
WorkFirst NJ

Quarterly Progress Update

June 2017

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)

16,144 families received WFNJ/TANF at the end of June 2017, down 8.2% from the previous quarter.

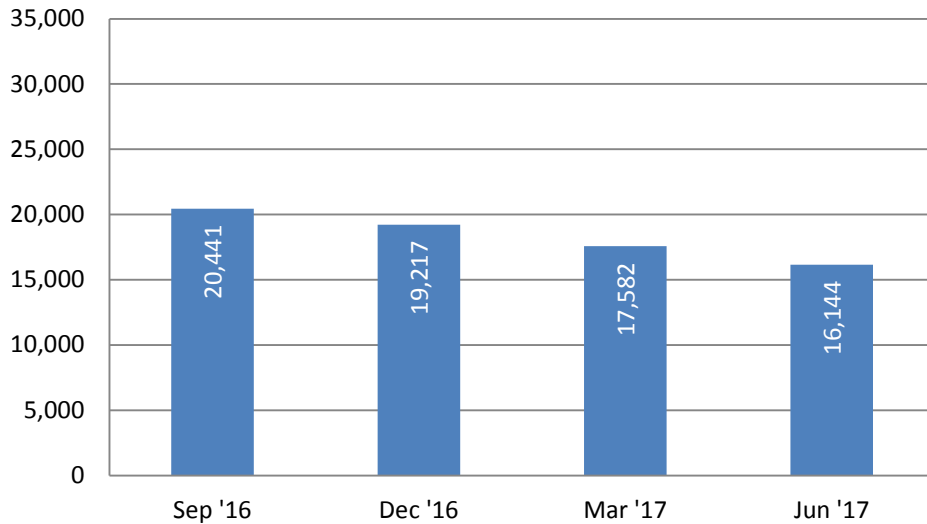


Figure 1: TANF family caseload by quarter.

Client Deferrals and Exemptions

Of the total TANF family caseload (16,144), 5,994 cases (37%) had an adult in the household with a mandatory WFNJ/TANF work requirement. 5,438 cases (34%) were exempt child-only households and 2,331 cases (14%) had a long-term health deferral. 2,381 cases (15%) had some other type of deferral.

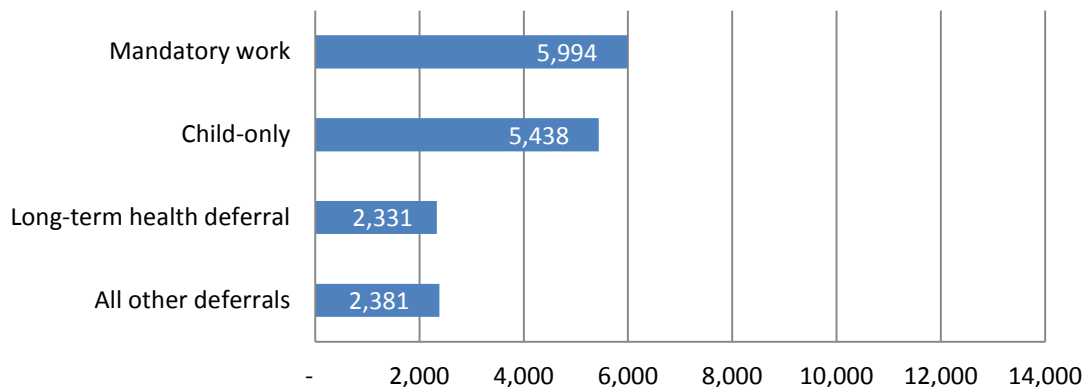


Figure 2: TANF caseload by case status as of June, 2017.

General Assistance (GA)

The number of persons receiving General Assistance (GA) at the end of June was 14,585. That figure was down 5% from the previous quarter.

