
WorkFirst NJ

Quarterly Progress Update
December 2016

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT



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Director

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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)

19,217 families received WFNJ/TANF at the end of December 2016, down 6% from the previous quarter.

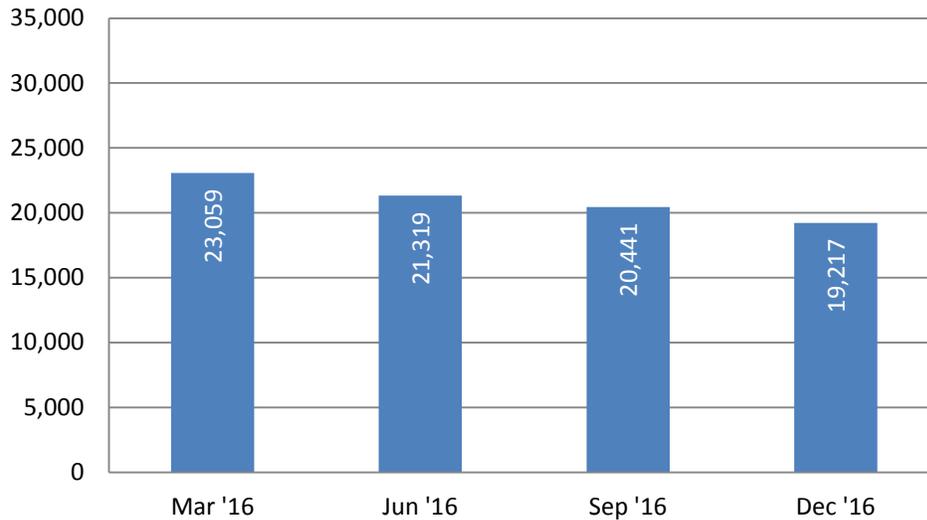


Figure 1: TANF family caseload by quarter.

Client Deferrals and Exemptions

Of the total TANF family caseload (19,217), 7,353 cases (38%) had an adult in the household with a mandatory WFNJ/TANF work requirement. 5,949 cases (31%) were exempt child-only households and 2,533 cases (13%) had a long-term health deferral. 3,382 cases (18%) had some other type of deferral.

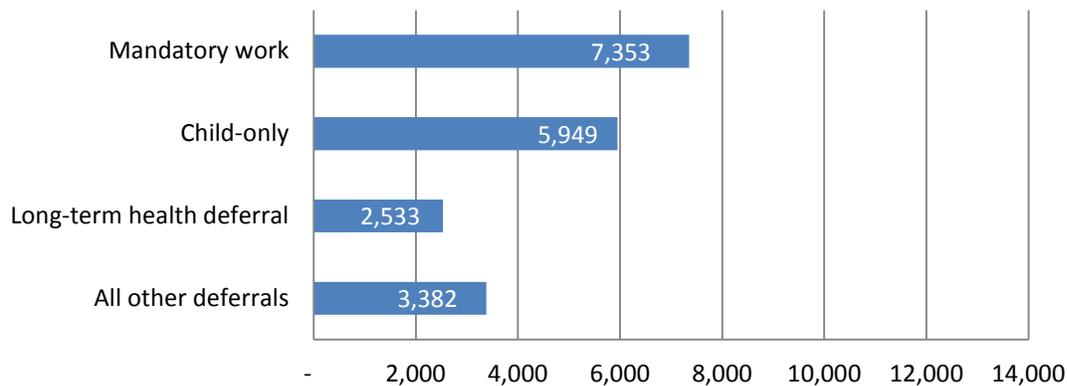


Figure 2: TANF caseload by case status as of December, 2016.

General Assistance (GA)

The number of persons receiving General Assistance (GA) at the end of December was 16,001. That figure was down 6% from the previous quarter.

