



WORK FIRST NJ

Quarterly Progress Update March 2006

**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN SERVICES**

Division of Family Development

**Jeanette Page-Hawkins
Director**



***Jon S. Corzine
Governor***

***James W. Smith, Jr.
Acting Commissioner***



Work First New Jersey (WFNJ) Quarterly Progress Update

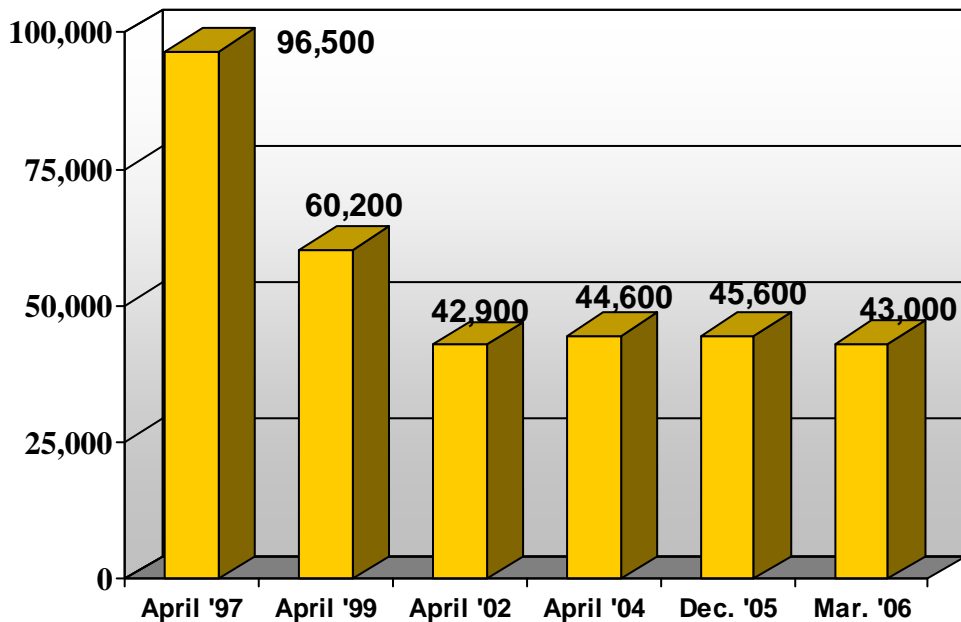
Quarter Ending March 2006

1. Work First NJ Caseload

• Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

The number of families receiving WFNJ/TANF totaled approximately 43,000 as of March 2006.

WFNJ TANF Caseload



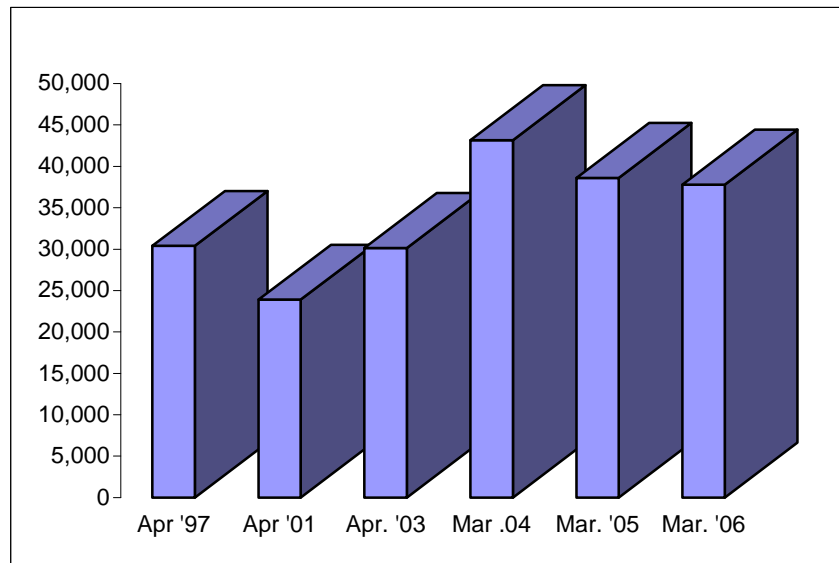
Client Deferrals and Exemptions

During March 2006, about 5,400 TANF cases were granted a temporary deferral from the requirement to participate in a work activity. About 11,600 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 43,000, about 32,700 cases (76 percent) were those with adults in the household who must comply with WFNJ work requirements.

