
WorkFirst NJ

Quarterly Progress Update

June 2016

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT



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Director

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Acting Commissioner

Background

This quarterly report, mandated by the WorkFirst New Jersey (WFNJ) law, is a summary of New Jersey’s welfare program. The data elements included in the report are those specified by N.J.S.A. 44:10-41.

Part One: WorkFirst NJ Caseload

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

21,319 families received WFNJ/TANF at the end of June 2016, down 7% from the previous quarter.

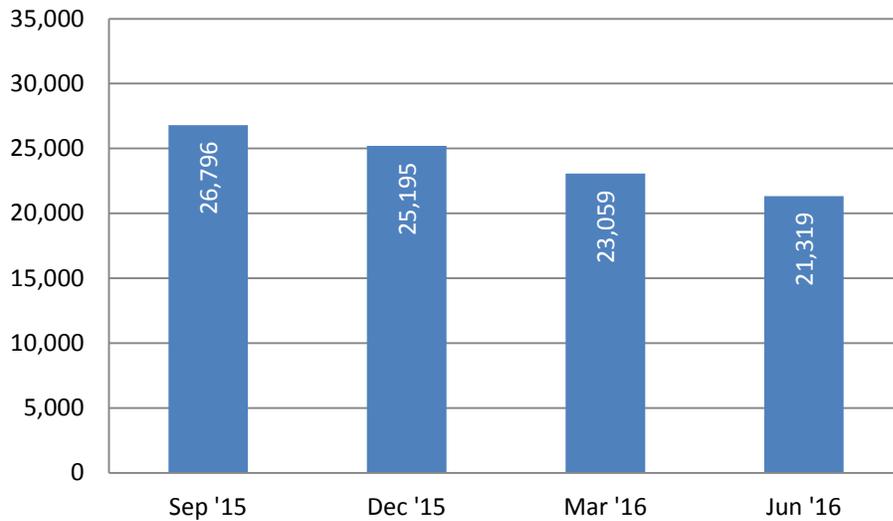


Figure 1: TANF family caseload by quarter.

Client Deferrals and Exemptions

Of the total TANF family caseload (21,319), 8,459 cases (40%) had an adult in the household with a mandatory WFNJ/TANF work requirement. 6,433 cases (30%) were exempt child-only households and 2,876 cases (13%) had a long-term health deferral. 3,551 cases (17%) had some other type of deferral.

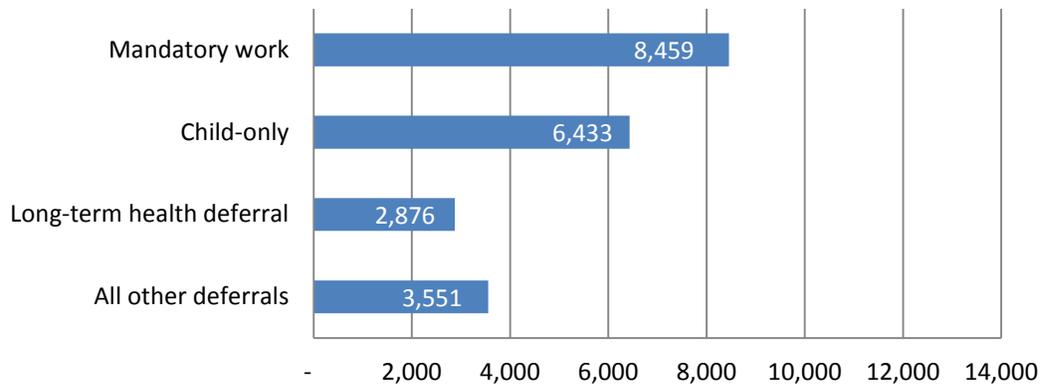


Figure 2: TANF caseload by case status as of June, 2016.

General Assistance (GA)

The number of persons receiving General Assistance (GA) at the end of June was 18,693. That figure was down 8% from the previous quarter.

