



## **WORK FIRST NJ**

### **Quarterly Progress Update March 2005**

**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF  
HUMAN SERVICES**

**Division of Family Development**

**Jeanette Page-Hawkins  
Director**



*Richard J. Codey  
Acting Governor*

*James M. Davy  
Commissioner*



## Work First New Jersey (WFNJ) Quarterly Progress Update

### Quarter Ending March 2005

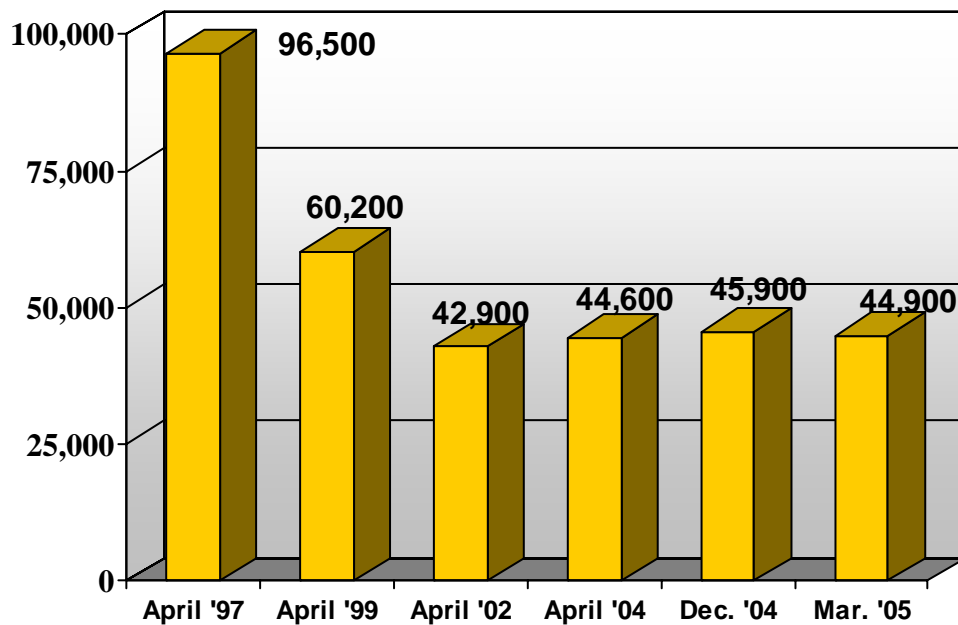
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#### 1. Work First NJ Caseload

##### • Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

The number of families receiving WFNJ/TANF totaled approximately 44,900 as of March 2005, a slight decline from the December 2004 caseload.

