

---

---

# WorkFirst NJ

Quarterly Progress Update  
September 2017

---

---

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



Natasha Johnson  
Director

Carole Johnson  
Acting Commissioner

---

## Background

This quarterly report, mandated by the WorkFirst New Jersey (WFNJ) law, is a summary of New Jersey’s Temporary Assistance for Needy Families 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)

15,609 families received WFNJ/TANF at the end of September 2017, down 3.3% from the previous quarter.

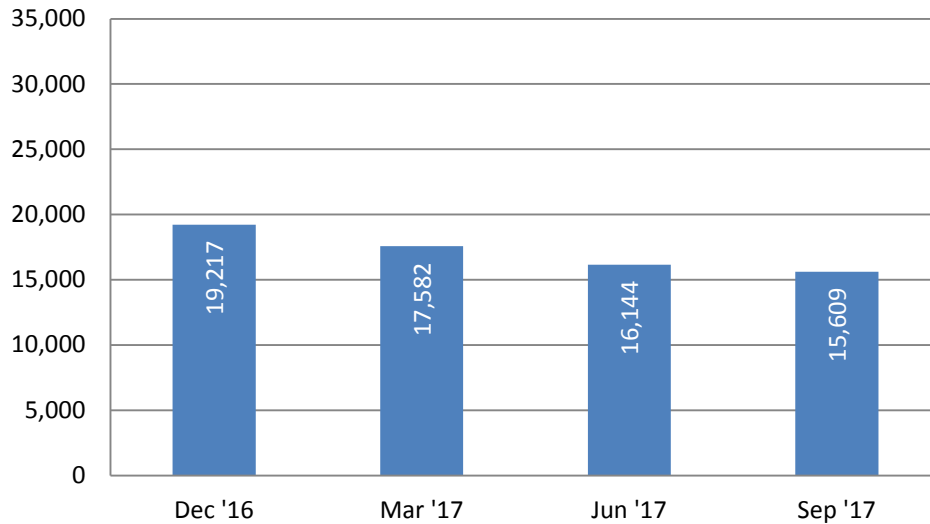


Figure 1: TANF family caseload by quarter.

### Client Deferrals and Exemptions

Of the total TANF family caseload (15,609), 5,853 cases (37%) had an adult in the household with a mandatory WFNJ/TANF work requirement. 5,288 cases (34%) were exempt child-only households and 2,205 cases (14%) had a long-term health deferral. 2,263 cases (14%) had some other type of deferral.

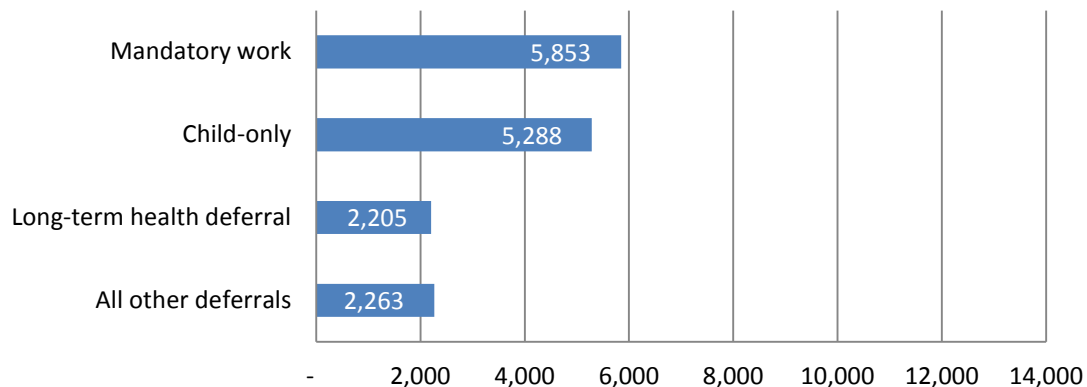


Figure 2: TANF caseload by case status as of September, 2017.

### General Assistance (GA)

The number of persons receiving General Assistance (GA) at the end of September was 13,546. That figure was down 7% from the previous quarter.

