



TANF Facts:

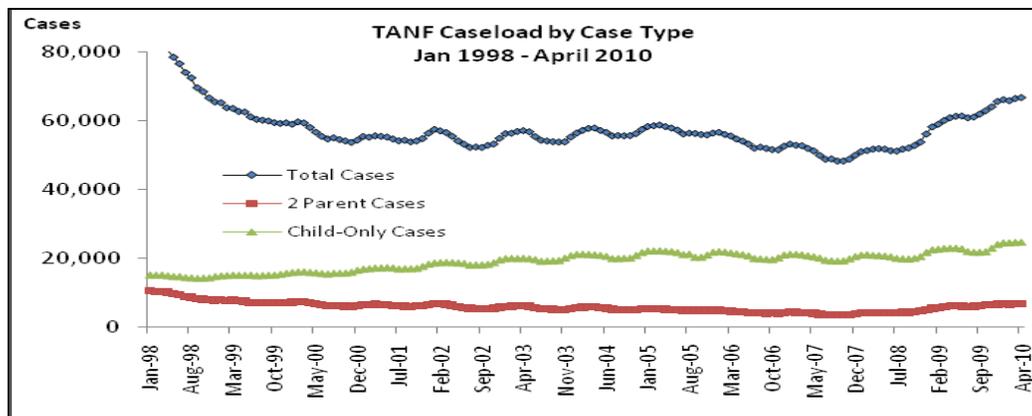
A Look at TANF Families in Washington State

CASELOAD

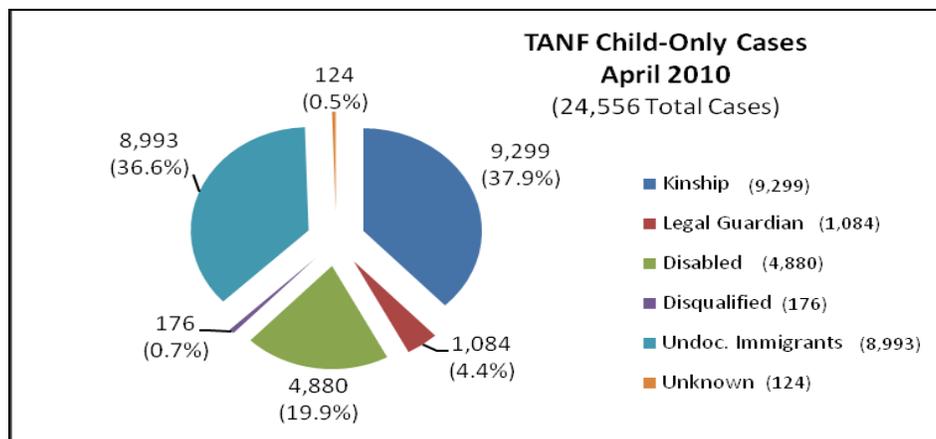
In January 1998, there were 84,003 TANF families which included 10,606 two-parent families and 15,130 child-only cases. We experienced a caseload decline in the total TANF caseload and two-parent TANF caseload until a historic low was reached in September 2007. Since that time, the caseload has been increasing. The child-only caseload has maintained a slow but steady increase since the start of the program.

Month	Total Cases	2 Parent Cases	Child-Only Cases
Jan-98	84,003	10,606	15,130
Sep-07	48,238	3,484	19,148
Apr-10	66,588	6,748	24,620

The following chart displays the caseload trend for the All-Family caseload (total cases), Two-Parent caseload, and Child-Only caseload.



A review of the April 2010 child-only caseload shows that the largest segment of this group were kinship care cases (9,299) followed by children of undocumented immigrant parents (8,993). The next largest group is children with disabled parents (4,880).



(Note: "Disqualified" refers to parents who have been prohibited from receiving TANF benefits under federal law, such as being convicted of receiving TANF in two states at the same time.)

Over the last two years, the child-only caseload has increased by 19.3% , the single parent caseload has increased by 31.3% and the two-parent caseload has increased by 59.5%.

Month	Total Cases	Child-Only Cases	% Child-Only Cases	1 Adult Cases	% 1 Adult Cases	2 Parent Cases	% 2 Parent Cases
May-08	51,691	20,638	39.9%	26,823	51.9%	4,230	8.2%
Apr-10	66,588	24,620	37.0%	35,220	52.9%	6,748	10.1%
Increase	14,897	3,982		8,397		2,518	
% Increase	28.8%	19.3%		31.3%		59.5%	

The following table shows the growth of the child-only caseload over time.