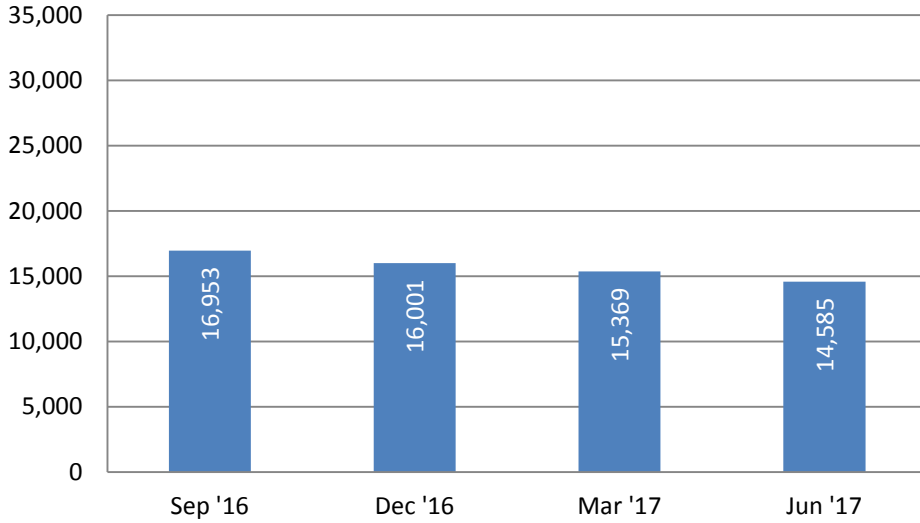


Figure 3: General Assistance (GA) participants by quarter.

Part Two: Employment and Work Preparation

Participation of WFNJ/TANF Clients in Employment-Directed Activities

In June 2017, 6,583 TANF clients were engaged in work activities. 1,779 (27%) of these individuals had begun working but were still receiving a partial cash assistance payment, due to income disregards.

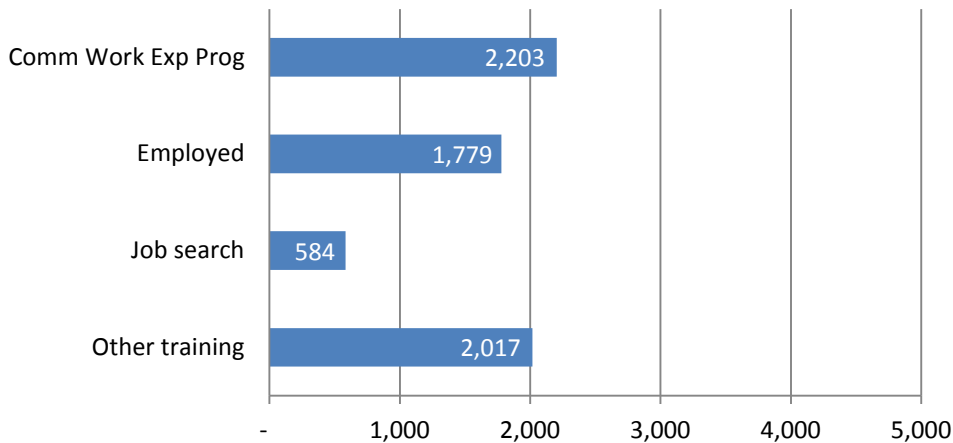


Figure 4: Participation of WFNJ/TANF clients in employment-directed activities.

Federal Participation Requirement

Of the recipients scheduled to participate in the work-directed activities, 1,892 participated at levels sufficient to satisfy federal requirements.

Cases Closed Due to Employment

During the quarter, an average of 486 WFNJ/TANF and GA clients left welfare for employment each month. The number of employed TANF clients trended downward during the quarter, decreasing 3% from April to June, while employed GA recipients increased 13% during the same period.

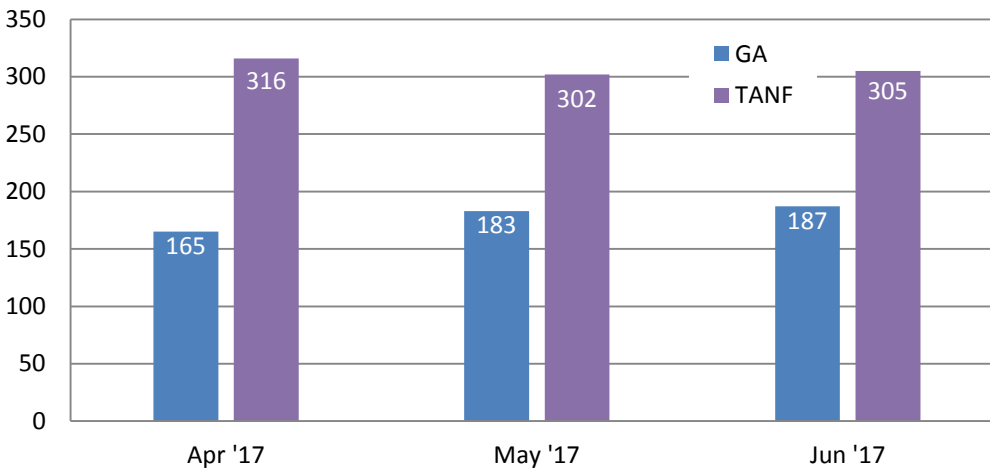


Figure 5: GA and TANF clients leaving due to employment.