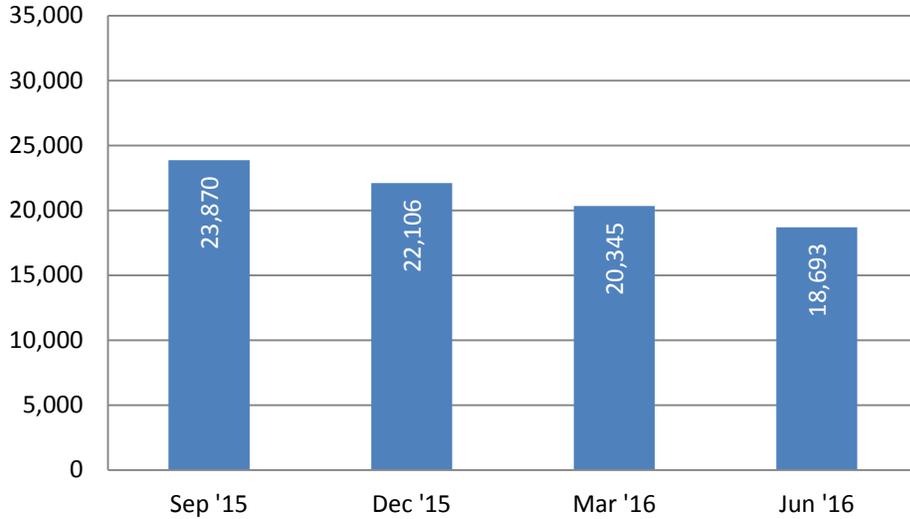


Figure 3: General Assistance (GA) participants by quarter.

Part Two: Employment and Work Preparation

Participation of WFNJ/TANF Clients in Employment-Directed Activities

In June 2016, 8,324 TANF clients were engaged in work activities. 2,418 (29%) of these individuals had begun working but were still receiving a partial cash assistance payment, due to income disregards.

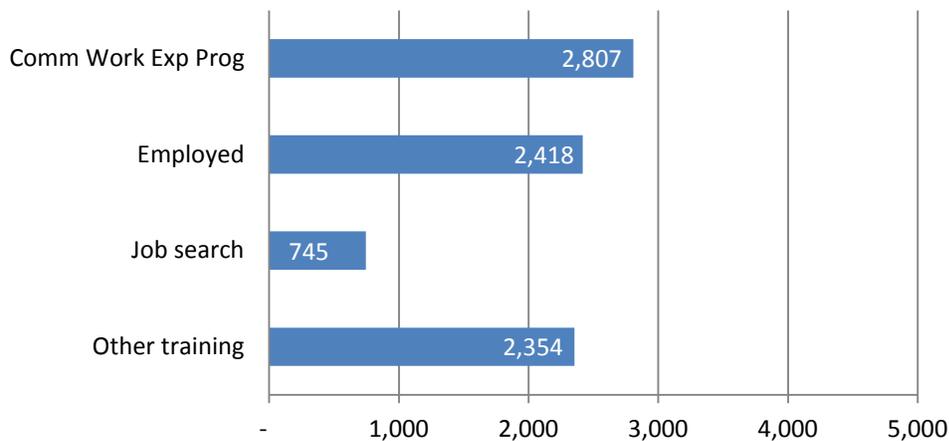


Figure 4: Participation of WFNJ/TANF clients in employment-directed activities.

Federal Participation Requirement

Of the recipients scheduled to participate in the work-directed activities, 2,701 participated at levels sufficient to satisfy federal requirements.

Cases Closed Due to Employment

During the quarter, an average of 701 WFNJ/TANF and GA clients left welfare for employment each month. The number of employed TANF clients trended upward during the quarter, increasing 0.2% from April to June, while employed GA recipients decreased 1% during the same period.

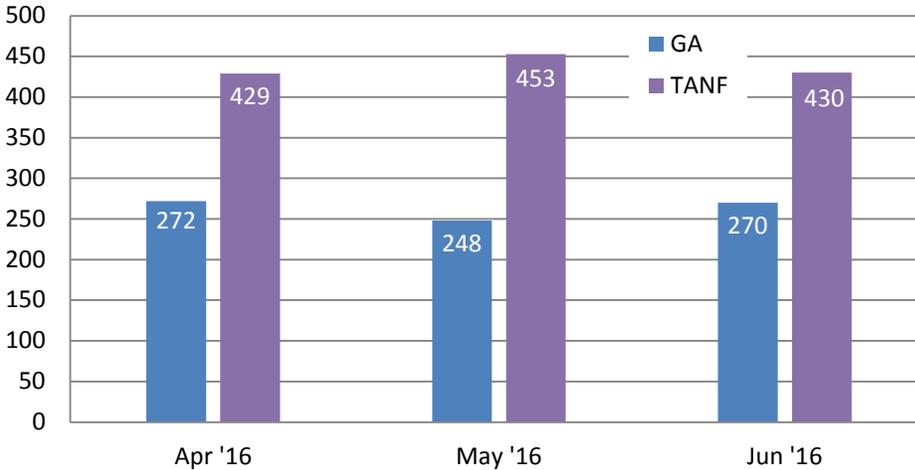


Figure 5: GA and TANF clients leaving due to employment.

