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# WorkFirst NJ

Quarterly Progress Update  
September 2015

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*STATE OF NEW JERSEY*

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT



Natasha Johnson  
Director

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## 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)

26,796 families received WFNJ/TANF at the end of September 2015, down 5% from the previous quarter.

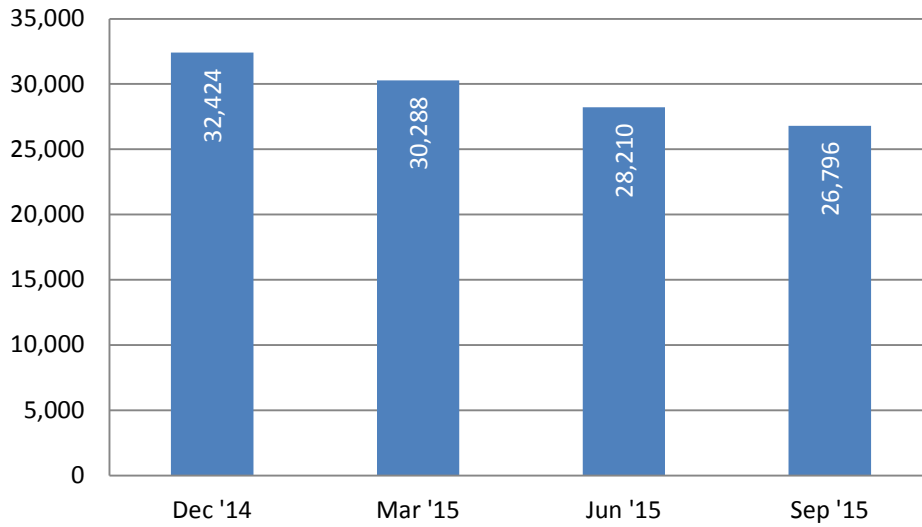


Figure 1: TANF family caseload by quarter.

### Client Deferrals and Exemptions

Of the total TANF family caseload (26,796), 11,903 cases (44%) had an adult in the household with a mandatory WFNJ/TANF work requirement. 7,214 cases (27%) were exempt child-only households and 3,071 cases (12%) had a long-term health deferral. 4,608 cases (17%) had some other type of deferral.

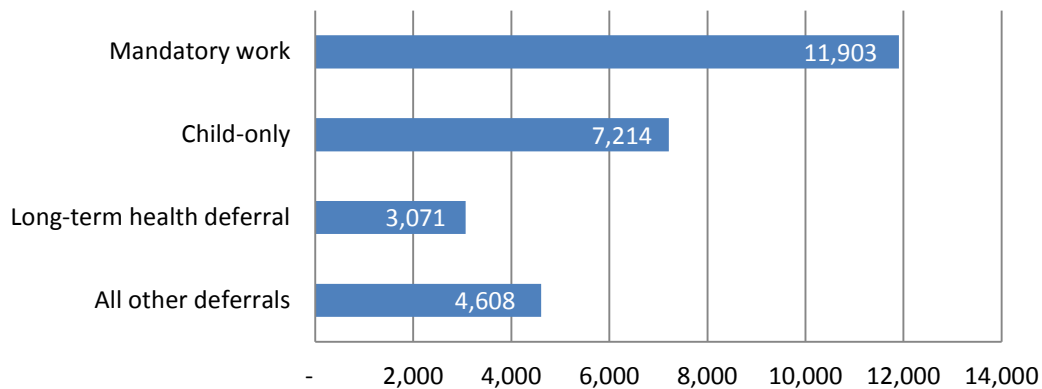
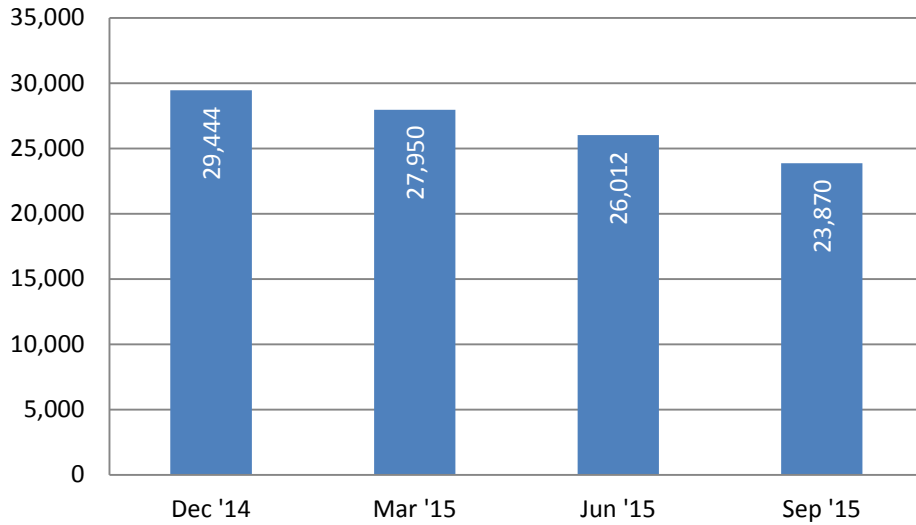


Figure 2: TANF caseload by case status as of September, 2015.

