

812 - Report on Engagement in Additional Work Activities – March 2011

Background

The Claims Resolution Act of 2010, P.L. 111-291, requires states prepare two reports on TANF work eligible adults engaged in additional work activities that are intended to help individuals attain self-sufficiency. States must collect and report the following information: (1) whether the individual engages in any activities that are directed toward attaining self-sufficiency and (2) if yes, the specific activities that (a) do not qualify as a countable work activity, but are otherwise reasonably calculated to help the family move to self-sufficiency or (b) that could be a countable work activity, but for the fact that either the work-eligible has not engaged in such activities for a sufficient number of hours; the work-eligible individual has reached a maximum time limit allowed for having participation in the activity count; or the number of work-eligible individuals engaged in such activity exceeds a statutory limitation.

As required in the legislation, this report is comprised of three sections: (1) a summary of the information submitted in the report; (2) an analysis statement regarding the extent to which the information changes measures of total engagement in work activities from what was (or will be) reported by the state in the quarterly report for the comparable period; and (3) a narrative of the most common activities contained in the report that are not countable toward the state participation rate under section 407.

Summary of the information submitted in the report

Oregon submitted a sample of 350 cases that included 428 work eligible individuals who did not meet participation.

The following is a list of each element for the TANF cases reported showing the number of work eligible individuals in each of the categories.

Field	Description	Count	% of WE
6.	Number of families on the monthly sample frame	350	
7.	Number of work eligible adults in families on the monthly sample frame.	428	
8.	Participating in countable work activities for a sufficient number of hours for the family to count toward the work participation rate?	32	7.5%
9.	Unreported hours of participation in a countable work activity?	0	0.0%
10.	Insufficient hours of participation in countable work activities?	88	20.6%
11.	Countable hours beyond statutory limit?	19	4.4%
12.	Hours of participation in a countable work activity do not meet verification standard?	0	0.0%
13.	Participated in activities that do not qualify as countable activities, but move the family toward self-sufficiency?	220	51.4%
14A.	Participating in a countable work activity or a non-countable activity?	336	78.5%
14A.	NOT Participating in a countable work activity or a non-countable activity?	92	21.5%
14B.	Principal reason for non participation		Count
01	Family's first month on assistance and no work activity assigned	36	
02	Individual assigned to a work activity that has not yet begun	5	
03	State/Local agency (or its contractor) has failed to engage individual	9	
04	Individual relocating from one local jurisdiction within State to another	0	
05	Work activities reports received too late for inclusion in report to HHS	0	
06	Family disregarded from participation rate	0	
07	State exempt, single custodial parent with child under age 1, not disregarded due to 12-month limitation	42	
08	Individual in process of being sanctioned (including fair hearing process) or is subject to a sanction	0	
09	State exempt, single custodial parent with child under age 6 & child care unavailable	0	
10	State exempt due to illness or disability of the WEI (including, but not limited to, in process of applying for SSI/SSDI)	0	
11	State exempt, due to illness or disability of child or other family member	0	
12	State exempt under a domestic violence waiver	0	
13	Good Cause Exemption	0	
14	Other State Exemption	0	
99	Other	0	

Analysis

The report on engagement in additional work activities contains self-sufficiency activities that are not contained in the TANF data report. These are activities deemed to help families prepare for employment and to achieve self-sufficiency, but do not fall within the existing permissible TANF work activity definitions. The intent of self-sufficiency activities and intervention services is to assess client and family issues that hinder employment and independence. Services to increase self-sufficiency include crisis intervention, stabilizing living situation/housing, mental health and alcohol & drug (A&D), medical issues, and the SSI/SSDI application process, for example.

The data indicates that while not all individuals are participating in a countable activity, the majority of individuals are participating in one or more activities specific to their families needs. Case management is provided to families as they address barriers and case plans are revised as appropriate to move the individual into an employment related activity, if appropriate.

It is not anticipated the information submitted for the March 2011 reporting period will significantly change measures of total engagement in work activities from what will be reported in the quarterly report.

Summary of non-countable activities

The two most common non-countable activities contained the sample report submitted for the month of March 2011 are associated with Family Stabilization (35 cases) and with applying for Supplemental Security Income (35 cases).

The activities associated with family stabilization include any activity associated with obtaining or maintaining family stability. This includes time for addressing a crisis situation, stabilizing a living situation, finding housing, addressing needs of the children, attending appointments associated with family stability, etc.

The activities associated with applying for Supplemental Security Income include gathering medical documentation, attending court/legal appointments, attending SSI hearings, etc.