General Assistance (GA)

As of March 2006, there were approximately 37,800 General Assistance (GA) cases in New Jersey.

WFNJ GA Caseload



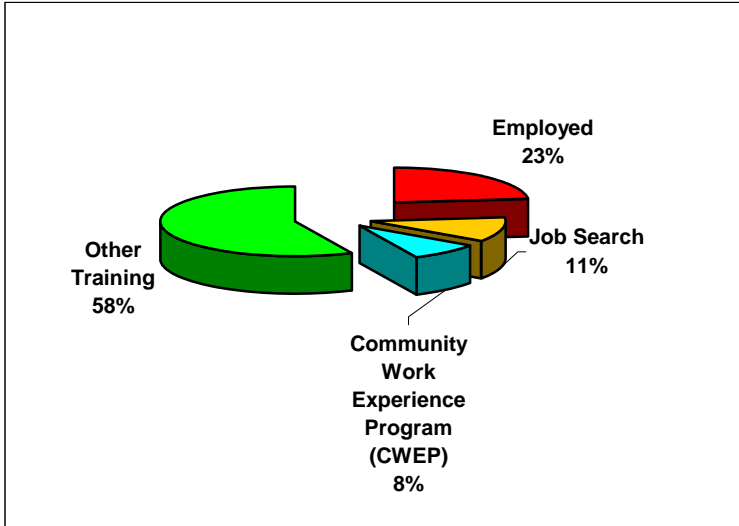
Teenaged Welfare Recipients

About 1,500 (3.8%) of the TANF population in March 2006 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

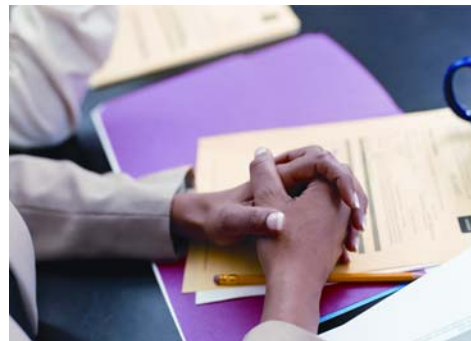
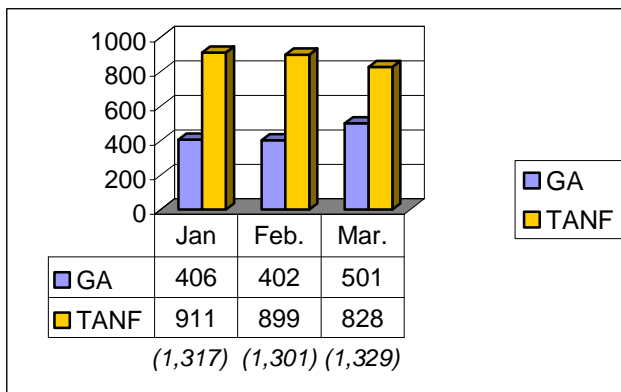
As of March 2006, TANF clients were engaged in nearly 17,500 work activities. About 4,100 (23 percent) of these individuals had begun working but were still receiving a partial cash assistance payment, due to lower levels of income.



Employed	4,110
Job Search	1,972
Community Work Experience Program (CWEP)	1,474
Other Training -Alternative Work Experience (AWEP) -Occupational Training -Education -On the Job Training (OJT)	9,942
Total	17,498

•Cases Closed Due to Employment

During the quarter, a combined average of 1,316 WFNJ TANF and GA clients left welfare for employment each month.