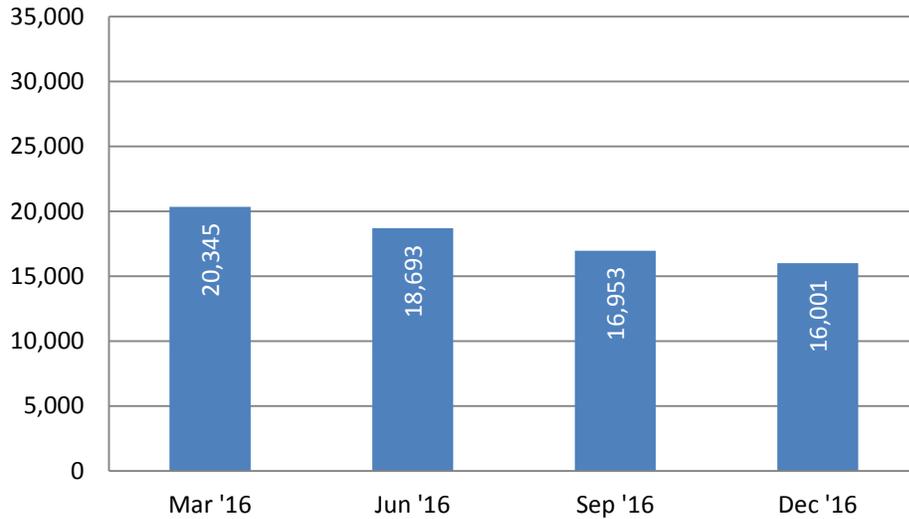


Figure 3: General Assistance (GA) participants by quarter.

Part Two: Employment and Work Preparation

Participation of WFNJ/TANF Clients in Employment-Directed Activities

In December 2016, 6,458 TANF clients were engaged in work activities. 2,003 (31%) of these individuals had begun working but were still receiving a partial cash assistance payment, due to income disregards.

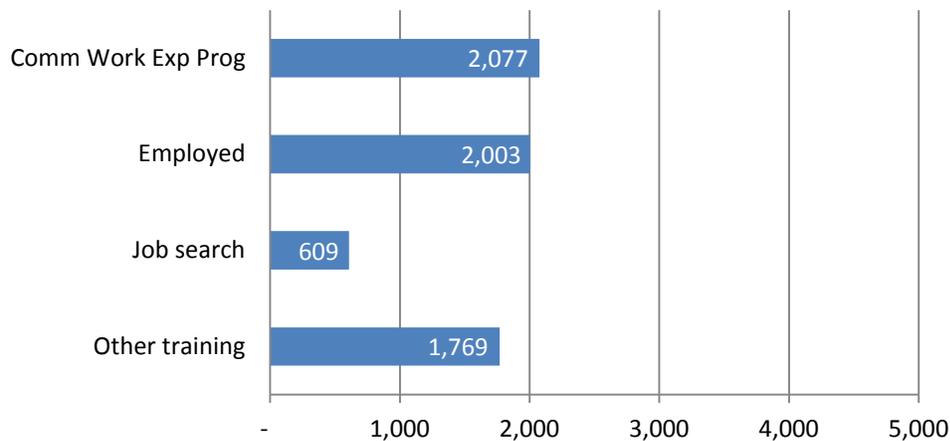


Figure 4: Participation of WFNJ/TANF clients in employment-directed activities.

Federal Participation Requirement

Of the recipients scheduled to participate in the work-directed activities, 2,040 participated at levels sufficient to satisfy federal requirements.

Cases Closed Due to Employment

During the quarter, an average of 582 WFNJ/TANF and GA clients left welfare for employment each month. The number of employed TANF clients trend upward during the quarter, increasing 17% from October to December, while employed GA recipients decreased 19% during the same period.