Major Reasons for TANF Case Closings

During the second quarter of 2017, 4,409 TANF cases were closed. 21% of these TANF cases closed due to employment.

Table 1: Major reasons for case closing, Apr-Jun, 2017.

Reason for Closing	Apr '17	May '17	Jun '17	Total
TANF Sanctions	422	428	369	1,219
Employment	316	302	305	923
Recipient Withdrawal	117	128	119	364
No Eligible Children	91	75	84	250
No Redetermination	42	96	104	242
Recipient Initiative	47	46	39	132
Unable to Verify Residence	30	36	35	101
Moved Out of State	24	34	27	85
Moved to Another County	22	27	28	77
60-Month Time Limit	25	23	29	77
Unemployment benefits	25	24	19	68
Other Closed Cases	288	336	247	871
	1,449	1,555	1,405	4,409

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

Earnings of TANF Recipients

During the second quarter of 2017, working WFNJ/TANF recipients earned an average of \$10.91 per hour, an increase of 1% since September 2016.

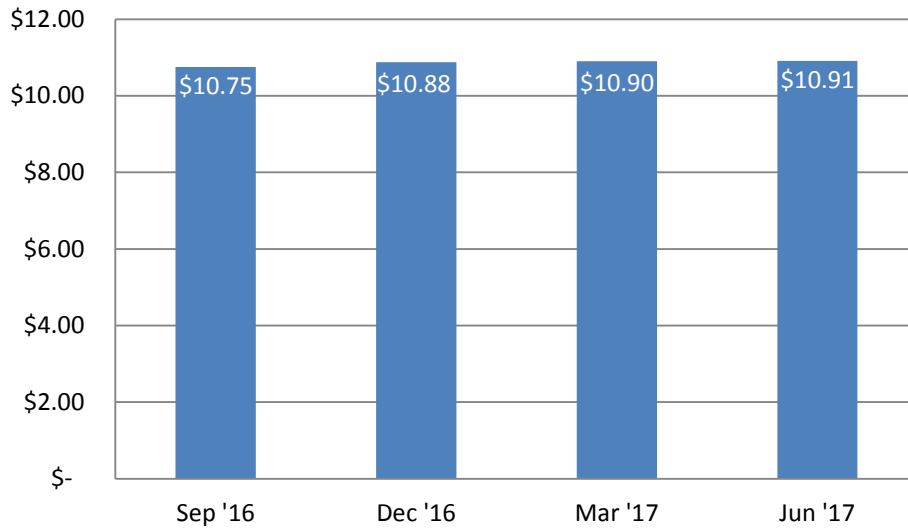


Figure 6: Mean hourly wage of TANF recipients by quarter, September 2016 – June 2017.

Statewide Job Openings

According to the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development, there were 222,968 job openings statewide during the period from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. The majority of positions available were in the Professional, Scientific and Technical Services category, followed by the Health Care and Social Assistance and the Administration & Support, Waste Management & Remediation Services categories.

Table 2: NJ LWD Statewide Job Openings, July 2016 - June 2017.

Occupation	Openings
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	42,718
Health Care & Social Assistance	31,008
Admin. & Support, Waste Mgmt. & Remediation Services	27,010
Information	22,515
Manufacturing	21,280
Retail Trade	14,861
Finance and Insurance	14,631
Transportation and Warehousing	9,404
Wholesale Trade	7,762
Management of Companies and Enterprises	7,320
Accommodation and Food Services	5,592
Other Services	5,323
Construction	4,224
Educational Services	3,371
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	2,340
Real Estate and Rental & Leasing	1,807
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	1,096
Public Administration	399
Utilities	230
Mining	77
Total	222,968

Part Three: Child Care

WFNJ/TANF Cases Receiving Child Care Benefits

As of June 2017, over 1,700 WFNJ/TANF clients received child care benefits. Post-TANF child care benefits were issued to over 2,700 families who had become employed and were no longer receiving cash assistance.