•Major Reasons for TANF Case Closings

January to March 2006

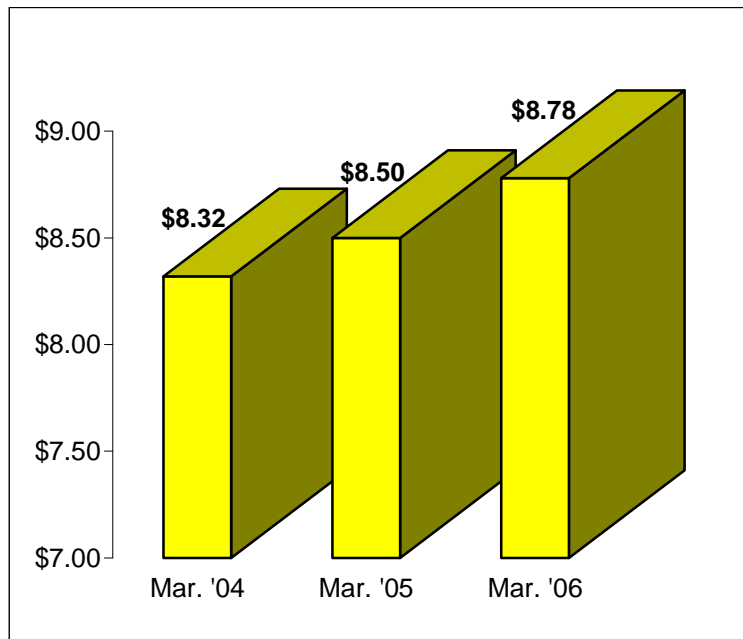
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Total
Due to Employment	911	899	828	2,638
No Eligible Children	192	239	218	649
No Redetermination	436	513	409	1,358
Moved Out of State	104	118	117	339
All Other Closed (see details below)	1,296	1,323	1,323	3,942
<i>Unemployment Ins. Benefits</i>	109	126	112	347
<i>Recipient Withdrawal</i>	166	170	178	514
<i>Recipient Initiative</i>	74	90	83	247
<i>Moved to Another County</i>	62	64	47	173
<i>Unable to Verify Residence</i>	98	114	87	299
<i>Other Closed Cases</i>	787	759	816	2,362
Total Closed Cases	2,939	3,092	2,895	8,926

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 2006, former WFNJ TANF recipients who were working were earning an average of \$8.78 per hour.

Average Hourly Wages of Former TANF Recipients



•Statewide Job Openings

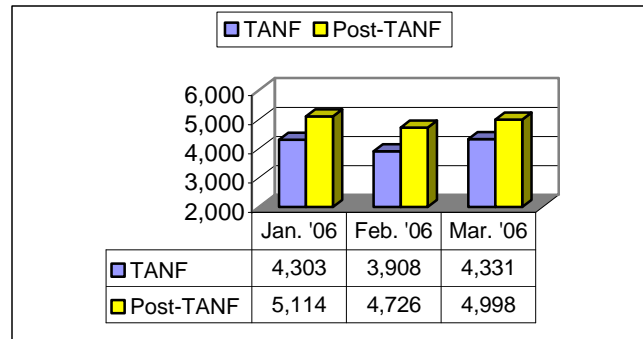
According to the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development, there were about 214,300 job openings statewide during the period of March 31, 2005 through March 31, 2006. The majority of positions available were in the Professional, Scientific & Technical Services fields, followed by the Administration and Support, Waste Management and Remediation category and the Retail Trade fields.