### General Assistance (GA)

The number of persons receiving General Assistance (GA) continued to decline, ending September at 23,870. That figure was down 8% from the previous quarter.

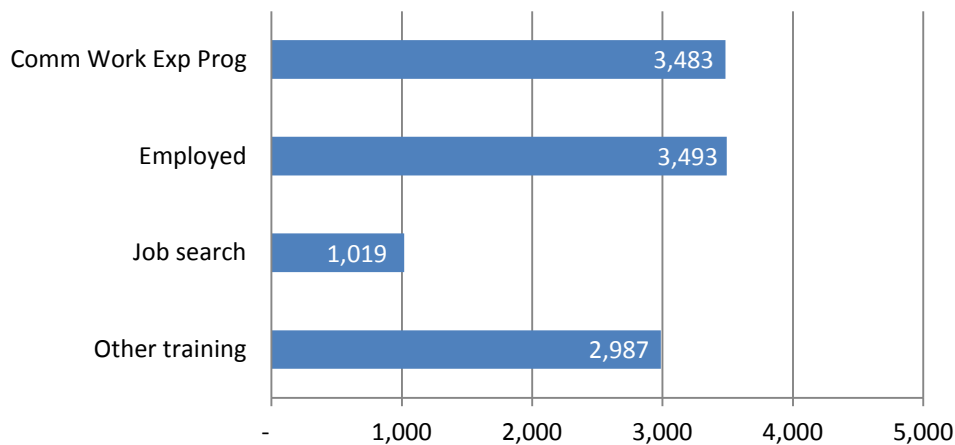


**Figure 3:** General Assistance (GA) participants by quarter.

## Part Two: Employment and Work Preparation

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

In September 2015, 10,982 TANF clients were engaged in work activities. 3,493 (32%) 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, 3,535 participated at levels sufficient to satisfy federal requirements.

### Cases Closed Due to Employment

During the quarter, an average of 839 WFNJ/TANF and GA clients left welfare for employment each month. The number of employed TANF clients trended downward during the quarter, falling 10% from July to September, while employed GA recipients decreased 15% during the same period.

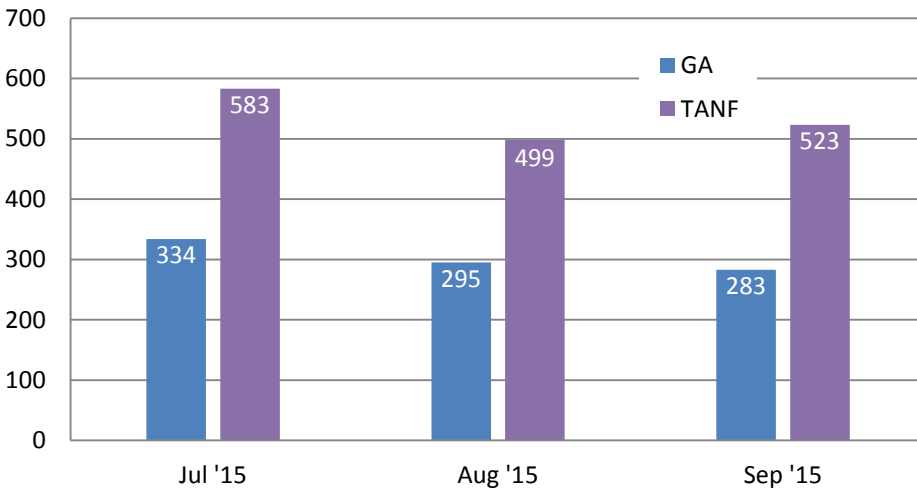


Figure 5: GA and TANF clients leaving due to employment.

### Major Reasons for TANF Case Closings

During the third quarter of 2015, 6,762 TANF cases were closed. 24% of these TANF cases closed due to employment.

