
WorkFirst NJ

Quarterly Progress Update
September 2016

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



Natasha Johnson
Director

Elizabeth Connolly
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)

20,441 families received WFNJ/TANF at the end of September 2016, down 4% from the previous quarter.

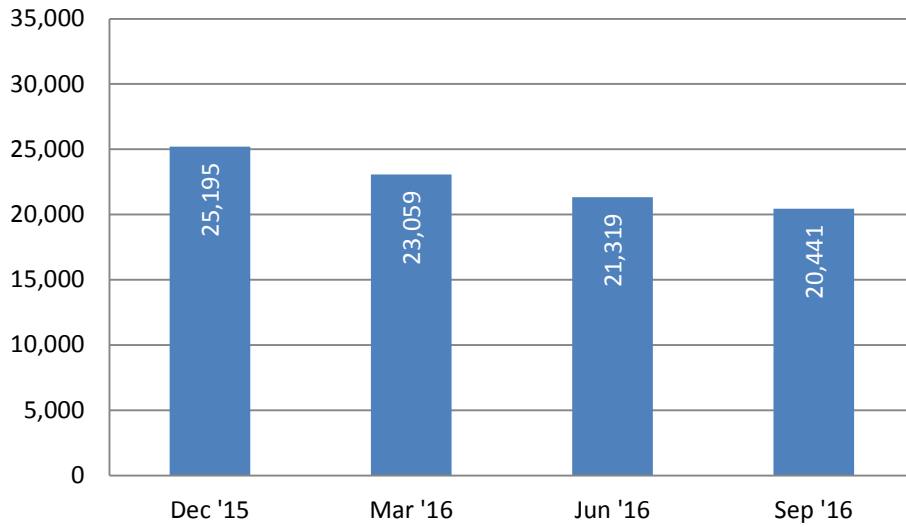


Figure 1: TANF family caseload by quarter.

Client Deferrals and Exemptions

Of the total TANF family caseload (20,441), 8,226 cases (40%) had an adult in the household with a mandatory WFNJ/TANF work requirement. 6,013 cases (29%) were exempt child-only households and 2,520 cases (12%) had a long-term health deferral. 3,682 cases (18%) had some other type of deferral.

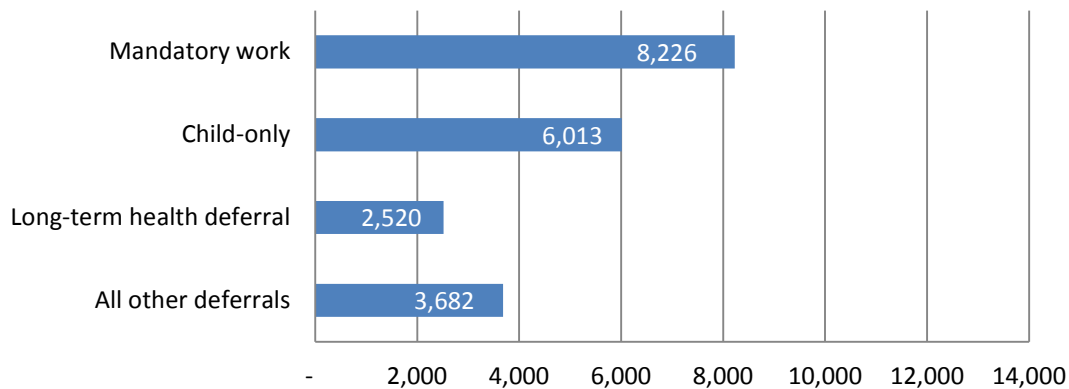


Figure 2: TANF caseload by case status as of September, 2016.

General Assistance (GA)

The number of persons receiving General Assistance (GA) at the end of September was 16,953. That figure was down 9% from the previous quarter.