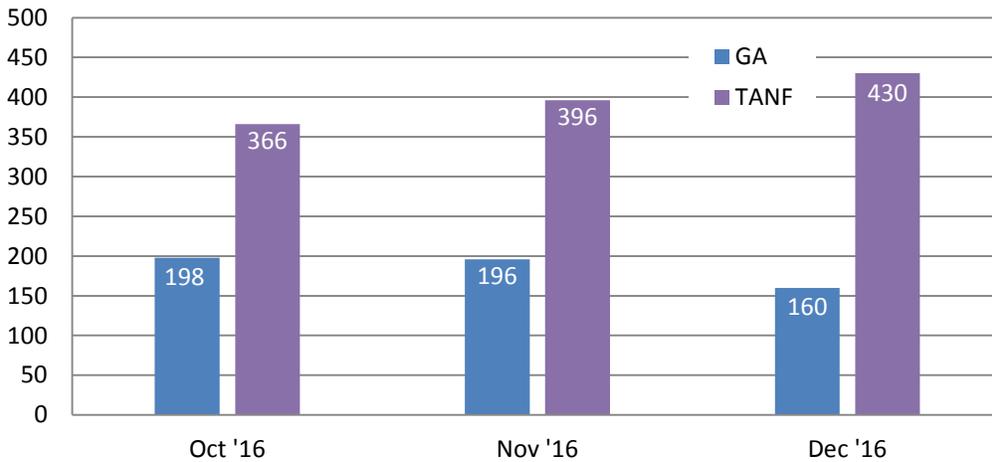


Figure 5: GA and TANF clients leaving due to employment.

Major Reasons for TANF Case Closings

During the fourth quarter of 2016, 5,081 TANF cases were closed. 23% of these TANF cases closed due to employment.

Table 1: Major reasons for case closing, Oct-Dec, 2016.

Reason for Closing	Oct '16	Nov '16	Dec '16	Total
TANF Sanctions	440	421	421	1,282
Employment	366	396	430	1,192
No Eligible Children	116	137	85	338
Recipient Withdrawal	130	112	93	335
No Redetermination	67	96	74	237
Recipient Initiative	53	54	53	160
Moved out of state	52	59	32	143
Unable to Verify Residence	47	39	49	135
60-Month Time Limit	37	33	22	92
Unemployment benefits	25	30	33	88
Moved to Another County	34	23	30	87
Other Closed Cases	331	356	305	992
	1,698	1,756	1,627	5,081

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

Earnings of TANF Recipients

During the fourth quarter of 2016, working WFNJ/TANF recipients earned an average of \$10.88 per hour, an increase of 2% since March 2016.



Figure 6: Mean hourly wage of TANF recipients by quarter, March 2016 – December 2016.

Statewide Job Openings

According to the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development, there were 259,917 job openings statewide during the period from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016. The majority of positions available were in the Professional, Scientific and Technical Services category, followed by the Administration & Support, Waste Management & Remediation Services and Health Care and Social Assistance.

Table 2: NJ LWD Statewide Job Openings, January 2016 - December 2016.

Occupation	Openings
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	44,201
Admin. & Support, Waste Mgmt. & Remediation Services	39,991
Health Care & Social Assistance	36,445
Manufacturing	32,187
Information	24,368
Retail Trade	18,215
Finance and Insurance	13,732
Transportation and Warehousing	10,761
Wholesale Trade	10,519
Accommodation and Food Services	6,204
Other Services	4,204
Management of Companies and Enterprises	4,066
Construction	3,980
Educational Services	3,635
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	2,493
Real Estate and Rental & Leasing	2,006
Utilities	1,280
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	1,167
Public Administration	412
Mining	51
Total	259,917

Part Three: Child Care

WFNJ/TANF Cases Receiving Child Care Benefits

As of December 2016, over 1,900 WFNJ/TANF clients received child care benefits. Post-TANF child care benefits were issued to nearly 2,800 families who had become employed and were no longer receiving cash assistance.