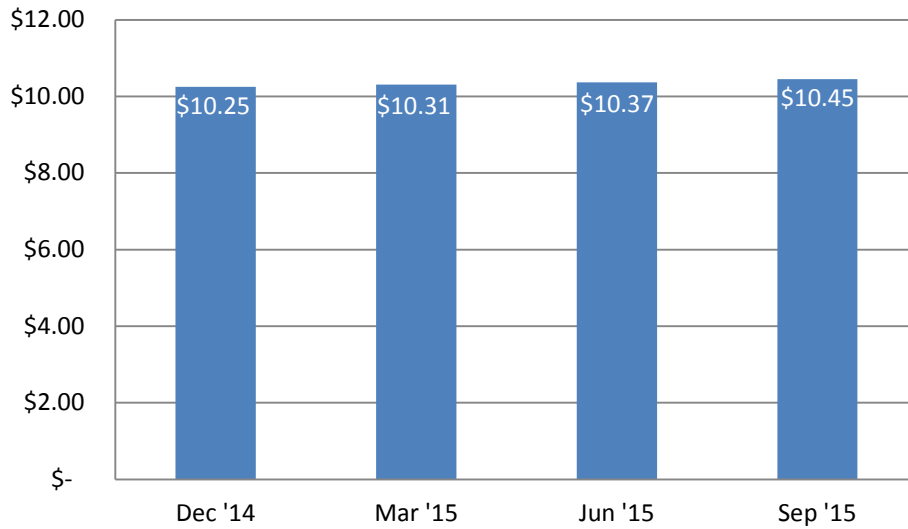
Table 1: Major reasons for case closing, Jul-Sep, 2015.

Reason for Closing	Jul '15	Aug '15	Sep '15	Total
Employment	583	499	523	1,605
TANF Sanctions	560	534	509	1,603
No eligible children	235	170	150	555
Recipient Withdrawal	170	132	149	451
No Redetermination	87	169	141	397
Moved out of state	68	56	81	205
Recipient initiative	56	83	51	190
60-Month Time Limit	81	60	45	186
Unemployment benefits	39	25	46	110
Moved to Another County	33	37	35	105
Unable to Verify Residence	42	26	36	104
Other Closed Cases*	434	395	422	1,251
	2,388	2,186	2,188	6,762

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

## Earnings of TANF Recipients

During the third quarter of 2015, working WFNJ/TANF earned an average of \$10.45 per hour, an increase of 2% since December 2014.



**Figure 6:** Mean hourly wage of TANF recipients by quarter, December 2014 – September 2015.

## Statewide Job Openings

According to the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development, there were 225,249 job openings statewide during the period from October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015. The majority of positions available were in the Professional, Scientific and Technical Services category, followed by the Administration & Support, Waste Management & Remediation Services and Health Care and Social Assistance.

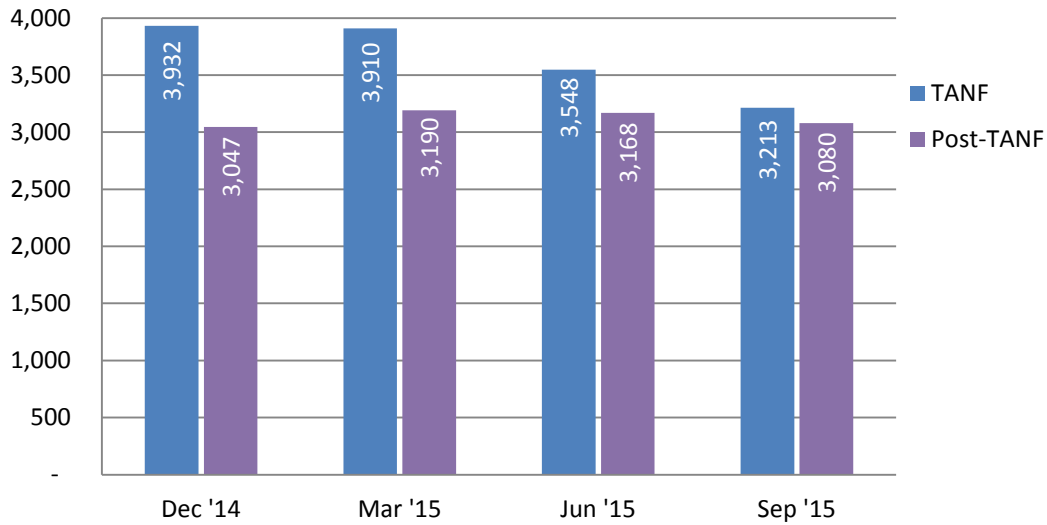
**Table 2:** NJ LWD Statewide Job Openings, October 2014 - September 2015.