WFNJ TANF Caseload



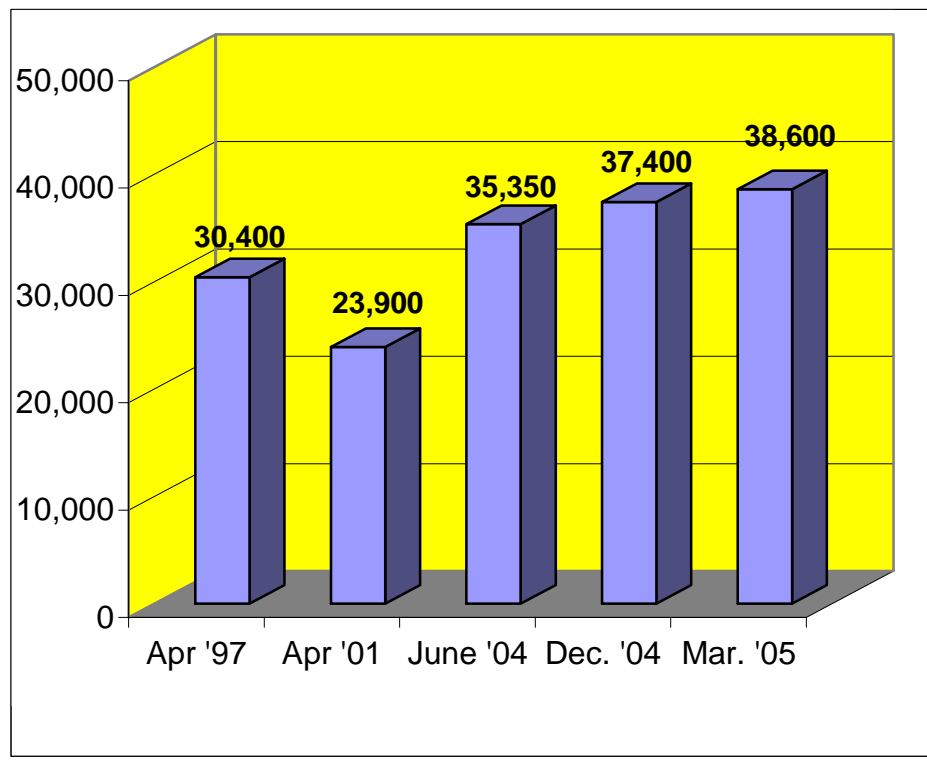
### •Client Deferrals and Exemptions

During March 2005, about 6,000 TANF cases were granted a temporary deferral from the requirement to participate in a work activity. About 12,000 cases had no work requirement and were exempt from the 60-month lifetime limit on cash assistance. (The majority of these households were designated as “child-only” cases, where adults were not directly receiving cash assistance.) Therefore, of the total TANF caseload of 44,900, about 32,900 cases (73 percent) were those with adults in the household who must comply with WFNJ work requirements.

### •General Assistance (GA)

As of March 2005, there were approximately 38,600 General Assistance (GA) cases in New Jersey.

**WFNJ GA Caseload**



### •Teenaged Welfare Recipients

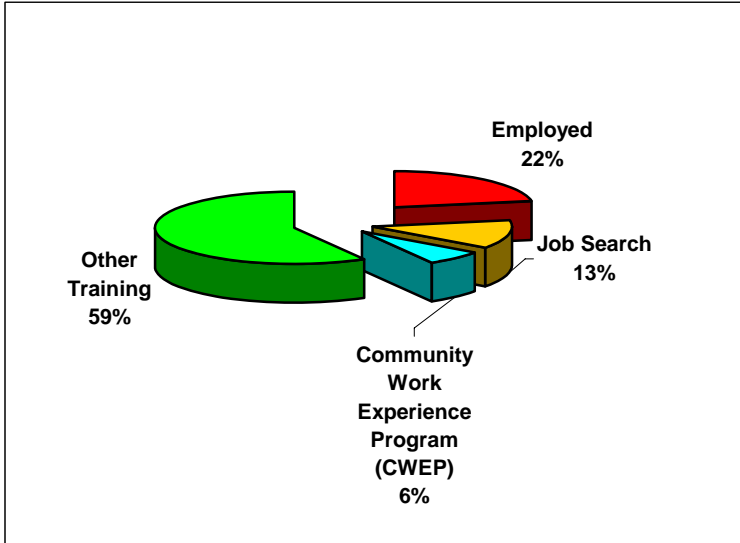
Of the TANF caseload of 44,900 in March 2005, about 700 (1.6%) were headed by teenaged recipients (aged 18 or 19 years old). This represents a modest increase from the previous quarter's total of 576, which was 1.3% of the December 2004 TANF caseload of 45,900.