Major Reasons for TANF Case Closings

During the second quarter of 2016, 5,880 TANF cases were closed. 22% of these TANF cases closed due to employment.

Table 1: Major reasons for case closing, Apr-Jun, 2016.

Reason for Closing	Apr '16	May '16	Jun '16	Total
TANF Sanctions	488	408	490	1,386
Employment	429	453	430	1,312
No Redetermination	156	178	142	476
Recipient Withdrawal	154	119	161	434
No eligible children	128	102	122	352
Recipient initiative	80	56	53	189
Moved out of state	60	49	66	175
Moved to Another County	44	48	45	137
60-Month Time Limit	47	39	36	122
Unemployment benefits	34	37	35	106
Unable to Verify Residence	34	24	25	83
Other Closed Cases	373	377	358	1,108
	2,154	1,890	1,963	5,880

* Primarily unearned income-child support, pension, federal benefits.

Earnings of TANF Recipients

During the second quarter of 2016, working WFNJ/TANF earned an average of \$10.64 per hour, an increase of 2% since September 2015.

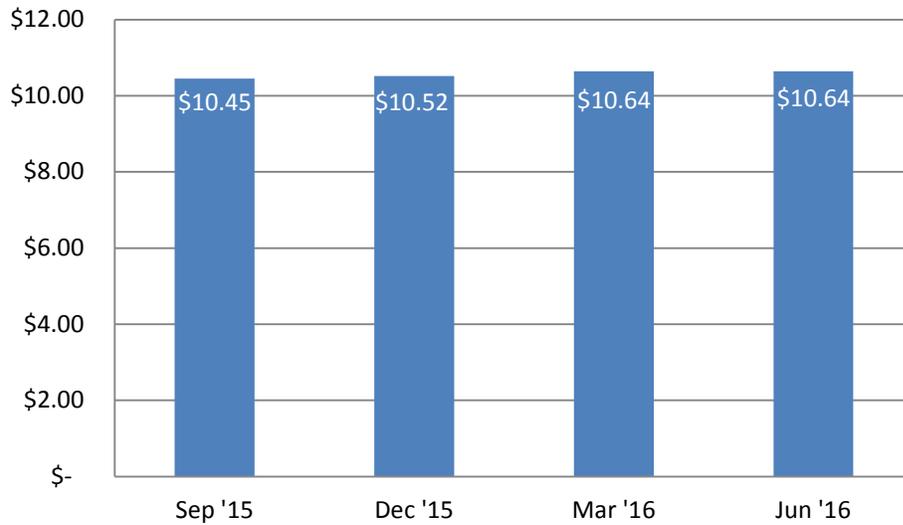


Figure 6: Mean hourly wage of TANF recipients by quarter, September 2015 – June 2016.

Statewide Job Openings

According to the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development, there were 222,968 job openings statewide during the period from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. The majority of positions available were in the Professional, Scientific and Technical Services category, followed by the Health Care and Social Assistance and Administration & Support, Waste Management & Remediation Services.

Table 2: NJ LWD Statewide Job Openings, July 2015 - June 2016.

Occupation	Openings
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	42,718
Health Care & Social Assistance	31,008
Admin. & Support, Waste Mgmt. & Remediation Services	27,010
Information	22,515
Manufacturing	21,280
Retail Trade	14,861
Finance and Insurance	14,631
Transportation and Warehousing	9,404
Wholesale Trade	7,762
Management of Companies and Enterprises	7,320
Accommodation and Food Services	5,592
Other Services	5,323
Construction	4,224
Educational Services	3,371
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	2,340
Real Estate and Rental & Leasing	1,807
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	1,096
Public Administration	399
Utilities	230
Mining	77
Total	222,968

Part Three: Child Care

WFNJ/TANF Cases Receiving Child Care Benefits

As of June 2016, over 2,600 WFNJ/TANF clients received child care benefits. Post-TANF child care benefits were issued to nearly 3,400 families who had become employed and were no longer receiving cash assistance.