SFY	Avg. of Total Child-Only Cases	Kinship	Disabled	Legal Guardian	Undocumented Immigrant	Disqualified	Other
SFY98	15,857	7,602	4,420	2	3,054	500	144
SFY99	14,669	7,234	4,112	1	2,693	1,551	202
SFY00	15,494	7,520	4,353	2	2,981	480	158
SFY01	16,262	7,799	4,486	179	3,210	544	104
SFY02	17,959	8,234	4,665	487	3,769	662	142
SFY03	19,139	8,613	4,797	590	4,175	791	173
SFY04	20,272	8,992	4,834	704	4,669	933	139
SFY05	21,177	9,496	4,836	788	4,876	1,057	123
SFY06	21,137	9,862	4,764	837	5,152	344	120
SFY07	20,367	9,786	4,725	824	4,744	168	119
SFY08	20,152	9,473	4,626	912	4,886	151	104
SFY09	21,500	9,326	4,631	1,007	6,216	204	116
SFY10*	23,339	9,227	4,760	1,076	7,966	188	122

*Data for SFY10 is only available through May 2010.

From May 2009 through April 2010, a total of 110,070 unduplicated cases received TANF. The following table shows the unduplicated counts for single parent cases, two-parent cases, and child-only cases.

	Total Annual Unduplicated Cases	Single Parent Cases	Two-Parent Cases	Child-Only Cases
	# of Cases	# of Cases	# of Cases	# of Cases
		% of Total	% of Total	% of Total
May 2009 - April 2010	110,070	61,684	13,626	34,760
		56.0%	12.4%	31.6%

LENGTH OF STAY - CYCLES

TANF Cycles – Historical

- Over the history of TANF in Washington, a total of 397,313 families have received TANF. Of those, 214,323 (53.9%) exited and have not returned to the TANF caseload.
- The mean number of cycles (spells) on TANF for families who received TANF in April 2010 –
 - Total Adult Caseload – 2.8 cycles
 - TANF Extension Caseload (on TANF beyond 60 months) – 5.3 cycles

TANF Length of Stay (April 2010 caseload data)

- The mean number of months (cumulative) on TANF for families who received TANF in April 2010:
 - Total Adult Caseload – 28.8 months
 - TANF Extension Caseload – 88.7 (*the smallest number would be 60 months for these families*)
- The median number of months on TANF for families who received TANF in April 2010:
 - Total Adult Caseload – 18.0 months
 - TANF Extension Caseload – 83.0 months
- The cumulative number of months that the total adult caseload received TANF –

# of Months on TANF	Client Count	Percent
<= 10 Months	16,404	33.7%
11 - 20 Months	9,648	19.8%
21 - 30 Months	6,224	12.8%
31 - 40 Months	4,197	8.6%
41 - 50 Months	3,117	6.4%
51 - 60 Months	2,352	4.8%
61 or More Months	6,749	13.9%

TANF Child-Only Length of Stay (April 2010 caseload data)

Total TANF Child Only Cases	Disabled		Disqualified		Kinship		Legal Guardian		Unknown ¹		Undocumented Immigrant	
	# of Cases	% of Cases	# of Cases	% of Cases	# of Cases	% of Cases	# of Cases	% of Cases	# of Cases	% of Cases	# of Cases	% of Cases
Total # of TANF Child Only Cases	24,556		176	100.0%	9,299	100.0%	1,084	100.0%	124	100.0%	8,993	100.0%
<= 10 Months	6,833	28.0%	104	59.1%	2,221	23.9%	470	43.4%	68	54.8%	2,994	33.3%
11 - 20 Months	4,208	17.1%	28	15.9%	1,373	14.8%	219	20.2%	29	23.4%	1,952	21.7%
21 - 30 Months	2,670	10.9%	15	8.5%	960	10.3%	91	8.4%	7	5.6%	1,106	12.3%
31 - 40 Months	2,059	8.4%	10	5.7%	812	8.7%	71	6.5%	10	8.1%	682	7.6%
41 - 50 Months	1,587	6.5%	4	2.3%	656	7.1%	45	4.2%	2	1.6%	512	5.7%
51 - 60 Months	1,363	5.5%	4	2.3%	578	6.2%	53	4.9%	1	0.8%	368	4.1%
61 or More Months	5,836	23.8%	11	6.3%	2,699	29.0%	135	12.5%	7	5.6%	1,379	15.3%

¹ Caretaker is defined using the child's relationship to the head of household member. "Other" cases are those in which it is unknown how the head of household is related to the child.