**NOTE:** December's total was miscalculated and therefore not reported correctly in the December Quarterly report.

## 2. Employment & Work Preparation

### •Participation of WFNJ TANF Clients in Employment-Directed Activities

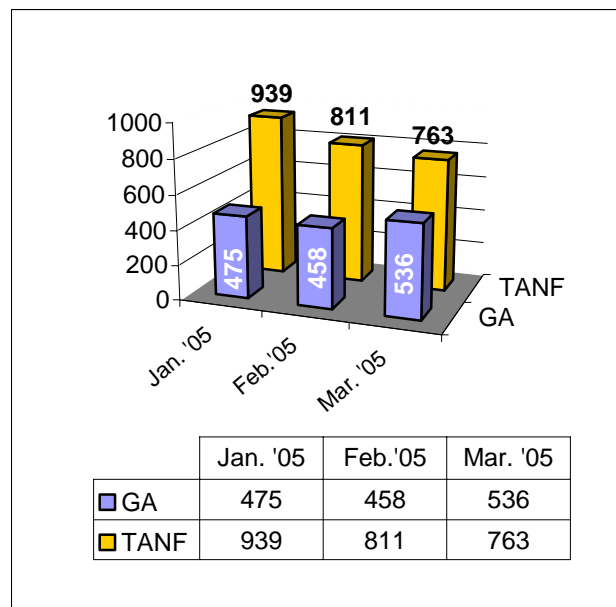
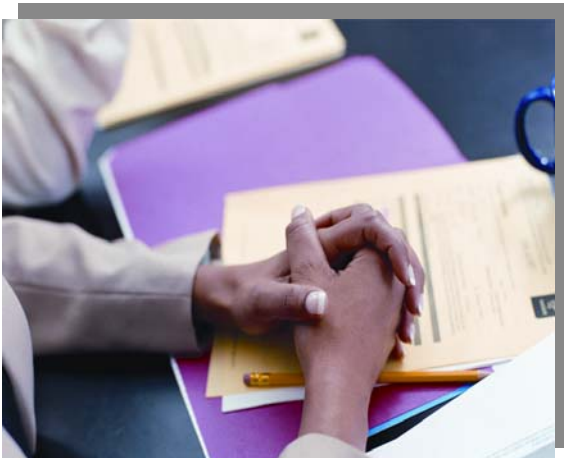
As of March 2005, TANF clients were engaged in more than 19,600 work activities. About 4,350 (22 percent) of these individuals had begun working but were still receiving a partial cash assistance payment, due to lower levels of income.



<b>Employed (part-time)</b>	<b>4,348</b>
<b>Job Search</b>	<b>2,555</b>
<b>Community Work Experience Program (CWEP)</b>	<b>1,266</b>
<b>Other Training</b>	<b>11,493</b>
-Alternative Work Experience (AWE) -Occupational Training -Education -On the Job Training (OJT)	
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,662</b>

### •Cases Closed Due to Employment

During the quarter, an average of about 840 WFNJ TANF and 490 WFNJ GA clients left welfare for employment each month.



## •Major Reasons for TANF Case Closings

### January to March 2005

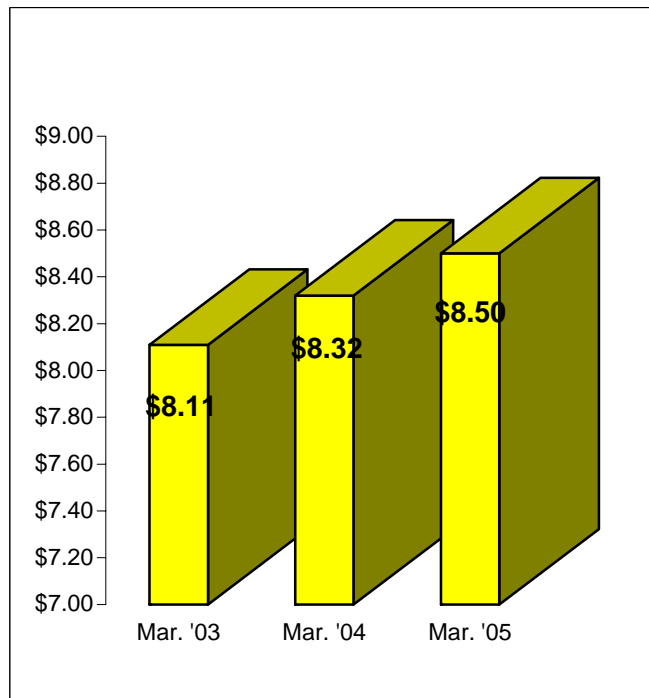
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Total
<b>Due to Employment</b>	939	811	763	2,513
<b>No Eligible Children</b>	221	205	214	640
<b>No Redetermination</b>	443	451	468	1,362
<b>Moved Out of State</b>	103	95	99	297
<b>All Other Closed</b>	1,339	1,226	1,281	3,846
<i>(Unemployment Ins. Benefits)</i>	<i>(113)</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>118</i>	<i>351)</i>
<i>(Recipient Withdrawal)</i>	<i>(159)</i>	<i>163</i>	<i>162</i>	<i>484)</i>
<i>(Recipient Initiative)</i>	<i>(101)</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>96</i>	<i>287)</i>
<i>(Moved to Another County)</i>	<i>(60)</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>173)</i>
<i>(Unable to Verify Residence)</i>	<i>(107)</i>	<i>86</i>	<i>92</i>	<i>285)</i>
<i>(Other Closed Cases)</i>	<i>(799)</i>	<i>722</i>	<i>745</i>	<i>2,266)</i>
<b>Total Closed Cases</b>	<b>3,045</b>	<b>2,788</b>	<b>2,825</b>	<b>8,658</b>

