



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
PO Box 700
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0700

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

JENNIFER VELEZ
Commissioner

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

December 22, 2010

Honorable Paul Sarlo, Chair
Senate Budget and Appropriations
Committee
Senate Majority Office, State House
P.O. Box 099
Trenton, NJ 08625-0099

Honorable Nellie Pou, Chair
Assembly Appropriations Committee
Assembly Majority Office, State House
P.O. Box 098
Trenton, NJ 08625-0098

Dear Senator Sarlo and Assemblywoman Pou:

Enclosed is the Work First New Jersey (WFNJ) Quarterly Progress Update for the quarter ending March 2010.

This report reflects the current trend of clients receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and General Assistance (GA) benefits. During this quarter, an average of about 870 clients (TANF and GA combined) left WFNJ for employment each month. The average wage of TANF clients who became employed was \$9.69 per hour.

I welcome your comments on any of the issues discussed in this report. If you would like additional information, please contact me or Jeanette Page-Hawkins, Director of the Division of Family Development, at 609-588-2401.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Velez", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Jennifer Velez
Commissioner

JV:14

Enclosure

c: Jeanette Page-Hawkins
Andrew Hendry, Senate Democratic Office
James A. Harkness, Senate Republican Office
William Caruso, Assembly Democratic Office
Richard Wright, Assembly Republican Office
Lori O'Mara-Van Driesen, OLS, OPI



WORK FIRST NJ

Quarterly Progress Update March 2010

**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN SERVICES**

Division of Family Development

**Jeanette Page-Hawkins
Director**



***Jennifer Velez
Commissioner***



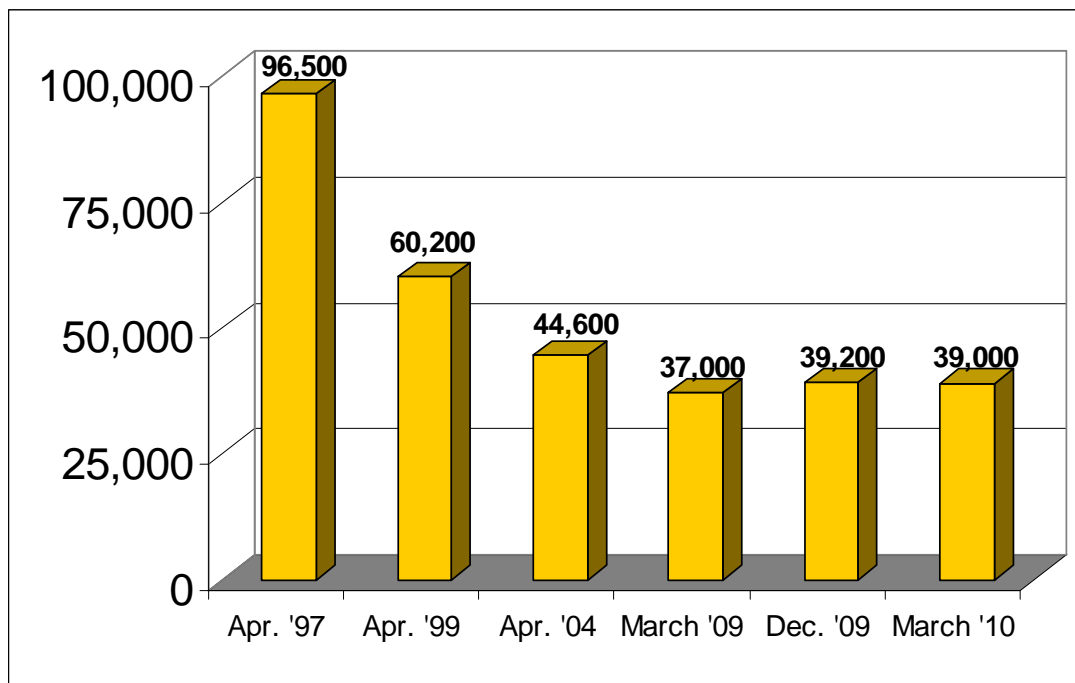
Work First New Jersey (WFNJ) Quarterly Progress Update Quarter Ending March 2010

1. Work First NJ Caseload

• Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

The number of families receiving WFNJ/TANF totaled approximately 39,000 as of March 2010.

