
WorkFirst NJ

Quarterly Progress Update
March 2016

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



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Director

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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)

23,059 families received WFNJ/TANF at the end of March 2016, down 8% from the previous quarter.

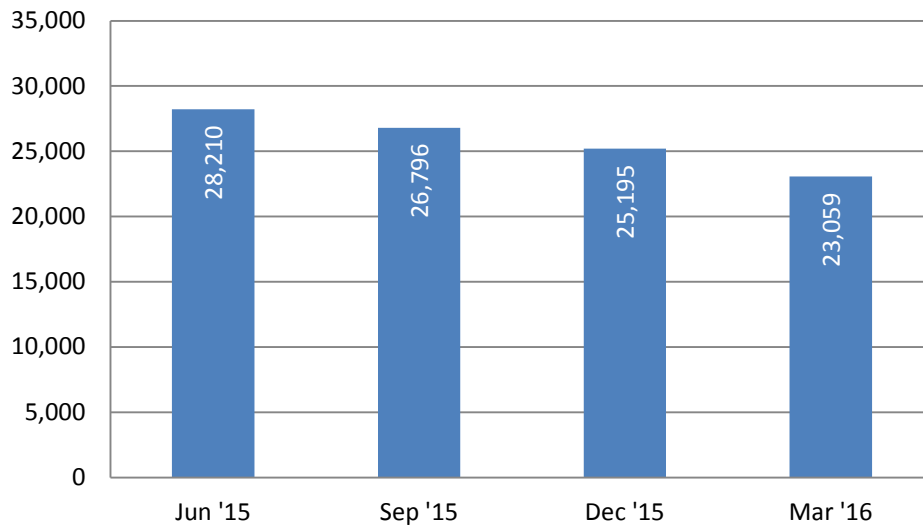


Figure 1: TANF family caseload by quarter.

Client Deferrals and Exemptions

Of the total TANF family caseload (23,059), 9,399 cases (41%) had an adult in the household with a mandatory WFNJ/TANF work requirement. 6,795 cases (29%) were exempt child-only households and 2,864 cases (12%) had a long-term health deferral. 4,001 cases (17%) had some other type of deferral.

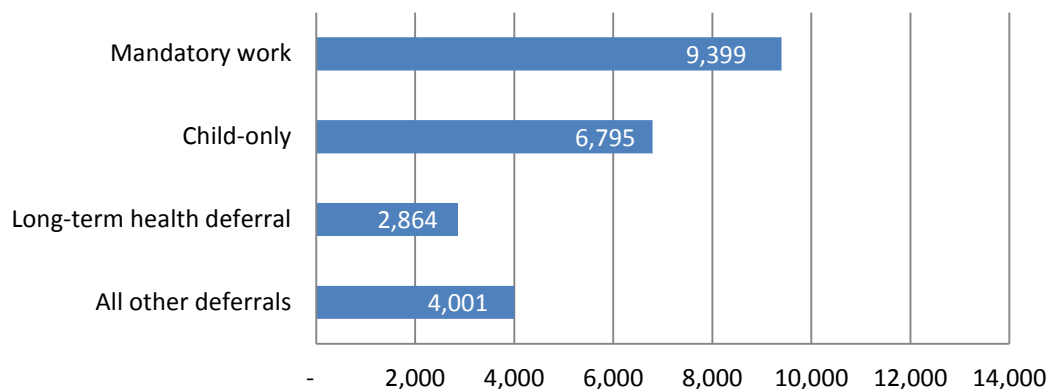


Figure 2: TANF caseload by case status as of March, 2016.

General Assistance (GA)

The number of persons receiving General Assistance (GA) at the end of March was 20,345. That figure was down 8% from the previous quarter.