Data Notes:

Kinship Cases: Child-only cases in which the head of household is a relative caretaker of the child

Disabled Cases: Child-only cases in which the head of the household is a disabled parent

Legal Guardian Cases: Child-only cases in which the child is living with a legal guardian parent

Undocumented Cases: Child-only cases in which the head of the household is an undocumented immigrant

Other Cases: Child-only cases in which there is not enough information to determine the relationship between the HOH and the child

TANF Returns (November 2009 data)

- Most of the parents entering TANF have been in the program before –
 - 3,051 (59.8%) of 5,098 November 2009 entries were returning; and
 - 2,969 (57.6%) of 5,151 December 2009 entries were returning.

- The median time off TANF was 9 months.

DEMOGRAPHICS

The following is demographic information for cases on TANF in April 2010, including cases that were extended beyond 60 months because of hardship.

- Caseload makeup –

	Total Caseload		Extension Cases	
One-Adult Case	35,215	83.9%	5,996	90.1%
Two-Adult Case	6,745	16.1%	656	9.9%
Total Cases	41,960	100.0%	6,652	100.0%

- Most adults are women –

	Total Caseload		Extension Cases	
Women	38,756	79.6%	6,322	92.4%
Men	9,935	20.4%	518	7.6%
Total Cases	41,960	100.0%	6,652	100.0%

- The largest age groups represented are the 21-29 year old and 30-39 year old groups. While the 21-29 group is the largest for the total caseload and the 30-39 group is the next largest, these two reverse for the extension caseload. The third largest age range is the 40-49 group for both total cases and extension cases–

	Total Caseload		Extension Cases	
21 – 29 years	20,836	42.8%	1,859	27.2%
30 – 39 years	13,828	28.5%	3,288	48.1%
40 – 49 years	6,372	13.1%	1,368	20.0%

- Race/Ethnicity – the largest group for the total caseload and the extension caseload is White and the second largest group for both caseloads is African American followed by Asian.

	Total Caseload		Extension Cases	
African American	6,219	12.8%	1,520	22.2%
Asian	1,983	4.1%	214	3.1%
Hispanic	5,762	11.8%	762	11.1%
Native American	1,705	3.5%	257	3.8%
White	27,740	57.0%	3,814	55.8%

- Race/Ethnicity – Child-Only Cases – the largest group is Hispanic followed by White and African American.

	Total Caseload	
African American	2,781	6.6%
Asian	895	2.1%
Hispanic	18,347	43.3%
Native American	1,068	2.5%
White	12,152	28.7%

- Marital Status – the largest group for both the total caseload and extension caseload is Never Married.

	Total Caseload		Extension Cases	
Never Married	27,765	57.0%	Never Married	3,688
				53.9%

Married	10,592	21.8%		Separated	1,053	15.4%
Separated	5,406	11.1%		Divorced	1,032	15.1%

- Educational Level – most adults are high school graduates; the next largest group are adults with less than high school completion.

	Total Caseload		Extension Cases	
High School Completion	25,095	51.5%	3,233	47.3%
Less than HS Completion	16,585	34.1%	2,531	37.0%
Some College	7,011	14.4%	1,076	15.7%

- Age of Children – most adults have children between 1 – 6 years of age; the next largest age group of children is 11 and older for both the total caseload and the extension caseload.

	Total Caseload		Extension Cases	
Less than 1 year	8,578	20.4%	613	9.2%
1 - 6 years	19,781	47.1%	2,944	44.3%
7 – 10 years	4,768	11.4%	1,386	20.8%
11+ years	8,833	21.1%	1,709	25.7%

- Age of Children – Child-Only Cases – most children are between 1 – 6 years of age; the next largest age group of children is 11 and older.

	Total Caseload	
Less than 1 year	2,463	5.8%
1 - 6 years	16,310	38.5%
7 – 10 years	8,827	20.8%
11+ years	14,812	34.9%

EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING ACTIVITIES

A complete list of Employment and Training activities is provided in the Appendix.