LWD statewide job openings	
Occupation	Openings
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	51,699
Admin. & Support, Waste Mgt. & Remediation	33,739
Retail Trade	23,891
Finance & Insurance	17,722
Transportation & Warehousing	16,512
Public Administration	13,012
Manufacturing	12,925
Health Care & Social Assistance	11,193
Accommodation & Food Services	9,027
Information	4,999
Construction	4,456
Wholesale Trade	3,844
Other Services	3,620
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	3,282
Educational Services	1,850
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	988
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting	768
Management of Companies & Enterprises	383
Utilities	340
Mining	114
Total	214,364

3. Child Care

As of March 2006, about 4,330 WFNJ TANF clients were receiving child care benefits. Post-TANF child care benefits were issued to nearly 5,000 families who had become employed and were no longer receiving cash assistance.

**WFNJ TANF Cases Receiving
Child Care Benefits, March 2006**



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, 2006**

	Actual MAR 31, 2005	Actual JUN 30, 2005	Actual SEP 30, 2005	Actual Dec 31, 2005	Estimated Mar 31, 2006	TOTAL COSTS SFY 2005 7/04 - 6/05	TOTAL COSTS CY 2005 1/05 - 12/05	TOTAL COSTS SFY 2006 To Date 7/05 - 3/06	12 MONTH RUNNING TOTAL To Date 4/05 - 3/06
(A) CASE MANAGEMENT									
TANF	\$7,063,037	\$7,901,833	\$7,761,197	\$8,100,367	\$7,930,782	\$30,855,542	\$30,826,434	\$23,792,347	\$31,694,179
Food Stamps/Able Bodied Adults W/O Dependents	\$2,121,813	\$2,638,461	\$2,885,283	\$3,031,581	\$2,958,432	\$9,660,109	\$10,677,138	\$8,875,295	\$11,513,756
GA	\$2,249,491	\$1,962,899	\$2,286,152	\$2,540,427	\$2,413,289	\$9,115,985	\$9,038,969	\$7,239,868	\$9,202,767
(B) SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICES									
Special Initiatives I and II	\$2,094,990	\$2,249,892	\$2,439,333	\$1,780,821	\$2,110,077	\$7,502,143	\$8,565,036	\$6,330,231	\$8,580,123
(C) CHILD CARE	\$22,356,391	\$23,998,056	\$21,580,269	\$22,210,535	\$21,895,402	\$91,643,314	\$90,145,250	\$65,686,205	\$89,684,261
(D) TRAINING RELATED EXPENSE, PARTICIPANT ALLOWANCE AND TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT									
TANF	\$2,662,847	\$2,220,771	\$2,558,496	\$2,453,482	\$2,505,989	\$9,860,946	\$9,895,597	\$7,517,967	\$9,738,739
Food Stamps	\$733,524	\$903,245	\$709,678	\$657,507	\$683,593	\$3,267,169	\$3,003,954	\$2,050,778	\$2,954,023
GA	\$339,803	\$410,836	\$346,294	\$364,709	\$355,502	\$1,424,282	\$1,461,642	\$1,066,505	\$1,477,341
(E) DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT - EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING									
TANF	\$9,162,918	\$9,279,113	\$9,319,204	\$10,876,780	\$10,097,992	\$39,536,473	\$38,638,015	\$30,293,976	\$39,573,089
Food Stamps/Able Bodied Adults W/O Dependents	\$1,726,382	\$3,340,719	\$1,927,828	\$2,501,505	\$2,214,667	\$11,431,668	\$9,496,434	\$6,644,000	\$9,984,719
GA	\$1,500,239	\$589,755	\$1,455,362	\$1,750,450	\$1,602,906	\$5,662,940	\$5,295,806	\$4,808,717	\$5,398,473
(F) OMEGA SYSTEM	\$577,386	\$583,819	\$559,101	\$573,435	\$566,268	\$2,236,405	\$2,293,741	\$1,698,805	\$2,282,624
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$52,588,821	\$56,079,400	\$53,828,196	\$56,841,599	\$55,334,898	\$222,196,975	\$219,338,016	\$166,004,693	\$222,084,093

FOOTNOTES:

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.