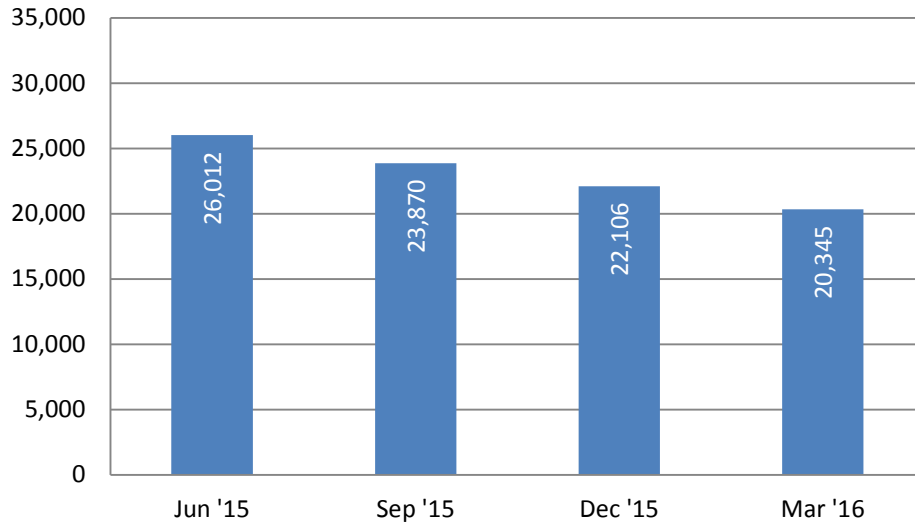


Figure 3: General Assistance (GA) participants by quarter.

Part Two: Employment and Work Preparation

Participation of WFNJ/TANF Clients in Employment-Directed Activities

In March 2016, 8,619 TANF clients were engaged in work activities. 2,483 (29%) of these individuals had begun working but were still receiving a partial cash assistance payment, due to income disregards.

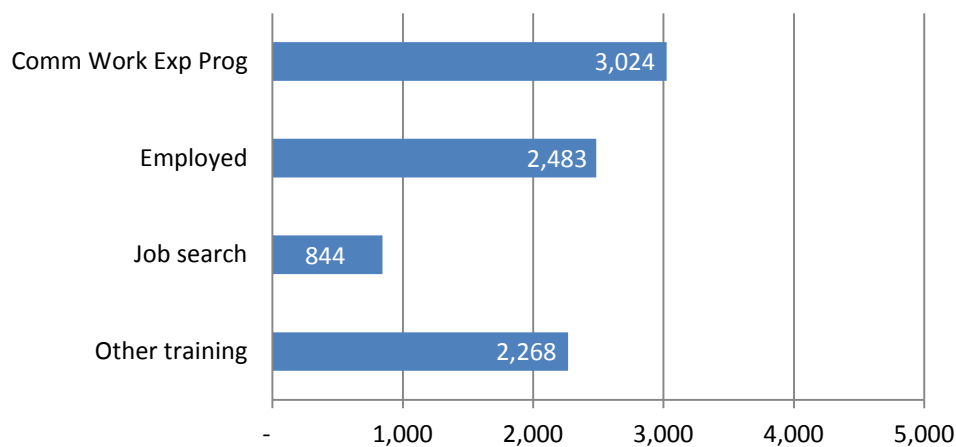


Figure 4: Participation of WFNJ/TANF clients in employment-directed activities.

Federal Participation Requirement

Of the recipients scheduled to participate in the work-directed activities, 3,022 participated at levels sufficient to satisfy federal requirements.

Cases Closed Due to Employment

During the quarter, an average of 698 WFNJ/TANF and GA clients left welfare for employment each month. The number of employed TANF clients trended downward during the quarter, falling 14% from January to March, while employed GA recipients decreased 4% during the same period.

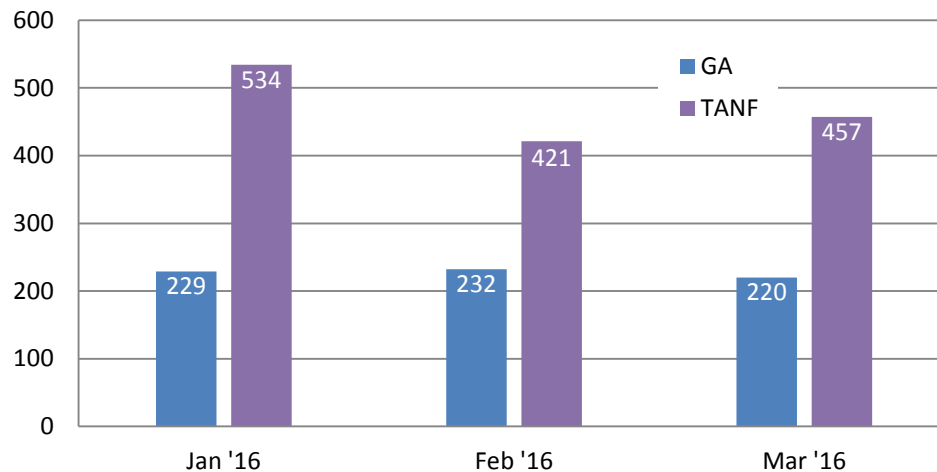


Figure 5: GA and TANF clients leaving due to employment.