We examined families that returned to TANF in November 2009. Here are the top 10 activities that these returning families were engaged in when they exited TANF and what they were engaged in after their TANF grant was opened.

The top 10 activities at exit were –		The Top 10 activities at re-entry were –	
▪ Full-time Employment	20.8%	▪ Job Search Preparation	43.8%
▪ Pregnancy to Employment pathway	20.3%	▪ Job Search	33.5%
▪ Processing Referral Back to DSHS	14.0%	▪ Referral to Other Service Provider	29.2%
▪ Part-time Employment	13.8%	▪ Processing Referral Back to DSHS	26.4%
▪ Sanction	13.7%	▪ Pregnancy to Employment Pathway	20.4%
▪ Job Search	11.9%	▪ Referred Back to DSHS Early	14.1%
▪ Referral to Other Service Provider	6.8%	▪ Referred to Community/Tech College	10.2%
▪ Infant Exemption	6.7%	▪ Part-time Employment	9.8%
▪ Job Search Preparation	6.4%	▪ Sanction	9.6%
▪ Comprehensive Evaluation	5.2%	▪ Full-time Employment	9.4%

[Note: Percentages do not add up to 100% because a parent can be in multiple activities.]

- *Referral to Other Service Provider* means the parent is being referred to a Social Worker – the first step of barrier removal identification or to initiate the Pregnancy to Employment Pathway.

- *Processing Referral Back to DSHS* means a parent has been rejected by a contractor and DSHS is reviewing the case to determine if the family should be sanctioned.
- *Referred Back Early* means the parent is being referred back to DSHS from Employment Security, State Board for Community & Technical Colleges, or Department of Commerce.
- Refer back reasons include, but are not limited to –
 - no child care available;
 - no transportation available;
 - no contact or no show for an appointment;
 - parent refuses or is unable to participate;
 - the activity is unavailable; or
 - the class is at capacity.

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES & BENEFITS

Besides TANF assistance, there are other supportive services and benefits that a family may qualify to receive –

Food assistance

Additional Requirements – Emergent Need (AREN)

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

Support services

Medical assistance (Medicaid)

Child support

Career Services program benefits

Washington Telephone Assistance Program (WTAP)

Community resources

APPENDIX

WorkFirst Supports

- **Medical:** Families have Medicaid coverage while they are on WorkFirst cash assistance and for up to one year after leaving assistance (TANF closed for excess earned income). After that, children qualify for Medicaid until the family reaches 200% of the federal poverty level, while the Basic Health Plan (BHP) provides low-cost health insurance for the parents.
- **Food assistance:** The department provides food assistance based on family size, income, and expenses. Also, the department provides Transitional Food Assistance (TFA). TFA is a program to provide stable food benefits for up to five months to families leaving the WorkFirst cash assistance or Tribal TANF programs while receiving Basic Food except if the family was in Sanction when the case closed. TFA is meant to help meet a family's nutritional needs for five months as they transition into self-sufficiency.
- **Child support:** The Division of Child Support uses innovative techniques to collect child support for low-income families. While on WorkFirst, child support collected goes to the state to repay the costs of the parent's WorkFirst. Once a person leaves WorkFirst, however, they start to receive any current child support collected.
- **Additional requirements (AREN):** Supplemental WorkFirst cash assistance can be authorized by DSHS case managers for emergent needs such as homelessness. This grant can pay a family's rent (to prevent eviction) or utilities. It can also cover items such as first and last month's rent.
- **Career Services Program** provides cash payments and services to families who leave TANF and are working at least 30 hours a week. Specific types of services and information may vary from office to office but should include:
 - Opportunities for accessing training - skills upgrade.
 - Mentoring, coaching, and employment counseling.
 - Resource information for accessing:
 - ❑ Money Management classes
 - ❑ Work Skill Assessment
 - ❑ Labor Market Information
 - ❑ Community Resources - Food Banks, Utilities Assistance, Community Action Programs

Parents are paid to participate:

- \$50 a month for up to 6 months post-WorkFirst, *plus*
- \$150 bonus when they enroll, *plus*
- \$100 bonus when they meet with a WorkSource Employment Counselor during their 4th and 6th month post-WorkFirst.

Total possible additional income: \$650.

