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# WorkFirst NJ

Quarterly Progress Update  
December 2015

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



Natasha Johnson  
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)

25,195 families received WFNJ/TANF at the end of December 2015, down 6% from the previous quarter.

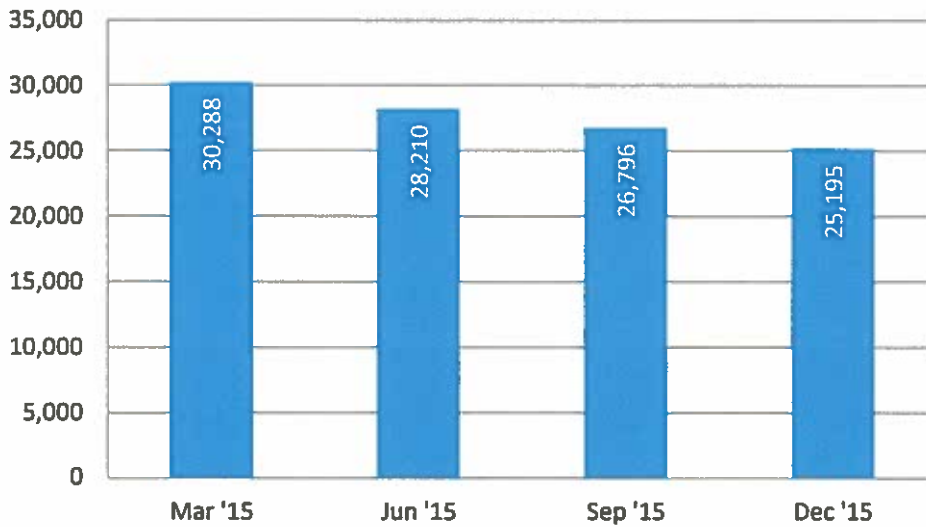


Figure 1: TANF family caseload by quarter.

### Client Deferrals and Exemptions

Of the total TANF family caseload (25,195), 10,846 cases (43%) had an adult in the household with a mandatory WFNJ/TANF work requirement. 6,997 cases (28%) were exempt child-only households and 2,926 cases (12%) had a long-term health deferral. 4,426 cases (18%) had some other type of deferral.

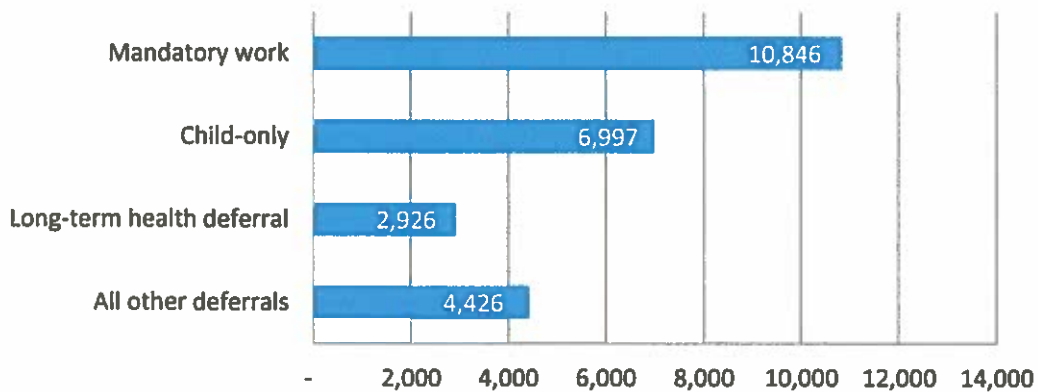


Figure 2: TANF caseload by case status as of December, 2015.

## General Assistance (GA)

The number of persons receiving General Assistance (GA) at the end of December was 22,106. That figure was down 7% from the previous quarter.