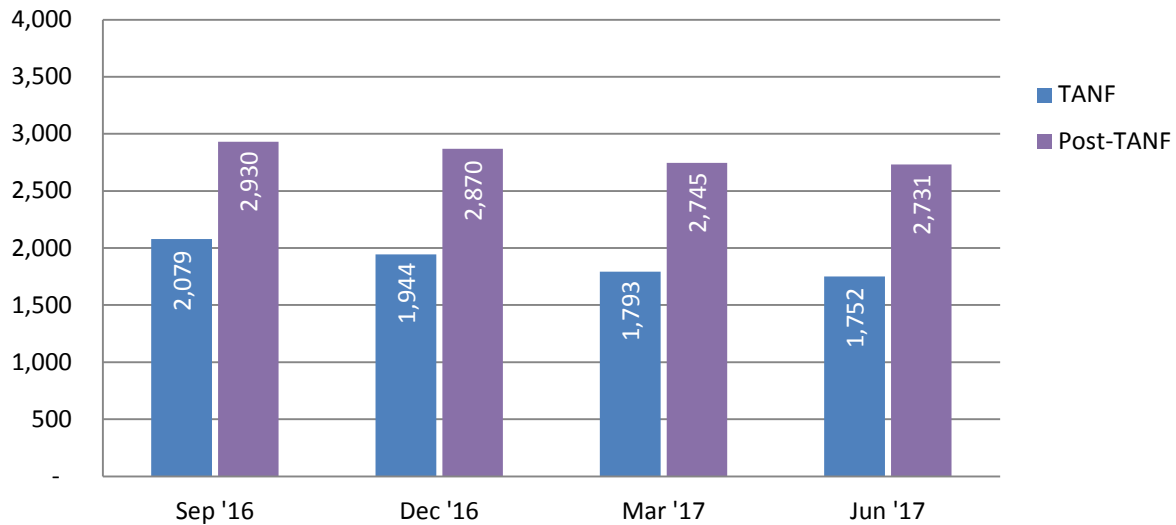


Figure 7: WFNJ/TANF cases receiving child care benefits by quarter, September 2016 – June 2017.

Part Four: WFNJ Program Expenditures

The table below provides a summary of WFNJ program expenditures for the quarter ending June 30, 2017.

THE DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT WORK FIRST NEW JERSEY (WFNJ) EXPENDITURES Quarter Ending June 30, 2017									
	Actual June 30, 2016	Actual Sept. 30, 2016	Actual Dec. 31, 2016	Actual Mar. 31, 2017	Estimated Jun 30, 2017	TOTAL COSTS SFY 2016 7/15 - 6/16	TOTAL COSTS CY2016 1/16-12/16	TOTAL COSTS SFY 2015 7/16 - 6/17	TOTAL COSTS CY 2017 1/17 - 6/17
(A) CASE MANAGEMENT									
TANF	\$8,847,158	\$9,339,799	\$10,362,003	\$8,087,623	\$9,263,142	\$37,136,831	\$36,529,635	\$37,052,567	\$17,350,765
SNAP/Able Bodied Adults w/o Dependents	\$4,495,779	\$5,363,055	\$5,276,389	\$4,284,385	\$4,974,610	\$19,162,834	\$19,795,554	\$19,898,439	\$9,258,995
GA	\$1,061,888	\$1,003,294	\$1,161,881	\$908,162	\$1,024,446	\$4,464,250	\$4,239,260	\$4,097,784	\$1,932,608
(B) CHILD CARE	\$13,295,297	\$11,974,287	\$11,261,648	\$8,759,781	\$10,665,239	\$52,394,525	\$48,404,489	\$42,660,956	\$19,425,020
(C) TRAINING RELATED EXPENSE, PARTICIPANT ALLOWANCE AND TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT									
TANF	\$2,029,173	\$801,517	\$1,424,650	\$1,426,801	\$1,217,656	\$8,253,246	\$6,493,446	\$4,870,625	\$2,644,458
SNAP	\$1,020,081	\$890,483	\$841,795	\$757,132	\$829,804	\$4,062,160	\$3,786,463	\$3,319,214	\$1,586,936
GA	\$94,334	\$66,749	\$66,749	\$77,147	\$70,215	\$384,047	\$326,537	\$280,860	\$147,362
(D) DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT - EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING									
TANF	\$12,287,353	\$9,797,440	\$9,316,527	\$9,891,698	\$9,668,555	\$41,254,843	\$40,995,888	\$38,674,220	\$19,560,253
SNAP/Able Bodied Adults w/o Dependents	\$6,278,439	\$5,541,371	\$5,431,347	\$7,061,840	\$6,011,519	\$22,433,774	\$23,864,523	\$24,046,077	\$13,073,359
GA	\$944,802	\$765,364	\$982,382	\$971,367	\$906,371	\$3,368,186	\$3,706,168	\$3,625,483	\$1,877,738
(E) OMEGA SYSTEM	\$75,014	\$70,990	\$69,205	\$77,250	\$72,482	\$259,014	\$269,900	\$289,927	\$149,731
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$50,429,319	\$45,614,350	\$46,194,577	\$42,303,188	\$44,704,038	\$193,173,710	\$188,411,863	\$178,816,153	\$87,007,226

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.