- **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC):** The state has established a toll-free hotline to make it easier for workers to file for the EITC. The EITC provides up to \$4,400 a year for low-income workers. For some families, taking advantage of the EITC means a 40 percent increase in take-home pay. The EITC hotline number is 1-800-755-5317. Calls are answered 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday. Information is available in both English and Spanish. Hearing impaired persons can call 1-800-833-6388 for TDD/TYY.

- **Community Resources:** Many communities provide supports to low income families, like food or clothing banks. There are also federally funded benefits available, like food supplements from the Woman and Infant Care (WIC) program.
- **Support Services** are goods and services purchased to help parents become independent. We offer support services when there is no other way to meet a family's essential needs - so be creative while using sound judgment to determine what is reasonable. For example, a person starting work may need work clothes. We can use support services to increase a parent's existing wardrobe so the parent can show up for work in suitable clothing.

We offer temporary and targeted supports a parent needs to work, look for work, prepare for work, or to participate in required WorkFirst activities. Support services are available, as needed, throughout a person's stay on WorkFirst cash assistance and, to meet temporary emergencies for up to 6 months after a person goes off cash aid.

Support Services: have different dollar and use limits for each service. There is also a \$3,000 yearly limit for each individual in the family - although some services do not count towards the yearly limit. There are hard edits in eJAS for all limits, meaning the eJAS system will not allow payments exceeding these limits. "Use limits" include:

- **Work:** Supports needed to work, look for work, or function in a workplace (like community jobs, OJT, or work experience).
- **Health/safety:** Transportation supports needed to deal with significant family health or safety needs (like getting gravely disabled household member to doctor appointments or dealing with family violence).
- **Participation:** A few types of support services can be authorized to help the parent prepare for work or meet other WorkFirst requirements.

The amount of support services authorized must be based on the parent's needs and must stay within the limits. The only possible exceptions to the limit are when a parent has a crisis situation (like fleeing domestic violence) or a unique and justifiable need that can be approved through the formal exception to rule process. The process for requesting an exception to rule is described in its own subsection below (Exception to Rule).

- **Working Connections Child Care (WCCC)** is a child care subsidy program that helps families with children pay for child care to find jobs, keep their jobs, and get better jobs. Because all WCCC clients help pay for the cost of their child care by making a monthly copayment, we refer to WCCC clients as "consumers".

WorkFirst Employment & Training Component Descriptions

CODE	COMPONENT TITLE	DEFINITION
Preparing for, Looking for and Working		
BE	Basic Education	For participants over 19 with no high school diploma or GED
CW	Community Works	Designed to improve the employability for parents who are able to participate in a work activity with the additional support of continued intensive services
DC	Degree Completion	Full-time training that leads to a certificate or degree that leads to employment in a high-wage, high-demand field provided by a 4 year college or university
ES	English as a Second Language	LEP pathway - Combined with another component
GE	General Education Diploma	Attending a GED program full-time per the school and making satisfactory progress
HS	High School	Attending high school full-time per the school and making satisfactory progress – over 19 year old needs another component
HW	High wage or High Demand	Used when client is enrolled in HW Program