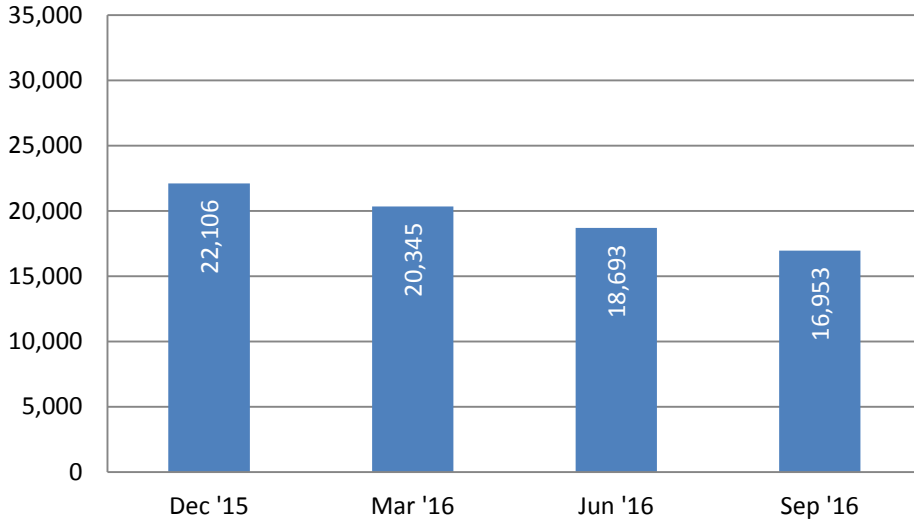


Figure 3: General Assistance (GA) participants by quarter.

Part Two: Employment and Work Preparation

Participation of WFNJ/TANF Clients in Employment-Directed Activities

In September 2016, 7,374 TANF clients were engaged in work activities. 2,253 (31%) of these individuals had begun working but were still receiving a partial cash assistance payment, due to income disregards.

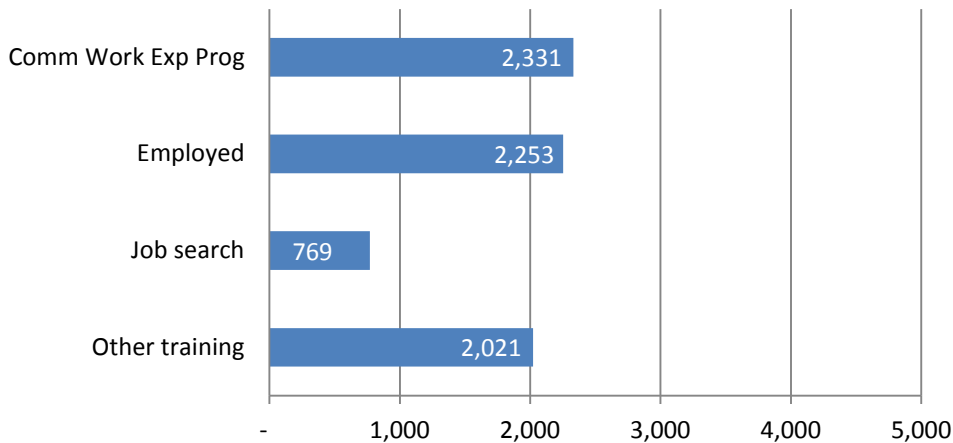


Figure 4: Participation of WFNJ/TANF clients in employment-directed activities.

Federal Participation Requirement

Of the recipients scheduled to participate in the work-directed activities, 2,344 participated at levels sufficient to satisfy federal requirements.

Cases Closed Due to Employment

During the quarter, an average of 614 WFNJ/TANF and GA clients left welfare for employment each month. The number of employed TANF clients trended downward during the quarter, decreasing 10% from July to September, while employed GA recipients decreased 14% during the same period.

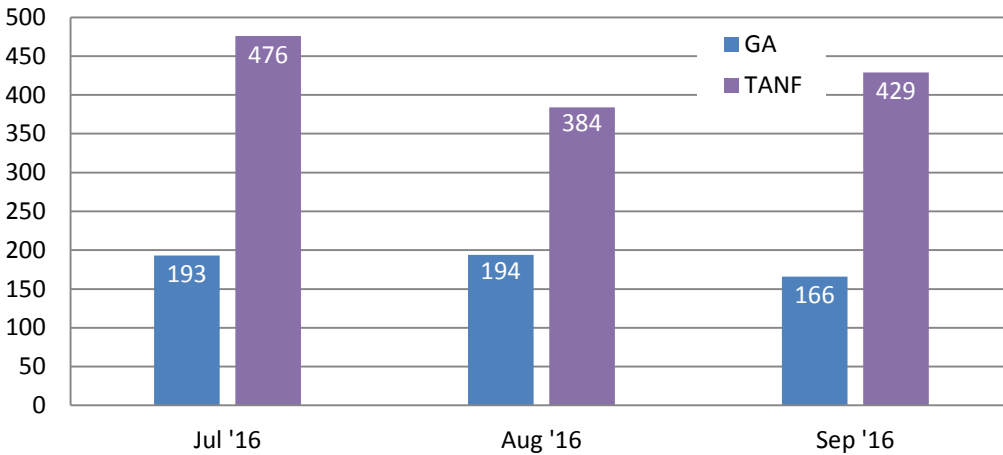


Figure 5: GA and TANF clients leaving due to employment.