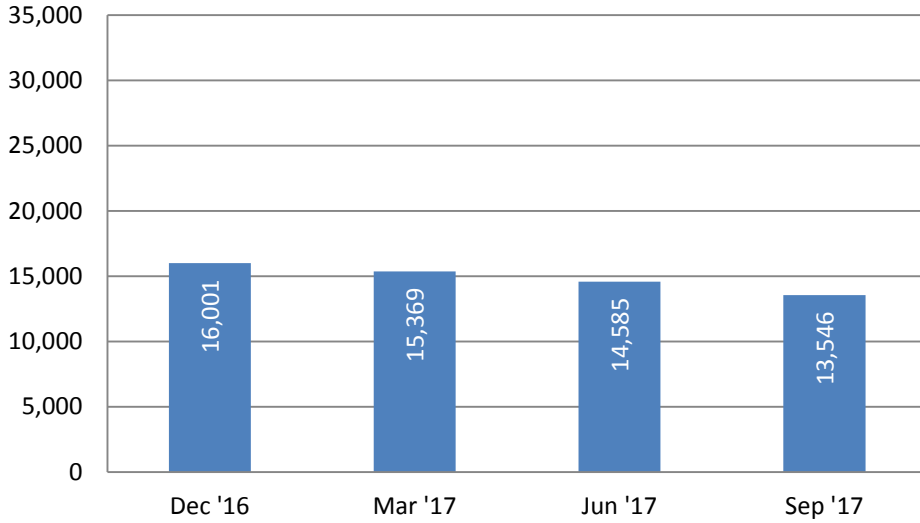


Figure 3: General Assistance (GA) participants by quarter.

## Part Two: Employment and Work Preparation

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

In September 2017, 5,877 TANF clients were engaged in work activities. 1,573 (27%) of these individuals had begun working but were receiving a partial cash assistance payment due to income disregards.

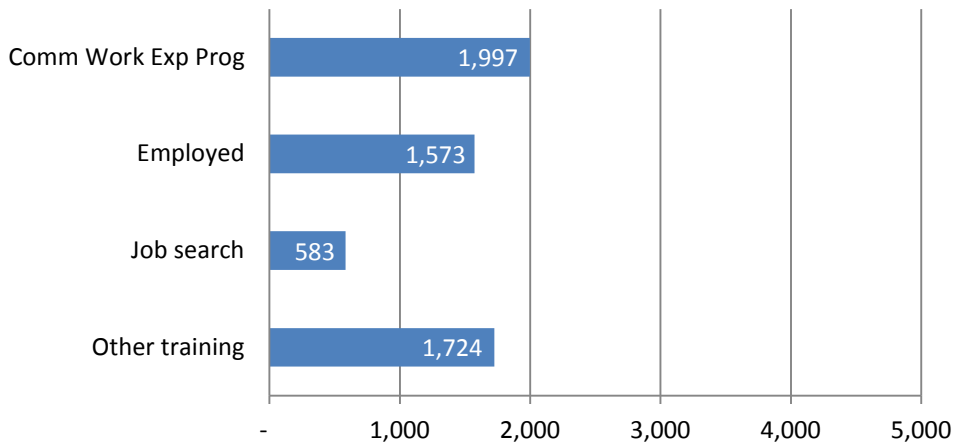


Figure 4: Participation of WFNJ/TANF clients in employment-directed activities.

### Federal Participation Requirement

Of the recipients scheduled to participate in the work-directed activities, 1,769 participated at levels sufficient to satisfy federal requirements.

### Cases Closed Due to Employment

During the quarter, an average of 469 WFNJ/TANF and GA clients left welfare for employment each month. The number of employed TANF clients trended downward during the quarter, decreasing 11% from July to September, while employed GA recipients increased 23% during the same period.

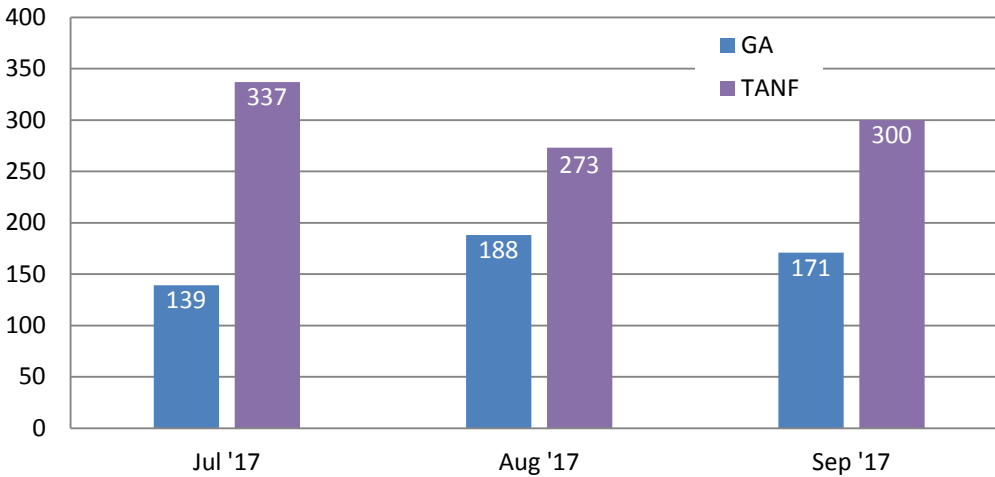


Figure 5: GA and TANF clients leaving due to employment.