CODE	COMPONENT TITLE	DEFINITION
JT	Skills Enhancement Training	Training in specific skills directly related to employment but not a specific occupation – must be combined with work activities or Job Search
OT	On the Job Training	Subsidized employment in which the employer provides training to the client that leads to full-time employment
VE	Vocational Education	Short term (less than 12 months) training for a specific occupation such CNA (Certified Nurses Assistant) – combined with 20 hrs/week or 16-19 hours of work study
VU	Vocational Education – Unapproved	Used to track clients who are in an unapproved vocational educational component; we do not support with child care or support services
WE	Work Experience	Placement into a non-paying position to obtain work skills in a workplace setting or an Internship/Practicum to complete vocational education.
XS	Structured Community Service	Approved volunteer work within a community agency to encourage the participant to learn new skills or get experience in a work setting and includes Traditional Tribal activities
LS	Life Skills Training	Used for independent life skills training that is not taken as part of Job Search or other Job Preparation activities
CJ	Paid Community Job	Subsidized job through CTED. The up to 6 month time frame begins when the client becomes officially enrolled (on payroll & at a work-site).
FT	Working Full-Time	A subsidized or unsubsidized job 32 or more hours a week
PT	Working Part-Time	A subsidized or unsubsidized job less than 32 hours a week
JS	Job search	Job Search activities
PE	Customized Job Skills Training	Skills training course for an identified job, with an employer/industry commitment to hire (or give hiring preference) to graduates
Resolving Issues		
CC	Caring for a child of a WF participant	Used when a WF participant is caring the child of another WF participant
II	Intensive In-Home Services Indicator	Participants who have been enrolled with an Intensive In-Home contractor. Must be accompanied by another activity code.
PI	Pregnancy to Employment Indicator	Indicates participants in the Pregnancy to Employment pathway. <i>This is not an activity code, it is an indicator.</i>
RI	Job Search Preparation	Used while a client is resolving issues prior to Job Search Entered - by DSHS worker
TP	Teen Parent Barrier Removal	Used to authorize support services when an ineligible teen parent is working with a social worker to secure appropriate living arrangements and/or enroll in high school or GED program
XB	Pursuing SSI/L&I/VA or other benefits	Meeting requirements, as agreed upon with case manager, for pursuing other benefits, being assessed for a facilitated SSI application or accepted for a facilitated SSI application.
XC	No child care available No available care for an incapacitated adult	Unable to locate necessary child care or caring for a disabled adult, as determined by the case manager
XD	In a DVR plan	Activities required by the participant's current DVR case plan
XE	Alcohol/Substance Abuse Treatment	Used when client enters Alcohol/Substance Abuse Treatment
XF	Family violence intervention	FV counseling or other intervention for recent or current victim of family violence (when FV hampers their ability to work/look for work)
XG	Mental Health Services	Used when client is participating in Mental Health Services
XH	Resolution of Homelessness	Work to find shelter for homeless participant or participant in a temporary living arrangement (when housing hampers their ability to work/look for work)
XJ	Learning Disability Services	Used when client is receiving learning disabilities services

CODE	COMPONENT TITLE	DEFINITION
XM	Temporary physical incapacity, medical treatment	Participant is temporarily incapacitated or in medical assessment/treatment which impedes their ability to work/look for work
XN	Caring for a child with special needs	Needed in the home to care for a child with special needs. Requires medical, educational or mental health professionals documentation
XP	Parenting skills, nutrition classes, and Family Planning for pregnant clients	For participants of WorkFirst who are pregnant
CV	Citizenship Verification	Used to identify parents who do not have Medicaid due to citizenship verification requirements and who have an activity requirement that is dependent on Medicaid coverage.
PU	PRUCOL	WorkFirst client in PRUCOL status
Exempt From Participation		
IE	Infant Exemption	Parent can choose to be excused from participating in WorkFirst activities during months that they are needed in the home to personally provide care for their child(ren) under one year of age.
PD	Postpartum Exemption	Used to identify parents who have used their 12 month infant exemption and have another child.
ZA	55 & older caretaker relative	Needy relative (on TANF grant with relative child) age 55 or older who cares for the child full-time
ZB	Caring for an adult with disabilities	Used when caring for an adult with chronic and severe disabilities when no other care is available
ZC	Caring for a Child with Special Needs	Used when the child has severe and chronic disabilities or medical issues that are not expected to significantly improve within the next 12 months
ZD	Adult with severe and chronic disabilities.	Used when adult has a severe and chronic disability, or a mental, physical, emotional or cognitive impairment that is expected to last at least 12 months and is not amenable to treatment.
Referrals and Refer Back		
LP	Limited English Pathway (This is an indicator code)	Limited-English proficient participant referred to LEP Pathway provider for language assessment/testing
OR	Obtaining Medical Evidence	Used on the IRP to require medical evidence
RA	Community/Technical college	Referral made to the college for services such as LD, vocational counseling, basic education, and other training opportunities, etc
RF	Food Stamp Referral to ESD	Referral to ESD for Food Stamp E&T
RO	Other	Referred to other professional staff for assessment/testing or services
RR	Review Medical Evidence	Used when a parent is referred to a social worker for deferral/exemption IRP and SSI decisions. The code is kept in place until the exemption or deferral IRP is completed.
RT	Tribal Services	Client referred to the Tribe for services
SR	Drug/alcohol assessment	Referred to DASA for assessment
Sanctions/Protective Payees		
SA	Sanction	Client refused but was able to participate in WorkFirst activity resulting in a grant reduction
SN	Child Safety Net Payments	Family has reached 60 months on TANF and is in sanction status - Child Safety Net Payment (TANF extension category #3)