FORM ACF-202 – TANF CASELOAD REDUCTION REPORT

Date of Completion **December 24, 2015**

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

Overall Report __
Two-parent Report XX (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.

	Two Adult Cases
	# of Families Terminated
01OCT2014	57
01NOV2014	56
01DEC2014	58
01JAN2015	114
01FEB2015	103
01MAR2015	59
01APR2015	62
01MAY2015	61
01JUN2015	57
01JUL2015	45
01AUG2015	45
01SEP2015	50

5. Estimated average monthly impact of this eligibility change on caseload in comparison year: -953

OMB Control No.: 0970-0338 Expiration Date: September 30, 2017

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Date of Completion **December 24, 2015**

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1. Name of eligibility change: 60-Month Time Limit Exceptions

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

3. 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.

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 Two Parent cases terminated for reaching the 60-month time limit 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 result was a list of cases that closed due to 60-month time limit for cases and which were not reinstated the following month.

	Two Adult Cases
	# of Families Terminated
01OCT2014	7
01NOV2014	10
01DEC2014	11
01JAN2015	10
01FEB2015	11
01MAR2015	8
01APR2015	5
01MAY2015	6
01JUN2015	6
01JUL2015	9
01AUG2015	5
01SEP2015	5

5. Estimated average monthly impact of this eligibility change on caseload in comparison year: -137

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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:

	Two Adult Cases
	# of Families Terminated
01OCT2014	0
01NOV2014	0
01DEC2014	0
01JAN2015	0
01FEB2015	1
01MAR2015	1
01APR2015	4
01MAY2015	1
01JUN2015	3
01JUL2015	1
01AUG2015	1
01SEP2015	1

5. Estimated average monthly impact of this eligibility change on caseload in comparison year: -11

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1. Name of eligibility change: Mandatory Orientation

2. Implementation date of eligibility change: June 1, 2014

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.

	No Orientation				
	All Family	Total		Two Adult Cases	
	# of Families Denied	# of Families Denied	% of Total denied	# of Families Denied	% of Total denied
Oct-14	n/a	5,408	165	n/a	60
Nov-14	n/a	4,550	139	n/a	50
Dec-14	n/a	5,620	172	n/a	62
Jan-15	44	4,522	1.0%	14	0.3%
Feb-15	150	4,198	3.6%	48	1.1%
Mar-15	144	4,456	3.2%	48	1.1%
Apr-15	144	4,451	3.2%	57	1.3%
May-15	158	4,212	3.8%	61	1.4%
Jun-15	158	4,455	3.5%	64	1.4%
Jul-15	161	4,924	3.3%	54	1.1%
Aug-15	128	4,562	2.8%	45	1.0%
Sep-15	151	4,814	3.1%	58	1.2%
		Average	3.1%	Average	1.1%

5. Estimated average monthly impact of this eligibility change on caseload in comparison year: -237

FORM ACF-202 – TANF CASELOAD REDUCTION REPORT

1. Name of eligibility change: Changing Grant Standards

2. Implementation date of eligibility change: 7/1/2008

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 in the reported FY 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	27	30	57
NOV14	14	23	37
DEC14	21	20	41
JAN15	14	25	39
FEB15	10	19	29
MAR15	16	29	45
APR15	14	33	47
MAY15	17	27	44
JUN15	15	22	37
JUL15	4	3	7
AUG15	6	10	16
SEP15	8	11	19

5. Estimated average monthly impact of this eligibility change on caseload in comparison year: -505

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Date of Completion _____	
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PART 2 – Estimate of Caseload Reduction Credit

(Complete Part 2 using Excel Workbook provided.)

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Date of Completion _____	
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)