**About 30 percent of all TANF cases closed during the quarter were closed due to employment.**

## •Earnings of Former TANF Recipients

During the first quarter of 2005, former WFNJ TANF recipients who were working were earning an average of \$8.50 per hour, an increase of 39 cents per hour over the average wage for the same quarter in 2003.

### Average Hourly Wages of Former TANF Recipients



**•Statewide Job Openings**

According to the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development, there were more than 103,200 job openings statewide during the period of April 1, 2004 through March 31, 2005. The majority of positions available were in the Administration and Support, Waste Management and Remediation category, followed by the Retail Trade and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services fields.

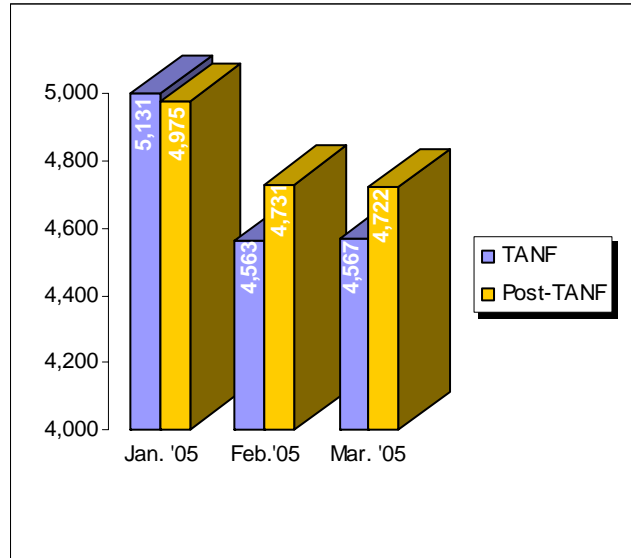
<b>LWD statewide job openings</b>	
<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Openings</b>
Admin. & Support, Waste Mgt. & Remediation	16,723
Retail Trade	13,661
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	12,631
Public Administration	10,533
Accommodation & Food Services	8,598
Manufacturing	8,397
Transportation & Warehousing	7,952
Health Care & Social Assistance	7,321
Other Services	3,588
Construction	2,758
Wholesale Trade	2,168
Finance & Insurance	2,071
Information	1,781
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	1,584
Educational Services	1,583
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	856
Management of Companies & Enterprises	611
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting	275
Utilities	117
Mining	36
<b>Total</b>	<b>103,244</b>

### 3. Child Care

As of March 2005, about 4,600 WFNJ TANF clients were receiving child care benefits. Post-TANF child care benefits were issued to about 4,700 families who had become employed and were no longer receiving cash assistance.



**WFNJ TANF Cases Receiving  
Child Care Benefits, March 2005**



### 4. WFNJ Program Expenditures

The attached Appendix provides a summary of WFNJ program expenditures for the quarter.

**NOTE: ALL CHARTS AND GRAPHS HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED BY  
THE DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT.**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING CHARTS AND GRAPHS  
OR PROGRAM EXPENDITURES, PLEASE CONTACT  
JEANETTE PAGE-HAWKINS, DIRECTOR, AT 609-588-2401.**

**THE DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
WORK FIRST NEW JERSEY (WFNJ) EXPENDITURES**  
Quarter Ending March 31, 2005