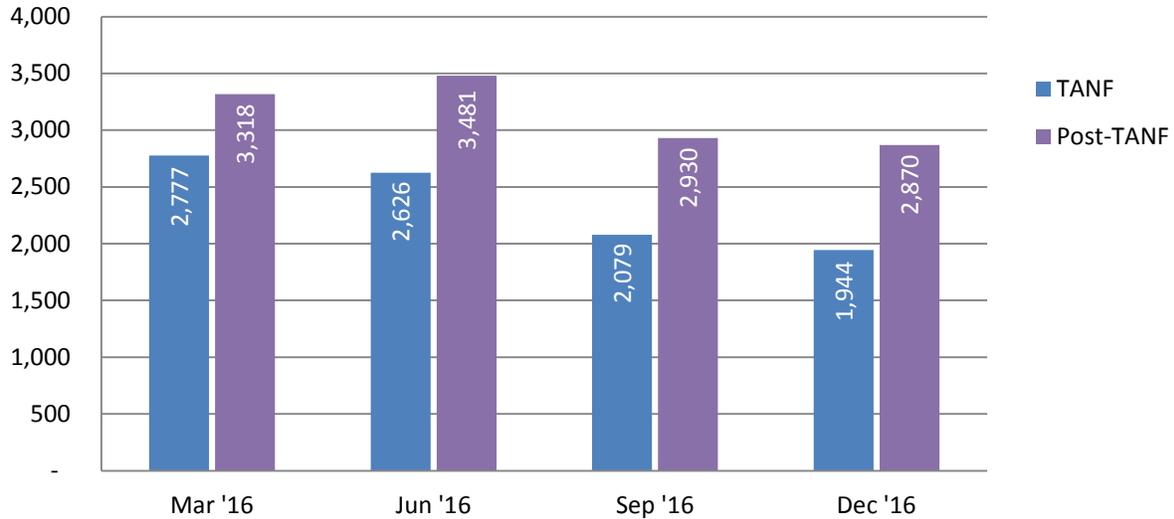


Figure 7: WFNJ/TANF cases receiving child care benefits by quarter, March 2016 - December 2016.

Part Four: WFNJ Program Expenditures

The table below provides a summary of WFNJ program expenditures for the quarter ending December 31, 2016.

THE DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT WORK FIRST NEW JERSEY (WFNJ) EXPENDITURES Quarter Ending December 31, 2016									
	Actual Dec. 31, 2015	Actual Mar. 31, 2016	Actual June 30,2016	Actual Sept. 30,2016	Estimated Dec. 31, 2016	TOTAL COSTS CY 2015 1/15 – 12/15	TOTAL COSTS SFY 2016 7/15 - 6/16	TOTAL COSTS CY2016 1/16-12/16	TOTAL COSTS SFY 2017 7/16 – 12/16
(A) CASE MANAGEMENT									
TANF	\$11,364,373	\$7,980,675	\$8,847,158	\$9,339,799	\$9,383,001	\$37,064,696	\$37,136,831	\$35,550,633	\$18,722,800
SNAP/Able Bodied Adults w/o Dependents	\$5,607,609	\$4,660,331	\$4,495,779	\$5,363,055	\$5,031,693	\$18,424,471	\$19,162,834	\$19,550,858	\$10,394,748
GA	\$1,349,618	\$1,012,196	\$1,061,888	\$1,003,294	\$1,106,749	\$4,769,844	\$4,464,250	\$4,184,127	\$2,110,043
(B) CHILD CARE	\$13,476,236	\$11,873,256	\$13,295,297	\$11,974,287	\$12,654,769	\$57,288,211	\$52,394,525	\$49,797,609	\$24,629,056
(C) TRAINING RELATED EXPENSE, PARTICIPANT ALLOWANCE AND TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT									
TANF	\$1,590,163	\$2,238,106	\$2,029,173	\$801,517	\$1,664,740	\$7,932,417	\$8,253,246	\$6,733,536	\$2,466,257
SNAP	\$970,948	\$1,034,104	\$1,020,081	\$890,483	\$978,904	\$4,152,090	\$4,062,160	\$3,923,572	\$1,869,388
GA	\$99,187	\$98,705	\$94,334	\$66,749	\$89,744	\$420,497	\$384,047	\$349,532	\$156,493
(D) DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT - EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING									
TANF	\$12,603,293	\$9,594,568	\$12,287,353	\$9,797,440	\$11,070,664	\$44,531,643	\$41,254,843	\$42,750,025	\$20,868,104
SNAP/Able Bodied Adults w/o Dependents	\$5,808,744	\$6,613,365	\$6,278,439	\$5,541,371	\$6,060,480	\$22,939,879	\$22,433,774	\$24,493,656	\$11,601,851
GA	\$819,587	\$1,013,621	\$944,802	\$765,364	\$885,843	\$3,877,518	\$3,368,186	\$3,609,629	\$1,651,207
(E) OMEGA SYSTEM	\$47,202	\$54,690	\$75,014	\$70,990	\$61,974	\$322,772	\$259,014	\$262,669	\$132,965
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$53,736,961	\$46,173,616	\$50,429,319	\$45,614,350	\$48,988,562	\$201,724,037	\$193,173,710	\$191,205,847	\$94,602,912

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.