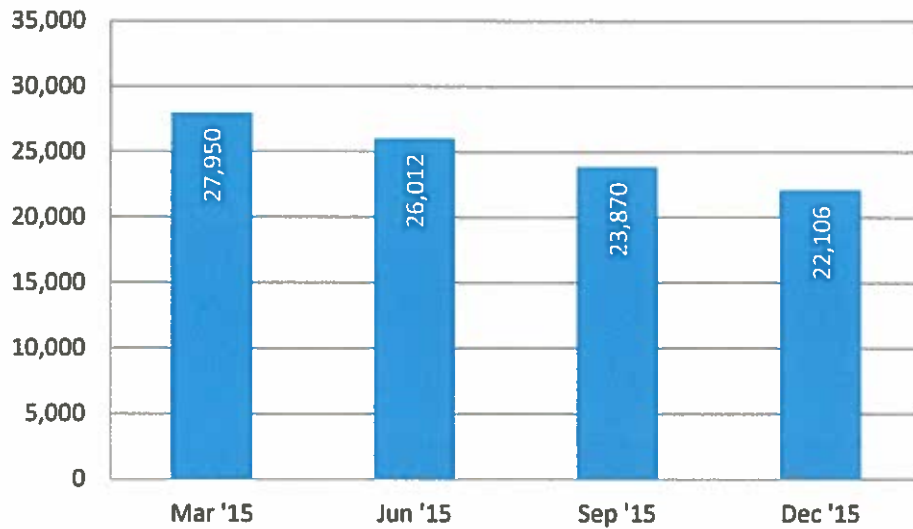


Figure 3: General Assistance (GA) participants by quarter.

## Part Two: Employment and Work Preparation

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

In December 2015, 9,388 TANF clients were engaged in work activities. 3,236 (34%) of these individuals had begun working but were still receiving a partial cash assistance payment, due to income disregards.

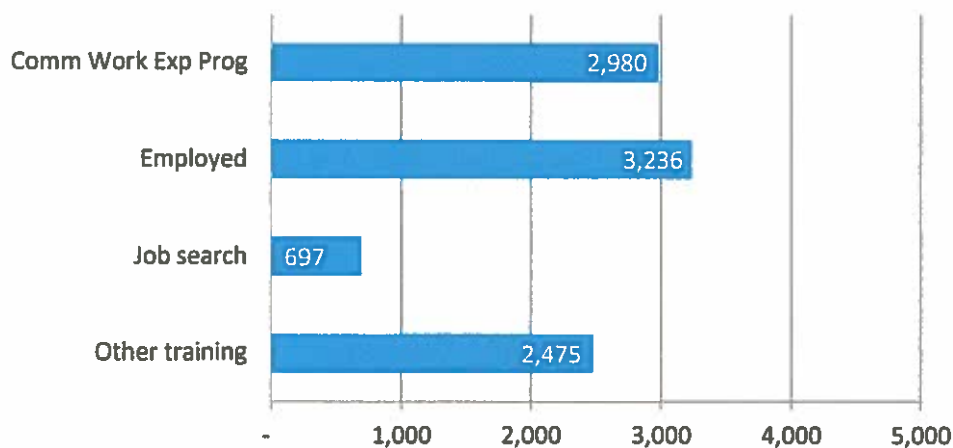


Figure 4: Participation of WFNJ/TANF clients in employment-directed activities.

## Federal Participation Requirement

Of the recipients scheduled to participate in the work-directed activities, 3,242 participated at levels sufficient to satisfy federal requirements.

## Cases Closed Due to Employment

During the quarter, an average of 850 WFNJ/TANF and GA clients left welfare for employment each month. The number of employed TANF clients trended downward during the quarter, falling 8% from October to December, while employed GA recipients increased 14% during the same period.

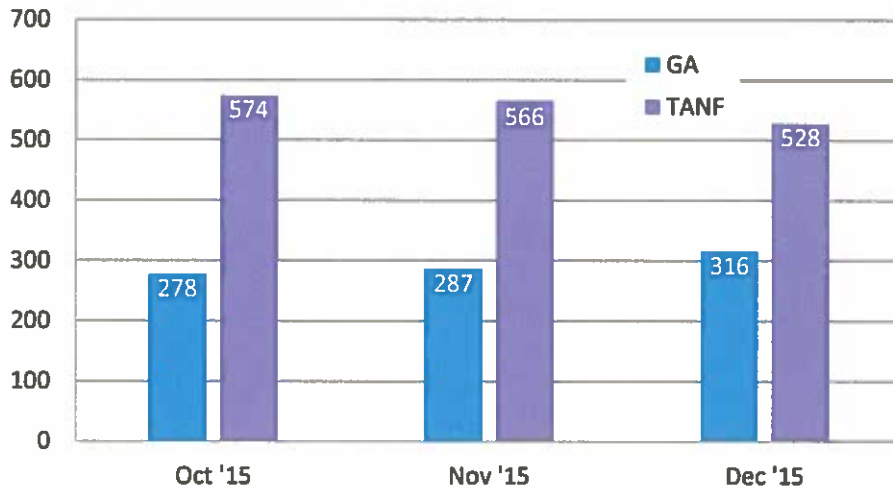


Figure 5: GA and TANF clients leaving due to employment.