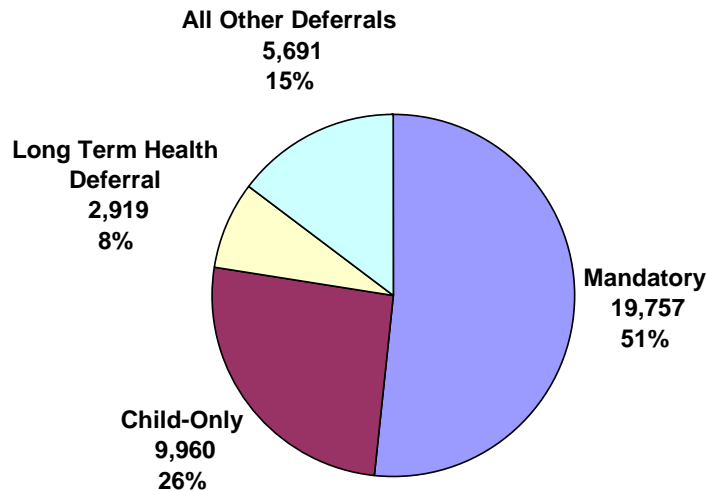
WFNJ TANF Caseload



•Client Deferrals and Exemptions

Of the total TANF caseload of 39,000, about 19,800 cases (51 percent) were those with adults in the household who must comply with WFNJ work requirements.

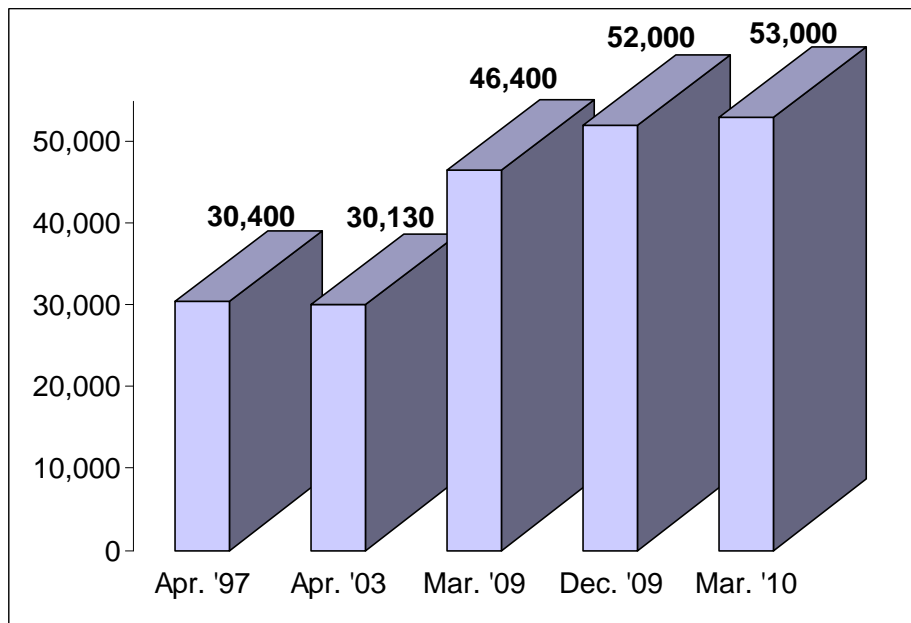
**WFNJ/TANF Caseload by Case Status
March 2010**



•General Assistance (GA)

As of March 2010, there were approximately 53,000 General Assistance (GA) persons aided in New Jersey, continuing an upward trend in this program.