Major Reasons for TANF Case Closings

During the third quarter of 2016, 5,631 TANF cases were closed. 23% of these TANF cases closed due to employment.

Table 1: Major reasons for case closing, Jul-Sep, 2016.

Reason for Closing	Jul '16	Aug '16	Sep '16	Total
Employment	476	384	429	1,289
TANF Sanctions	434	357	377	1,168
No Eligible Children	190	146	146	482
Recipient Withdrawal	158	126	154	438
No Redetermination	144	104	162	410
Moved out of state	62	45	75	182
60-Month Time Limit	53	40	46	139
Unable to Verify Residence	44	27	57	128
Moved to Another County	44	42	36	122
Recipient Initiative	46	31	42	119
Unemployment benefits	24	12	32	68
Other Closed Cases	412	291	383	1,086
	2,087	1,605	1,939	5,631

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

Earnings of TANF Recipients

During the third quarter of 2016, working WFNJ/TANF recipients earned an average of \$10.75 per hour, an increase of 2% since December 2015.

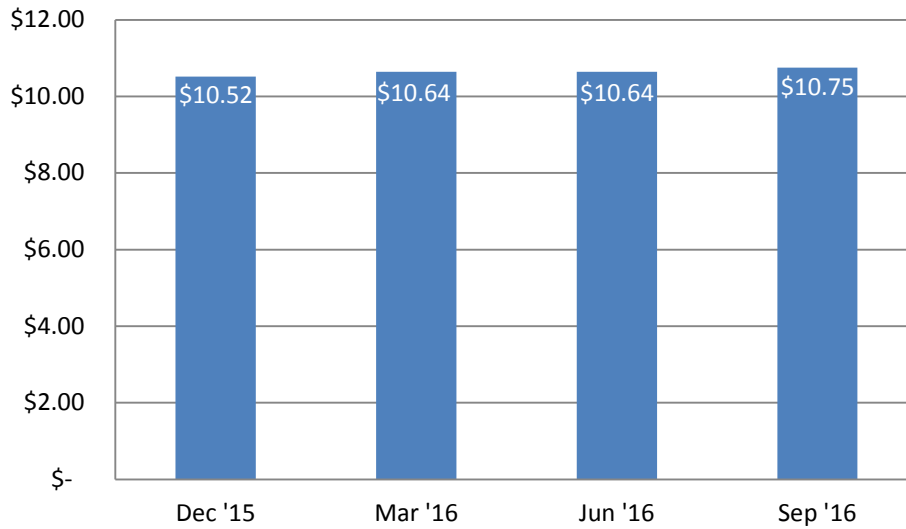


Figure 6: Mean hourly wage of TANF recipients by quarter, December 2015 – September 2016.

Statewide Job Openings

According to the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development, there were 243,164 job openings statewide during the period from October 1, 2015 through September 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, October 2015 - September 2016.

Occupation	Openings
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	47,345
Health Care & Social Assistance	34,297
Admin. & Support, Waste Mgmt. & Remediation Services	30,489
Manufacturing	25,839
Information	25,544
Retail Trade	14,745
Finance and Insurance	14,144
Transportation and Warehousing	10,004
Wholesale Trade	8,477
Accommodation and Food Services	5,885
Other Services	5,752
Management of Companies and Enterprises	5,709
Construction	4,142
Educational Services	3,629
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	2,482
Real Estate and Rental & Leasing	1,926
Utilities	1,215
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	1,126
Public Administration	352
Mining	62
Total	243,164

Part Three: Child Care

WFNJ/TANF Cases Receiving Child Care Benefits

As of September 2016, over 2,000 WFNJ/TANF clients received child care benefits. Post-TANF child care benefits were issued to nearly 2,900 families who had become employed and were no longer receiving cash assistance.