## Major Reasons for TANF Case Closings

During the fourth quarter of 2015, 6,561 TANF cases were closed. 25% of these TANF cases closed due to employment.

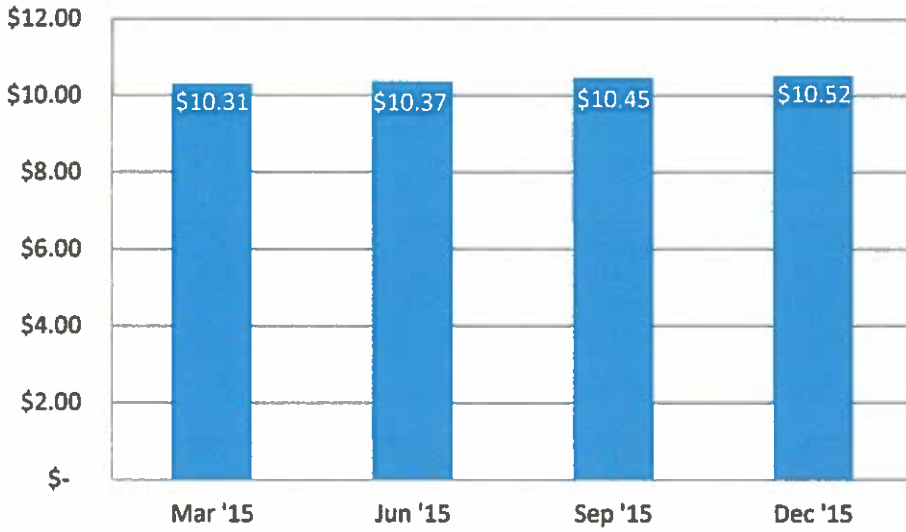
Table 1: Major reasons for case closing, Oct-Dec, 2015.

Reason for Closing	Oct '15	Nov '15	Dec '15	Total
Employment	574	566	528	1,668
TANF Sanctions	470	590	506	1,566
Recipient Withdrawal	176	155	155	486
No eligible children	159	143	132	434
No Redetermination	137	94	109	340
Moved out of state	110	61	52	223
Recipient initiative	56	62	53	171
60-Month Time Limit	58	56	49	163
Moved to Another County	49	38	36	123
Unable to Verify Residence	36	48	36	120
Unemployment benefits	42	33	36	111
Other Closed Cases	395	379	382	1,156
	2,262	2,225	2,074	6,561

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

### Earnings of TANF Recipients

During the fourth quarter of 2015, working WFNJ/TANF earned an average of \$10.52 per hour, an increase of 2% since March 2015.



**Figure 6:** Mean hourly wage of TANF recipients by quarter, March 2015 – December 2015.

## Statewide Job Openings

According to the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development, there were 196,172 job openings statewide during the period from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015. 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, January 2015 - December 2015.**

Occupation	Openings
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	41,912
Health Care & Social Assistance	29,054
Admin. & Support, Waste Mgmt. & Remediation Services	27,530
Finance and Insurance	21,964
Retail Trade	17,310
Manufacturing	12,600
Transportation and Warehousing	9,115
Management of Companies and Enterprises	7,597
Wholesale Trade	5,754
Accommodation and Food Services	4,745
Information	4,693
Other Services	3,455
Construction	2,932
Educational Services	2,845
Real Estate and Rental & Leasing	1,726
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	1,287
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	960
Public Administration	415
Utilities	165
Mining	113
<b>Total</b>	<b>196,172</b>

### Part Three: Child Care

#### WFNJ/TANF Cases Receiving Child Care Benefits

As of December 2015, over 2,800 WFNJ/TANF clients received child care benefits. Post-TANF child care benefits were issued to nearly 3,200 families who had become employed and were no longer receiving cash assistance.