### Major Reasons for TANF Case Closings

During the third quarter of 2017, 4,197 TANF cases were closed. 22% of these TANF cases closed due to employment.

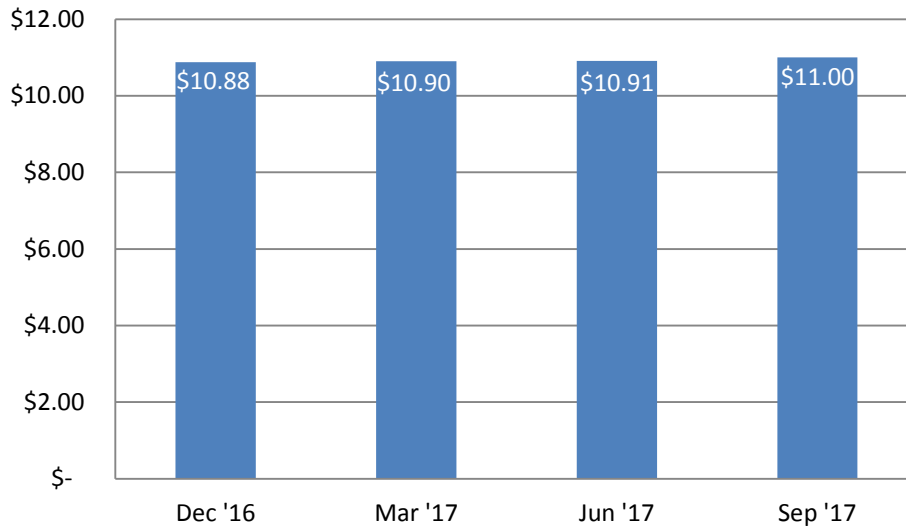
Table 1: Major reasons for case closing, Jul-Sep, 2017.

Reason for Closing	Jul '17	Aug '17	Sep '17	Total
TANF Sanctions	365	333	397	1,095
Employment	337	273	300	910
No Eligible Children	143	110	111	364
Recipient Withdrawal	100	103	112	315
No Redetermination	57	59	65	181
Recipient Initiative	50	47	50	147
Unable to Verify Residence	42	40	63	145
Moved Out of State	27	34	48	109
60-Month Time Limit	34	26	35	95
Moved to Another County	19	21	26	66
Unemployment benefits	18	18	29	65
Other Closed Cases	278	202	225	705
	1,470	1,266	1,461	4,197

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

## Earnings of TANF Recipients

During the third quarter of 2017, working WFNJ/TANF recipients earned an average of \$11.00 per hour, an increase of 1% since December 2016.



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

## Statewide Job Openings

According to the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development, there were 329,047 job openings statewide during the period from October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017. The majority of positions available were in the Finance and Insurance category, followed by the Health Care and Social Assistance and the Administration & Support, Waste Management & Remediation Services categories.

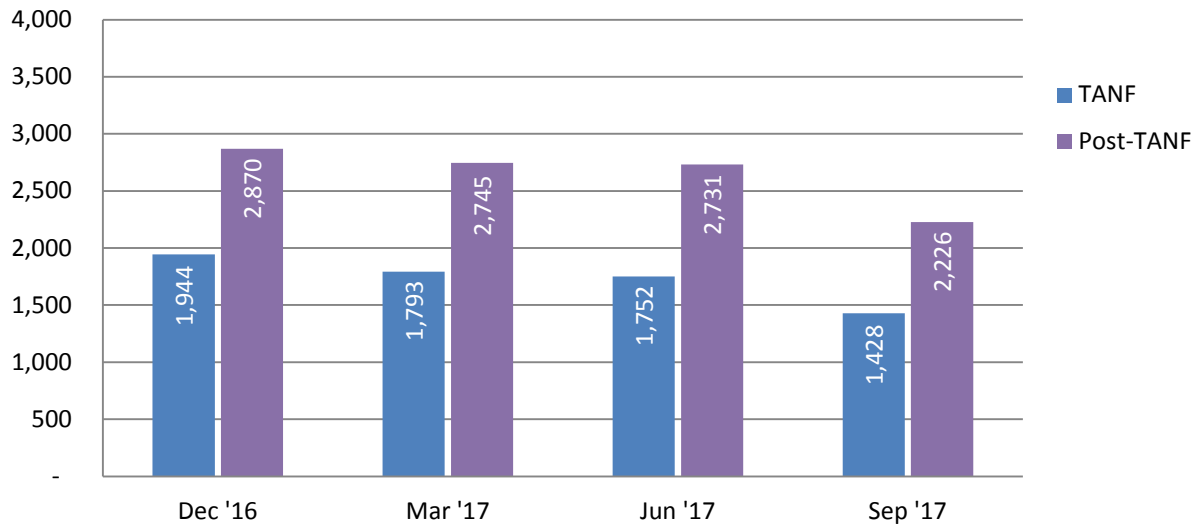
**Table 2:** NJ LWD Statewide Job Openings, October 2016 - September 2017.