Major Reasons for TANF Case Closings

During the first quarter of 2016, 6,064 TANF cases were closed. 23% of these TANF cases closed due to employment.

Table 1: Major reasons for case closing, Jan-Mar, 2016.

Reason for Closing	Jan '16	Feb '16	Mar '16	Total
TANF Sanctions	570	498	513	1,581
Employment	534	421	457	1,412
No Redetermination	174	142	149	465
Recipient Withdrawal	155	131	157	443
No eligible children	107	110	121	338
Recipient initiative	85	61	56	202
Moved out of state	56	55	56	167
Moved to Another County	31	42	43	116
60-Month Time Limit	31	31	42	104
Unemployment benefits	29	37	33	99
Unable to Verify Residence	47	26	24	97
Other Closed Cases	335	342	363	1,040
	2,154	1,896	2,014	6,064

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

Earnings of TANF Recipients

During the first quarter of 2016, working WFNJ/TANF earned an average of \$10.64 per hour, an increase of 3% since June 2015.

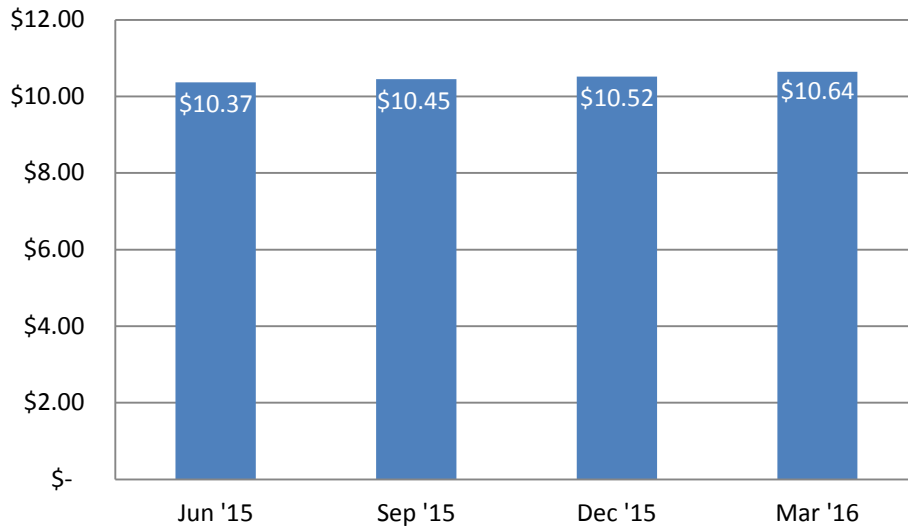


Figure 6: Mean hourly wage of TANF recipients by quarter, June 2015 – March 2016.

Statewide Job Openings

According to the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development, there were 211,464 job openings statewide during the period from April 1, 2015 through March 31, 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, April 2015 - March 2016.

Occupation	Openings
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	43,201
Health Care & Social Assistance	28,941
Admin. & Support, Waste Mgmt. & Remediation Services	26,349
Information	22,155
Finance and Insurance	17,679
Retail Trade	16,176
Manufacturing	12,412
Transportation and Warehousing	8,680
Management of Companies and Enterprises	7,884
Wholesale Trade	6,150
Accommodation and Food Services	5,568
Other Services	4,443
Construction	3,058
Educational Services	2,948
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	2,086
Real Estate and Rental & Leasing	1,844
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	1,113
Public Administration	427
Utilities	250
Mining	100
Total	211,464

Part Three: Child Care

WFNJ/TANF Cases Receiving Child Care Benefits

As of March 2016, over 2,700 WFNJ/TANF clients received child care benefits. Post-TANF child care benefits were issued to nearly 3,300 families who had become employed and were no longer receiving cash assistance.