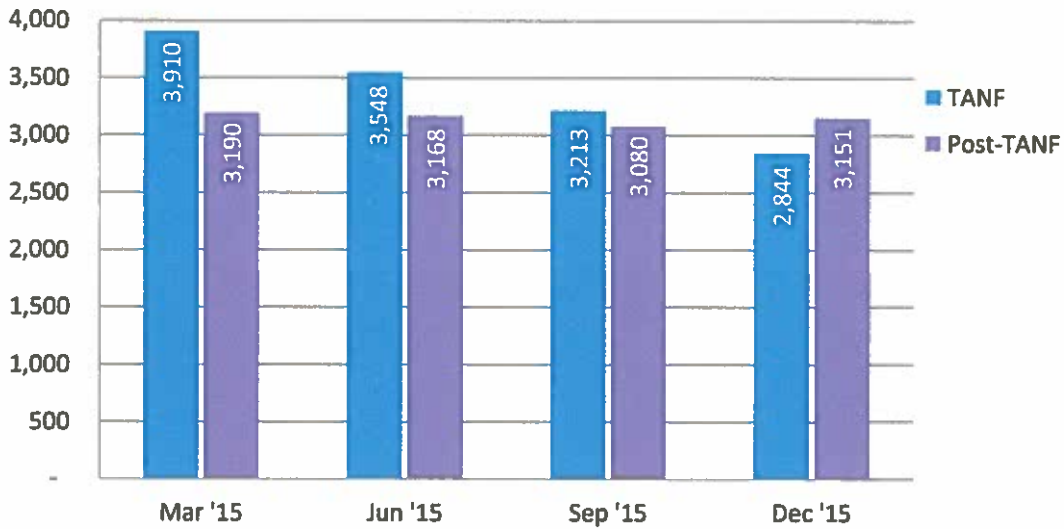


Figure 7: WFNJ/TANF cases receiving child care benefits by quarter, March 2015 - December 2015.

# Part Four: WFNJ Program Expenditures

The table below provides a summary of WFNJ program expenditures for the quarter ending December 31, 2015.

THE DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT WORK FIRST NEW JERSEY (WFNJ) EXPENDITURES Quarter Ending December 31, 2015									
	Actual Dec. 31, 2014	Actual Mar. 31, 2015	Actual June 30, 2015	Actual Sept. 30, 2015	Estimated Dec. 31, 2015	TOTAL COSTS CY 2014 1/14 - 12/14	TOTAL COSTS SFY 2015 7/14 - 6/15	TOTAL COSTS CY 2015 1/15 - 12/15	TOTAL COSTS SFY 2016 7/15 - 12/15
<b>(A) CASE MANAGEMENT</b>									
TANF	\$11,031,211	\$8,484,148	\$8,281,581	\$8,845,255	\$9,183,041	\$38,280,509	\$37,058,113	\$34,883,985	\$18,128,286
SNAP/able Bodied Adults w/o Dependents	\$4,507,010	\$4,118,046	\$4,258,901	\$4,395,116	\$4,430,968	\$17,418,658	\$17,770,577	\$17,247,830	\$8,530,084
GA	\$1,352,307	\$1,140,128	\$1,239,550	\$1,040,548	\$1,153,133	\$5,122,440	\$4,885,590	\$4,613,359	\$2,233,681
<b>(B) CHILD CARE</b>	\$18,131,415	\$13,804,040	\$18,678,199	\$13,748,736	\$14,986,847	\$67,897,641	\$60,471,903	\$68,797,822	\$28,735,583
<b>(C) TRAINING RELATED EXPENSE, PARTICIPANT ALLOWANCE AND TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT</b>									
TANF	\$2,727,822	\$2,108,157	\$1,837,293	\$2,356,804	\$2,267,619	\$9,824,397	\$8,644,762	\$8,608,773	\$4,663,323
SNAP	\$1,258,021	\$1,082,615	\$1,081,598	\$1,037,027	\$1,110,041	\$4,813,175	\$4,633,711	\$4,291,182	\$2,147,068
GA	\$108,982	\$115,778	\$114,313	\$91,821	\$107,068	\$450,100	\$438,828	\$428,378	\$198,889
<b>(D) DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT - EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING</b>									
TANF	\$10,987,286	\$10,980,604	\$14,178,217	\$8,789,828	\$10,721,402	\$44,302,321	\$45,668,877	\$42,648,752	\$17,481,031
SNAP/able Bodied Adults w/o Dependents	\$5,324,278	\$5,716,300	\$7,678,610	\$3,733,225	\$5,663,853	\$22,140,140	\$23,795,190	\$22,794,988	\$9,397,079
GA	\$1,139,795	\$1,125,428	\$1,342,328	\$590,177	\$1,048,432	\$5,289,543	\$4,872,234	\$4,107,853	\$1,839,608
<b>(E) OMEGA SYSTEM</b>	\$112,509	\$156,051	\$37,411	\$92,107	\$97,020	\$500,857	\$496,049	\$372,888	\$179,127
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$85,248,587</b>	<b>\$48,504,292</b>	<b>\$58,648,971</b>	<b>\$42,834,445</b>	<b>\$50,809,324</b>	<b>\$215,729,811</b>	<b>\$208,306,900</b>	<b>\$198,797,031</b>	<b>\$83,843,769</b>

**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 OT CAP expenditures.