	Expenditures for the Quarter's Ended					TOTAL COSTS CY 2004 1/04 - 12/04	TOTAL COSTS SFY 2004 7/03 - 6/04	TOTAL COSTS SFY 2005 To Date 7/04 - 12/04	12 MONTH RUNNING TOTAL To Date 4/04 - 3/05
	Actual MAR 31, 2004	Actual JUN 30, 2004	Actual SEP 30, 2004	Actual DEC 31, 2004	Estimated MAR 30, 2005				
<b>(A) CASE MANAGEMENT</b>									
TANF	\$7,553,409	\$8,258,297	\$7,304,205	\$8,597,161	\$7,950,683	\$31,713,072	\$32,305,004	\$23,852,049	\$32,110,346
Food Stamps/Able Bodied Adults W/O Dependents	\$2,164,835	\$2,175,362	\$2,077,081	\$2,804,864	\$2,352,436	\$9,222,142	\$9,727,965	\$7,234,381	\$9,409,743
GA	\$2,109,229	\$2,310,303	\$2,256,059	\$2,620,910	\$2,395,757	\$9,296,501	\$9,508,887	\$7,272,726	\$9,583,029
<b>(B) WORK ACTIVITIES **</b>									
TANF	\$4,598,008	\$6,229,094	-	-	-	\$10,827,102	\$20,785,627	-	\$6,229,094
Food Stamps/Able Bodied Adults W/O Dependents	\$827,473	\$1,084,421	-	-	-	\$1,911,895	\$3,434,263	-	\$1,084,421
GA	\$1,000,939	\$1,228,744	-	-	-	\$2,229,682	\$3,957,460	-	\$1,228,744
<b>(C) SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICES</b>									
Special Initiatives I and II	\$2,226,617	\$3,162,228	\$1,790,326	\$1,366,935	\$1,578,631	\$8,546,106	\$11,662,724	\$4,735,892	\$7,898,120
<b>(D) CHILD CARE</b>									
	\$19,342,850	\$22,896,211	\$22,564,369	\$22,724,499	\$22,728,359	\$87,527,928	\$87,394,502	\$68,017,226	\$90,913,437
<b>(E) TRAINING RELATED EXPENSE, PARTICIPANT ALLOWANCE AND TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT</b>									
TANF	\$2,478,455	\$3,016,817	\$2,331,415	\$2,624,170	\$2,477,793	\$10,450,857	\$10,066,645	\$7,433,378	\$10,450,195
Food Stamps	\$750,355	\$818,262	\$914,563	\$737,419	\$825,991	\$3,220,599	\$2,946,906	\$2,477,973	\$3,296,235
GA	\$287,741	\$388,050	\$367,652	\$305,991	\$336,822	\$1,349,434	\$1,180,708	\$1,010,465	\$1,398,515
<b>(F) DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT - EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING</b>									
TANF	\$3,804,830	\$4,542,275	\$8,856,303	\$12,238,138	\$10,547,221	\$29,441,546	\$16,391,064	\$31,641,662	\$36,183,937
Food Stamps/Able Bodied Adults W/O Dependents	\$1,388,381	\$1,663,181	\$2,718,299	\$3,639,602	\$3,178,950	\$9,409,463	\$6,284,741	\$9,536,851	\$11,200,032
GA	\$169,747	\$185,465	\$1,503,150	\$2,076,462	\$1,789,806	\$3,934,824	\$1,009,685	\$5,369,418	\$5,554,883
<b>(G) OMEGA SYSTEM</b>									
	\$244,441	\$249,628	\$247,035	\$248,331	\$247,683	\$989,435	\$1,215,991	\$743,049	\$992,677
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$48,947,310</b>	<b>\$58,208,338</b>	<b>\$53,262,297</b>	<b>\$59,824,353</b>	<b>\$56,406,270</b>	<b>\$220,070,585</b>	<b>\$217,872,172</b>	<b>\$169,325,068</b>	<b>\$218,991,147</b>

**FOOTNOTES:**

All costs reflected on this report through December 2004 are ACTUALS as reported through 7/8/2005.

ACTUAL expenditures are subject to subsequent adjustment and reconciliation to be reflected on future reports.

\*\* Effective July 2004, Work Activities were transferred to the Department of Labor and Work Force Development. Subsequent DFD reported expenditures through December 2004 are included in the DFD March and June 2004 quarters.