<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Openings</b>
Finance and Insurance	55,302
Health Care & Social Assistance	48,147
Admin. & Support, Waste Mgmt. & Remediation Services	44,542
Manufacturing	40,162
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	37,610
Transportation and Warehousing	31,906
Retail Trade	22,294
Wholesale Trade	10,933
Information	7,903
Accommodation and Food Services	7,090
Construction	4,965
Other Services	3,890
Educational Services	3,293
Management of Companies and Enterprises	3,036
Real Estate and Rental & Leasing	3,028
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	2,700
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	1,359
Public Administration	631
Utilities	206
Mining	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>329,047</b>

## Part Three: Child Care

### WFNJ/TANF Cases Receiving Child Care Benefits

As of September 2017, over 1,400 WFNJ/TANF clients received child care benefits. Post-TANF child care benefits were issued to over 2,200 families who had become employed and were no longer receiving cash assistance.



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

## Part Four: WFNJ Program Expenditures

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

<b>THE DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT WORK FIRST NEW JERSEY (WFNJ) EXPENDITURES Quarter Ending September 30, 2017</b>									
	Actual Sept. 30,2016	Actual Dec. 31, 2016	Actual Mar. 31, 2017	Actual Jun 30,2017	Estimated Sept 30,2017	TOTAL COSTS CY2016 1/16-12/16	TOTAL COSTS SFY 2017 7/16 – 06/17	TOTAL COSTS CY 2017 1/17 – 9/17	TOTAL COSTS SFY 2018 7/17-9/17
<b>(A) CASE MANAGEMENT</b>									
TANF	\$9,339,799	\$10,362,003	\$8,109,100	\$9,023,641	\$9,164,915	\$27,494,744	\$36,659,659	\$18,188,556	\$9,164,915
SNAP/Able Bodied Adults w/o Dependents	\$5,363,055	\$5,276,389	\$4,284,385	\$4,952,203	\$4,837,659	\$14,512,978	\$19,350,637	\$9,789,863	\$4,837,659
GA	\$1,003,294	\$1,161,881	\$908,162	\$1,236,882	\$1,102,308	\$3,306,925	\$4,409,234	\$2,339,190	\$1,102,308
<b>(B) CHILD CARE</b>	<b>\$11,974,287</b>	<b>\$11,261,648</b>	<b>\$8,959,564</b>	<b>\$10,301,146</b>	<b>\$10,174,120</b>	<b>\$30,522,359</b>	<b>\$40,696,479</b>	<b>\$20,475,266</b>	<b>\$10,174,120</b>
<b>(C) TRAINING RELATED EXPENSE, PARTICIPANT ALLOWANCE AND TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT</b>									
TANF	\$800,836	\$1,424,650	\$1,522,023	\$1,132,766	\$1,359,813	\$4,079,439	\$5,439,252	\$2,492,579	\$1,359,813
SNAP	\$890,483	\$841,795	\$757,132	\$762,117	\$787,015	\$2,361,045	\$3,148,059	\$1,549,132	\$787,015
GA	\$66,749	\$66,749	\$77,147	\$65,453	\$69,783	\$209,349	\$279,132	\$135,236	\$69,783
<b>(D) DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT - EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING</b>									
TANF	\$9,797,440	\$9,316,527	\$9,891,698	\$5,727,339	\$8,311,855	\$24,935,564	\$33,247,419	\$14,039,194	\$8,311,855
SNAP/Able Bodied Adults w/o Dependents	\$5,541,371	\$5,431,347	\$7,061,840	\$5,530,170	\$6,007,786	\$18,023,357	\$24,031,143	\$11,537,956	\$6,007,786
GA	\$765,364	\$982,382	\$971,367	\$797,361	\$917,036	\$2,751,109	\$3,668,146	\$1,714,397	\$917,036
<b>(E) OMEGA SYSTEM</b>	<b>\$70,990</b>	<b>\$69,205</b>	<b>\$77,250</b>	<b>\$26,027</b>	<b>\$57,494</b>	<b>\$172,482</b>	<b>\$229,976</b>	<b>\$83,521</b>	<b>\$57,494</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$45,613,669</b>	<b>\$46,194,577</b>	<b>\$42,619,670</b>	<b>\$39,555,105</b>	<b>\$42,789,784</b>	<b>\$128,369,352</b>	<b>\$171,159,136</b>	<b>\$82,344,889</b>	<b>\$42,789,784</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 OIT CAP expenditures.