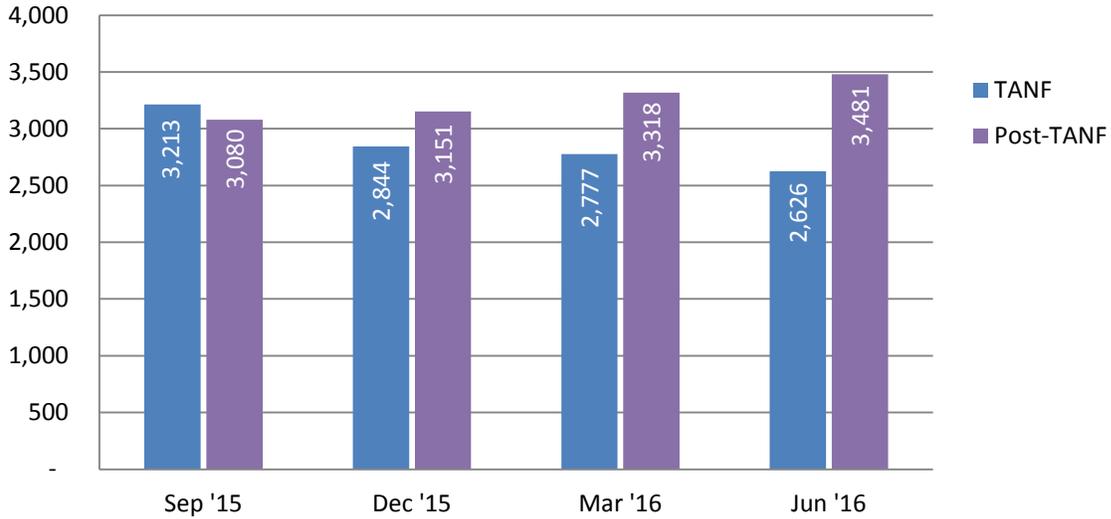


Figure 7: WFNJ/TANF cases receiving child care benefits by quarter, September 2015 - June 2016.

Part Four: WFNJ Program Expenditures

The table below provides a summary of WFNJ program expenditures for the quarter ending June 30, 2016.

THE DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT WORK FIRST NEW JERSEY (WFNJ) EXPENDITURES Quarter Ending June 30, 2016									
	Actual June 30, 2015	Actual Sept. 30, 2015	Actual Dec. 31, 2015	Actual Mar. 31, 2016	Estimated June 30, 2016	TOTAL COSTS SFY 2015 7/14 – 6/15	TOTAL COSTS CY 2015 1/15 – 12/15	TOTAL COSTS SFY 2016 7/15 - 6/16	TOTAL COSTS CY2016 1/16-6/16
(A) CASE MANAGEMENT									
TANF	\$8,261,551	\$8,944,625	\$11,364,373	\$7,980,675	\$9,137,806	\$37,058,113	\$37,064,696	\$37,427,478	\$17,118,480
SNAP/Able Bodied Adults w/o Dependents	\$4,298,901	\$4,399,116	\$5,607,609	\$4,660,331	\$4,741,489	\$17,770,577	\$18,424,471	\$19,408,544	\$9,401,820
GA	\$1,239,550	\$1,040,548	\$1,349,618	\$1,012,196	\$1,160,478	\$4,865,690	\$4,769,844	\$4,562,839	\$2,172,674
(B) CHILD CARE	\$16,578,199	\$13,749,735	\$13,476,236	\$11,405,893	\$13,802,516	\$60,471,903	\$57,288,211	\$52,434,381	\$25,208,410
(C) TRAINING RELATED EXPENSE, PARTICIPANT ALLOWANCE AND TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT									
TANF	\$1,837,293	\$2,395,804	\$1,590,163	\$2,238,106	\$2,015,341	\$8,544,762	\$7,932,417	\$8,239,414	\$4,253,447
SNAP	\$1,081,599	\$1,037,027	\$970,948	\$1,034,104	\$1,030,920	\$4,533,711	\$4,152,090	\$4,072,999	\$2,065,023
GA	\$114,313	\$91,821	\$99,187	\$98,705	\$101,007	\$439,825	\$420,497	\$390,720	\$199,712
								\$0	
(D) DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT - EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING									
TANF	\$14,178,217	\$6,769,629	\$12,603,293	\$12,253,373	\$11,451,128	\$45,668,877	\$44,531,643	\$43,077,423	\$23,704,501
SNAP/Able Bodied Adults w/o Dependents	\$7,679,610	\$3,733,225	\$5,808,744	\$7,726,791	\$6,237,093	\$23,795,160	\$22,939,879	\$23,505,854	\$13,963,884
GA	\$1,342,328	\$590,177	\$819,587	\$1,184,274	\$984,091	\$4,672,234	\$3,877,518	\$3,578,128	\$2,168,365
(E) OMEGA SYSTEM	\$37,411	\$82,107	\$47,202	\$54,690	\$55,353	\$486,049	\$322,772	\$239,353	\$110,043
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$56,648,971	\$42,833,814	\$53,736,961	\$49,649,137	\$50,717,221	\$208,306,900	\$201,724,037	\$196,937,133	\$100,366,358

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 OIT CAP expenditures.