from each other.

4. Description of the methodology used to calculate the estimated impact of this eligibility change: (attach supporting materials to this form)

   In November 2015 the client data for FFY 2015 was reviewed. All applications that were denied were screened by reason code to determine if the denial was based on lack of the new Mandatory Orientation. The resulting list was further screened to eliminate repetitions of clients who subsequently reapplied and successfully completed the Mandatory Orientation. Since the new reason code was not available until January 2015, an estimate of cases impacted during the first quarter needed to be developed. This was done by determining the represented percentage of cases denied for lack of the Mandatory Orientation in relation to all denials per month. The combined average for the nine months of available data was then applied to the overall number of applications denied for the missing months. This is displayed in the table below.

5. Estimated average monthly impact of this eligibility change on caseload in comparison year: -919

	No Orientation All Family	Total	
	# of Families Denied	# of Families Denied	% of Total denied
Oct-14	n/a	5,408	165
Nov-14	n/a	4,550	139
Dec-14	n/a	5,620	172
Jan-15	44	4,522	1.0%
Feb-15	150	4,198	3.6%
Mar-15	144	4,456	3.2%
Apr-15	144	4,451	3.2%
May-15	158	4,212	3.8%
Jun-15	158	4,455	3.5%
Jul-15	161	4,924	3.3%
Aug-15	128	4,562	2.8%
Sep-15	151	4,814	3.1%
		Average	3.1%

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1. Name of eligibility change: Changing Grant Standards

2. Implementation date of eligibility change: 2/1/2011

3. Description of policy, including the change from prior policy: In accordance with the operating budget passed by the State Legislature from year to year, the department needed to adjust the client benefit amounts effective with the date of the change. The client benefit amount is also used to determine eligibility for TANF benefits. The Legislature first changed the benefit amount by raising it 3% starting 7/1/2008. As a result, a number of clients were added to the caseload that otherwise would have been denied in 2005. Subsequently, in February 2011 the Legislature responded to the effects of the Great Recession with a number of austerity measures, including a 15% reduction in the grant standard. Finally, in July 2014 the State Legislature again changed the benefit amount – this time raising the benefit standard 9%. The net result of these eligibility changes needed to be factored together in order to determine the true change from 2005.

4. Description of the methodology used to calculate the estimated impact of this eligibility change: (attach supporting materials to this form)

   The allowable grant standard was determined for each family size during the period of the reported change. See Table 1. All cases denied or terminated during the current report period for reasons of being over the income limit were examined to determine if they would have been acceptable under the 2005 standard. A list of such cases was tabulated, resulting in Table 2.

Table 1. Changing Grant Standards

HH	2005	7/1/2008 (+3%)	2/1/2011 (-15%)	7/1/2015 (+9%)
1	$349	$359	$305	$332
2	$440	$453	$385	$420
3	$546	$562	$478	$521
4	$642	$661	$562	$613
5	$740	$762	$648	$706
6	$841	$866	$736	$802
7	$971	$1,000	$850	$927
8	$1,075	$1,107	$941	$1,026
9	$1,180	$1,215	$1,033	$1,126
10	$1,283	$1,321	$1,123	$1,224

Table 2	DENIED	CLOSED	
	# of Households	# of Households	SUM
OCT14	80	116	196
NOV14	60	129	189
DEC14	65	97	162
JAN15	50	105	155
FEB15	38	75	113
MAR15	46	105	151
APR15	52	111	163
MAY15	51	97	148
JUN15	46	83	129
JUL15	18	25	43
AUG15	16	40	56
SEP15	21	28	49

5. Estimated average monthly impact of this eligibility change on caseload in comparison year: -1,817

6. Name of eligibility change: 60-Month All Family Time Limit Exceptions

7. Implementation date of eligibility change: 1/01/2011

8. Description of policy, including the change from prior policy:

   In January 2011 the agency changed the approach by which exceptions to the existing 60-month time limit were granted. While the State disputes the contention that changes to exceptions to policy constitutes new policy that must be tracked, ACF requested these additional cases be included in future tallies, pending the outcome of that dispute.

9. Description of the methodology used to calculate the estimated impact of this eligibility change: (attach supporting materials to this form)

   In November 2015 the client data for FFY 2015 were reviewed. All cases that were terminated were screened by reason code to determine if the termination was based on reaching the 60-month time limit. The resulting list was further screened to determine if the case was reinstated for successful completion of a Time Limit exception. The tabulated results are shown below.

	Total
	# of Families Terminated
01OCT2014	100
01NOV2014	107
01DEC2014	100
01JAN2015	93
01FEB2015	88
01MAR2015	76
01APR2015	93
01MAY2015	80
01JUN2015	83
01JUL2015	75
01AUG2015	91
01SEP2015	93

10. Estimated average monthly impact of this eligibility change on caseload in comparison year: -1,524

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PART 2 – Estimate of Caseload Reduction Credit

(Complete Part 2 using Excel Workbook provided.)

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State: Washington	**Fiscal Year to which credit applies:** 2016

PART 3 -- Certification

I certify that we have provided the public an appropriate opportunity to comment on the estimates and methodology used to complete this report and considered those comments in completing it. Further, I certify that this report incorporates all reductions in the caseload resulting from State eligibility changes and changes in Federal requirements since Fiscal Year 2005.

12/28/2015

(signature)

David Stillman

(name)

Assistant Secretary, Economic Services Administration

(title)