Occupation	Openings
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	65,143
Admin. & Support, Waste Mgmt. & Remediation Services	29,200
Health Care & Social Assistance	26,222
Finance and Insurance	24,649
Retail Trade	16,845
Information	12,728
Manufacturing	11,362
Transportation and Warehousing	8,667
Management of Companies and Enterprises	5,899
Wholesale Trade	5,893
Other Services	4,012
Accommodation and Food Services	3,979
Construction	2,967
Educational Services	2,800
Real Estate and Rental & Leasing	1,722
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	1,483
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	972
Public Administration	377
Utilities	218
Mining	111
<b>Total</b>	<b>225,249</b>

### Part Three: Child Care

#### WFNJ/TANF Cases Receiving Child Care Benefits

As of September 2015, over 3,200 WFNJ/TANF clients received child care benefits. Post-TANF child care benefits were issued to nearly 3,100 families who had become employed and were no longer receiving cash assistance.



**Figure 7:** WFNJ/TANF cases receiving child care benefits by quarter, December 2014 - September 2015.

## Part Four: WFNJ Program Expenditures

The table below provides a summary of WFNJ program expenditures for the quarter ending September 30, 2015.

<b>THE DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT WORK FIRST NEW JERSEY (WFNJ) EXPENDITURES Quarter Ending September 30, 2015</b>									
	Actual Sept. 30, 2014	Actual Dec. 31, 2014	Actual Mar. 31, 2015	Actual June 30, 2015	Estimated Sept. 30, 2015	TOTAL COSTS CY 2014 1/14 – 12/14	TOTAL COSTS SFY 2015 7/14 – 6/15	TOTAL COSTS CY 2015 1/15 – 9/15	TOTAL COSTS SFY 2016 7/15 - 9/15
<b>(A) CASE MANAGEMENT</b>									
TANF	\$9,271,203	\$11,031,211	\$8,494,148	\$8,261,551	\$9,264,528	\$38,250,509	\$37,058,113	\$26,020,226	\$9,264,528
SNAP/Able Bodied Adults w/o Dependents	\$4,445,821	\$4,907,010	\$4,118,846	\$4,298,901	\$4,442,644	\$17,418,688	\$17,770,577	\$12,860,391	\$4,442,644
GA	\$1,133,705	\$1,352,307	\$1,140,128	\$1,239,550	\$1,216,422	\$5,122,440	\$4,865,690	\$3,596,100	\$1,216,422
<b>(B) CHILD CARE</b>	<b>\$14,278,248</b>	<b>\$16,131,415</b>	<b>\$13,484,040</b>	<b>\$16,578,199</b>	<b>\$15,117,976</b>	<b>\$67,697,641</b>	<b>\$60,471,903</b>	<b>\$45,180,215</b>	<b>\$15,117,976</b>
<b>(C) TRAINING RELATED EXPENSE, PARTICIPANT ALLOWANCE AND TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT</b>									
TANF	\$1,870,490	\$2,727,822	\$2,109,157	\$1,837,293	\$2,136,191	\$9,824,397	\$8,544,762	\$6,082,641	\$2,136,191
SNAP	\$1,130,575	\$1,259,021	\$1,062,515	\$1,081,599	\$1,133,428	\$4,813,175	\$4,533,711	\$3,277,542	\$1,133,428
GA	\$103,374	\$106,962	\$115,176	\$114,313	\$109,956	\$450,100	\$439,825	\$339,445	\$109,956
<b>(D) DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT - EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING</b>									
TANF	\$9,552,900	\$10,957,256	\$10,980,504	\$14,178,217	\$11,417,219	\$44,302,321	\$45,668,877	\$36,575,940	\$11,417,219
SNAP/Able Bodied Adults w/o Dependents	\$4,872,973	\$5,524,278	\$5,718,300	\$7,679,610	\$5,948,790	\$22,140,140	\$23,795,160	\$19,346,699	\$5,948,790
GA	\$1,064,684	\$1,139,795	\$1,125,426	\$1,342,328	\$1,168,058	\$5,209,543	\$4,672,234	\$3,635,813	\$1,168,058
<b>(E) OMEGA SYSTEM</b>	<b>\$180,078</b>	<b>\$112,509</b>	<b>\$156,051</b>	<b>\$37,411</b>	<b>\$121,512</b>	<b>\$500,857</b>	<b>\$486,049</b>	<b>\$314,974</b>	<b>\$121,512</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$47,904,051</b>	<b>\$55,249,587</b>	<b>\$48,504,292</b>	<b>\$56,648,971</b>	<b>\$52,076,725</b>	<b>\$215,729,811</b>	<b>\$208,306,900</b>	<b>\$157,229,987</b>	<b>\$52,076,725</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.