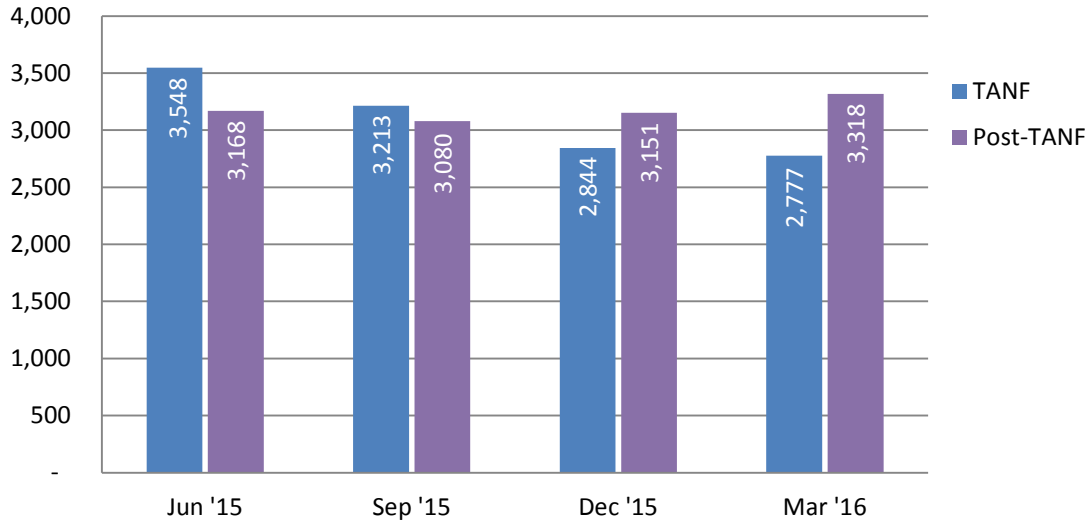


Figure 7: WFNJ/TANF cases receiving child care benefits by quarter, June 2015 - March 2016.

Part Four: WFNJ Program Expenditures

The table below provides a summary of WFNJ program expenditures for the quarter ending March 31, 2016.

THE DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT WORK FIRST NEW JERSEY (WFNJ) EXPENDITURES Quarter Ending March 31, 2016									
	Actual Mar. 31, 2015	Actual June 30, 2015	Actual Sept. 30, 2015	Actual Dec. 31, 2015	Estimated Mar. 31, 2016	TOTAL COSTS SFY 2015 7/14 – 6/15	TOTAL COSTS CY 2015 1/15 – 12/15	TOTAL COSTS SFY 2016 7/15 - 3/16	TOTAL COSTS CY2016 1/16-3/16
(A) CASE MANAGEMENT									
TANF	\$8,494,148	\$8,261,551	\$8,944,625	\$11,364,373	\$9,266,174	\$37,058,113	\$37,064,696	\$29,575,172	\$9,266,174
SNAP/Able Bodied Adults w/o Dependents	\$4,118,846	\$4,298,901	\$4,399,116	\$5,607,609	\$4,606,118	\$17,770,577	\$18,424,471	\$14,612,842	\$4,606,118
GA	\$1,140,128	\$1,239,550	\$1,040,548	\$1,349,618	\$1,192,461	\$4,865,690	\$4,769,844	\$3,582,627	\$1,192,461
(B) CHILD CARE	\$13,484,040	\$16,578,199	\$13,749,735	\$13,476,236	\$14,322,053	\$60,471,903	\$57,288,211	\$41,548,024	\$14,322,053
(C) TRAINING RELATED EXPENSE, PARTICIPANT ALLOWANCE AND TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT									
TANF	\$2,109,157	\$1,837,293	\$2,463,755	\$1,590,163	\$2,000,092	\$8,544,762	\$8,000,368	\$6,054,010	\$2,000,092
SNAP	\$1,062,515	\$1,081,599	\$1,037,027	\$970,948	\$1,038,022	\$4,533,711	\$4,152,090	\$3,045,998	\$1,038,022
GA	\$115,176	\$114,313	\$91,821	\$99,187	\$105,124	\$439,825	\$420,497	\$296,132	\$105,124
(D) DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT - EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING									
TANF	\$10,980,504	\$14,178,217	\$6,769,629	\$12,603,293	\$11,132,911	\$45,668,877	\$44,531,643	\$30,505,833	\$11,132,911
SNAP/Able Bodied Adults w/o Dependents	\$5,718,300	\$7,679,610	\$3,733,225	\$5,808,744	\$5,734,970	\$23,795,160	\$22,939,879	\$15,276,939	\$5,734,970
GA	\$1,125,426	\$1,342,328	\$590,177	\$819,587	\$969,379	\$4,672,234	\$3,877,518	\$2,379,143	\$969,379
(E) OMEGA SYSTEM	\$156,051	\$37,411	\$82,107	\$47,202	\$80,693	\$486,049	\$322,772	\$210,003	\$80,693
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$48,504,292	\$56,648,971	\$42,901,765	\$53,736,961	\$50,447,997	\$208,306,900	\$201,791,988	\$147,086,723	\$50,447,997

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.