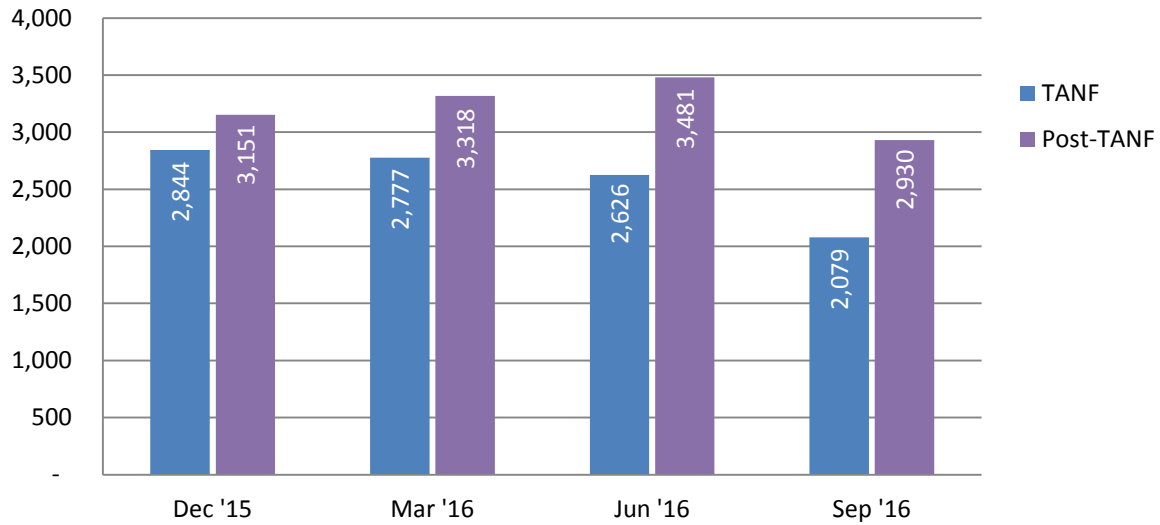


Figure 7: WFNJ/TANF cases receiving child care benefits by quarter, December 2015 - September 2016.

Part Four: WFNJ Program Expenditures

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

THE DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT WORK FIRST NEW JERSEY (WFNJ) EXPENDITURES Quarter Ending September 30, 2016									
	Actual Sept. 30, 2015	Actual Dec. 31, 2015	Actual Mar. 31, 2016	Actual June 30, 2016	Estimated Sept. 30, 2016	TOTAL COSTS CY 2015 1/15 - 12/15	TOTAL COSTS SFY 2016 7/15 - 6/16	TOTAL COSTS CY2016 1/16-9/16	TOTAL COSTS SFY 2017 7/16 - 9/16
(A) CASE MANAGEMENT									
TANF	\$8,944,625	\$11,364,373	\$7,980,675	\$8,847,158	\$9,284,208	\$37,064,696	\$37,136,831	\$26,112,041	\$9,284,208
SNAP/Able Bodied Adults w/o Dependents	\$4,399,116	\$5,607,609	\$4,660,331	\$4,495,779	\$4,790,709	\$18,424,471	\$19,162,834	\$13,946,819	\$4,790,709
GA	\$1,040,548	\$1,349,618	\$1,012,196	\$1,061,888	\$1,116,062	\$4,769,844	\$4,464,250	\$3,190,146	\$1,116,062
(B) CHILD CARE	\$13,749,735	\$13,476,236	\$11,873,256	\$12,621,404	\$12,930,158	\$57,288,211	\$51,720,631	\$37,424,818	\$12,930,158
(C) TRAINING RELATED EXPENSE, PARTICIPANT ALLOWANCE AND TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT									
TANF	\$2,395,804	\$1,590,163	\$2,238,106	\$2,029,173	\$2,063,311	\$7,932,417	\$8,253,246	\$6,330,590	\$2,063,311
SNAP	\$1,037,027	\$970,948	\$1,034,104	\$1,020,081	\$1,015,540	\$4,152,090	\$4,062,160	\$3,069,725	\$1,015,540
GA	\$91,821	\$99,187	\$98,705	\$94,334	\$96,012	\$420,497	\$384,047	\$289,051	\$96,012
(D) DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT - EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING									
TANF	\$6,769,629	\$12,603,293	\$9,594,568	\$12,287,353	\$10,313,711	\$44,531,643	\$41,254,843	\$32,195,632	\$10,313,711
SNAP/Able Bodied Adults w/o Dependents	\$3,733,225	\$5,808,744	\$6,613,365	\$6,278,439	\$5,608,444	\$22,939,879	\$22,433,774	\$18,500,248	\$5,608,444
GA	\$590,177	\$819,587	\$1,013,621	\$944,802	\$842,046	\$3,877,518	\$3,368,186	\$2,800,469	\$842,046
(E) OMEGA SYSTEM	\$82,107	\$47,202	\$54,690	\$75,014	\$64,754	\$322,772	\$259,014	\$194,458	\$64,754
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$42,833,814	\$53,736,961	\$46,173,616	\$49,755,426	\$48,124,954	\$201,724,037	\$192,499,817	\$144,053,996	\$48,124,954

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.