WFNJ GA Persons Aided



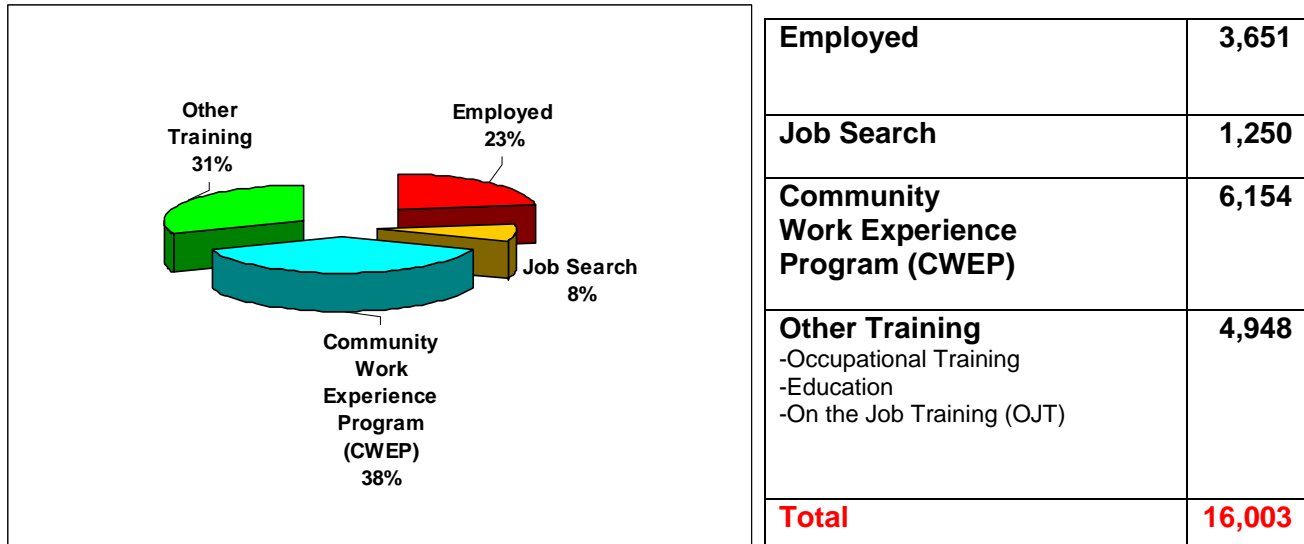
•Teenaged Welfare Recipients

Of the TANF population of 39,000 in March 2010, about 1,000 (2.5%) were teenaged recipients, aged 18 and 19, who were heads of their households.

2. Employment & Work Preparation

•Participation of WFNJ TANF Clients in Employment-Directed Activities

For the month of March 2010, TANF clients were engaged in more than 16,000 work activities. About 3,600 of these individuals had begun working but were still receiving a partial cash assistance payment, due to lower levels of income.

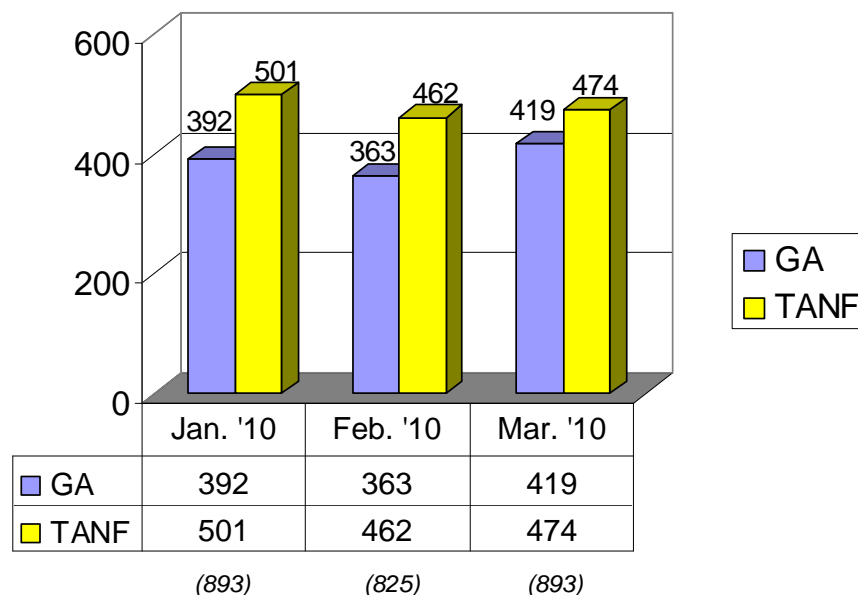


•Cases that met the Federal Participation Requirement

Of the people scheduled to participate in the work-directed activities, 5,902 participated at levels sufficient to satisfy federal requirements.

•Cases Closed Due to Employment

During the quarter, an average of about 870 WFNJ TANF and GA clients left welfare for employment each month.



•Major Reasons for TANF Case Closings

January to March 2010

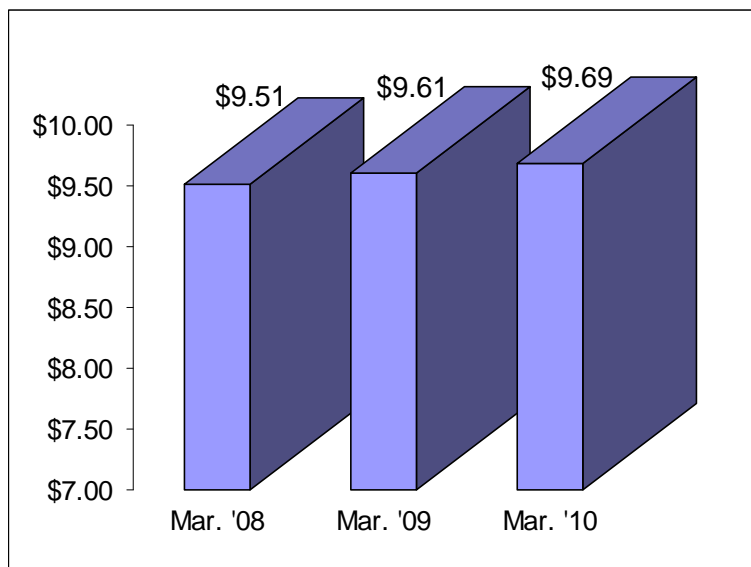
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Due to Employment	501	462	474	1,437
No Eligible Children	179	196	171	546
No Redetermination	68	74	43	185
Moved Out of State	81	99	93	273
All Other Closed	1685	1,773	1,370	4,828
<i>(Unemployment Ins. Benefits)</i>	390	338	150	878
<i>(Recipient Withdrawal)</i>	114	131	140	385
<i>(Recipient Initiative)</i>	45	42	39	126
<i>(Moved to Another County)</i>	38	70	40	148
<i>(Unable to Verify Residence)</i>	55	76	60	191
<i>(Other Closed Cases)</i>	1043	1,116	941	3,100
Total Closed Cases	2,514	2,604	2,151	7,269

About 20 percent of all TANF cases closed during the quarter were closed due to employment.

•Earnings of Former TANF Recipients

During the first quarter of 2010, WFNJ TANF recipients who were working were earning an average of \$9.69 per hour.

Average Hourly Wages of Former TANF Recipients



•Statewide Job Openings

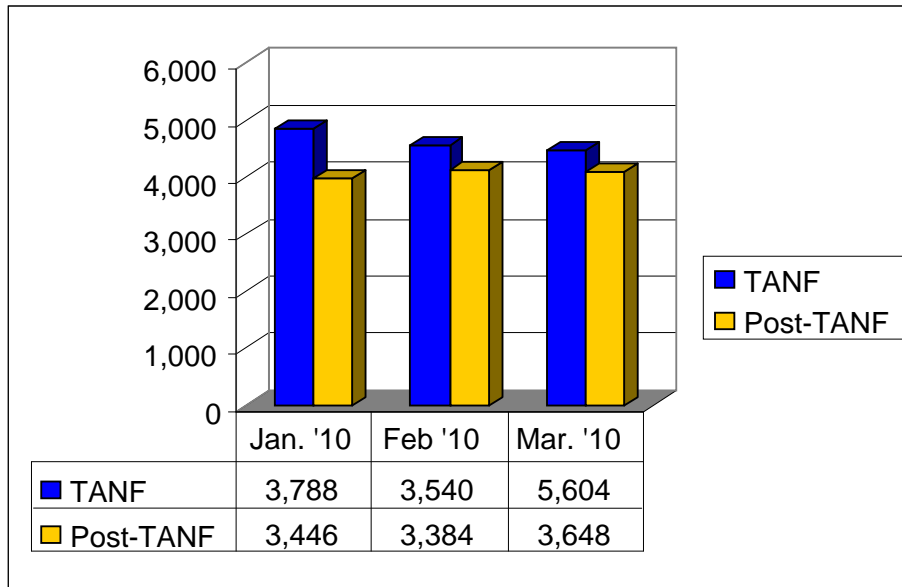
According to the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development, there were 66,660 job openings statewide during the period of April 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010. The majority of positions available were in the Administration and Support, Waste Management and Remediation category, followed by the Retail Trade and Health Care and Social Assistance fields.

LWD statewide job openings	
Occupation	Openings
Admin. & Support, Waste Mgt. & Remediation	13,710
Retail Trade	7,567
Health Care & Social Assistance	6,041
Public Administration	5,783
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	5,107
Manufacturing	5,043
Accommodation & Food Services	4,612
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	3,985
Information	2,327
Transportation & Warehousing	2,813
Construction	1,634
Finance & Insurance	1,624
Wholesale Trade	1,593
Educational Services	1,581
Other Services	1,229
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting	758
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	592
Utilities	560
Management of Companies & Enterprises	84
Mining	17
Total	66,660

3. Child Care

As of March 2010, about 3,700 WFNJ TANF clients were receiving child care benefits. Post-TANF child care benefits were issued to about 3,600 families who had become employed and were no longer receiving cash assistance.

WFNJ TANF Cases Receiving Child Care Benefits, March 2010



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, 2010**

	Actual Mar 31, 2009	Actual June 30, 2009	Actual Sept 30, 2009	Actual Dec 31, 2009	Estimated Mar 31, 2010	TOTAL COSTS SFY 2009 7/08 - 6/09	TOTAL COSTS CY 2009 1/09 - 12/09	TOTAL COSTS SFY 2010 7/09 - 6/10	TOTAL COSTS CY 2010 1/10 - 12/10
(A) CASE MANAGEMENT									
TANF	\$8,649,151	\$8,725,180	\$8,145,833	\$10,180,272	\$8,925,109	\$36,254,978	\$35,700,436	\$27,251,214	\$8,925,109
Food Stamps/Able Bodied Adults W/O Dependents	\$3,858,188	\$4,258,002	\$3,921,284	\$4,046,347	\$4,020,955	\$15,171,992	\$16,083,821	\$11,988,586	\$4,020,955
GA	\$2,545,857	\$2,793,937	\$2,464,629	\$2,956,465	\$2,690,222	\$10,859,788	\$10,760,887	\$8,111,315	\$2,690,222
(B) SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICE									
Special Initiative	\$1,398,547	\$1,258,553	\$1,824,917	\$1,403,252	\$1,471,317	\$5,448,779	\$5,885,269	\$4,699,486	\$1,471,317
(C) CHILD CARE	\$24,639,079	\$25,165,871	\$26,556,067	\$25,859,993	\$25,555,253	\$100,931,530	\$102,221,010	\$77,971,313	\$25,555,253
(D) TRAINING RELATED EXPENSE, PARTICIPANT ALLOWANCE AND TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT									
TANF	\$2,286,460	\$2,824,602	\$2,811,916	\$2,731,318	\$2,663,574	\$10,106,137	\$10,654,295	\$8,206,807	\$2,663,574
Food Stamps	\$691,659	\$1,188,711	\$829,027	\$981,603	\$922,750	\$3,307,692	\$3,691,001	\$2,733,381	\$922,750
GA	\$408,649	\$445,840	\$540,396	\$483,521	\$469,602	\$1,749,435	\$1,878,406	\$1,493,519	\$469,602
(E) DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT - EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING									
TANF	\$14,202,409	\$17,835,203	\$10,790,360	\$12,022,659	\$13,712,658	\$56,700,954	\$54,850,631	\$36,525,677	\$13,712,658
Food Stamps/Able Bodied Adults W/O Dependents	\$2,845,617	\$2,700,398	\$1,811,954	\$2,898,792	\$2,564,191	\$13,354,628	\$10,256,762	\$7,274,937	\$2,564,191
GA	\$2,011,254	\$1,931,980	\$1,238,426	\$1,927,559	\$1,777,304	\$12,451,449	\$7,109,218	\$4,943,289	\$1,777,304
(F) OMEGA SYSTEM	\$451,942	\$476,338	\$477,130	\$477,287	\$470,674	\$1,772,056	\$1,882,698	\$1,425,092	\$470,674
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$63,988,811	\$69,604,615	\$61,411,939	\$65,969,068	\$65,243,608	\$268,109,418	\$260,974,433	\$192,624,615	\$65,243,608

FOOTNOTES:

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

ACTUAL expenditures for OMEGA SYSTEM have been revised to reflect actual expenditures.