

Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services
TANF Report on Engagement in Additional Work Activities
Form ACF-812
May 31, 2011 Summary and Analysis Report

Introduction

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families (ACF) addressed State Agencies administering the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program via the TANF-ACF-PI-2011-03 issued on February, 14, 2011. Based on Section 411 of the Social Security Act and section 812 of the Claims Resolution Act of 2010, funding for the TANF program was authorized and extended through September 30, 2011. Form ACF-812, Report on Engagement in Additional Work Activities, requires Louisiana and other states to report, with respect to each work-eligible individual (WEI) in a family, whether the WEI is engaged in any activities that are directed toward attaining self-sufficiency. This includes activities classified as a countable or non-countable work activity under quarterly TANF Data Collection regulations.

Form ACF-812 requires the reporting of data for two report periods. The first period is from March 1 through March 31, 2011, and is due no later than May 31, 2011. The second period is from April 1 through June 30, 2011, and is due no later than August 31, 2011.

Louisiana Reporting Requirement Factors and ACF-812

The Louisiana Department for Children and Family Services (DCFS) submits its first TANF Report on Engagement in Additional Work Activities for the reporting period of March 1 through March 31, 2011. Louisiana does not operate its TANF program with a Separate State Program (SSP) requiring the use of Maintenance of Effort TANF (MOE) funds. Additionally, Two-Parent Families are funded with non-SSPMOE funds and therefore WEIs included in a Two-Parent Family are not included in the federal participation rate calculation. Louisiana submits TANF data for the entire caseload. For March 2011, a total of 3,463 WEIs were included in the TANF caseload.

Analysis

Louisiana's May 31, 2011 Summary Report is based on March 2011 data and is not a statistically valid representation of Louisiana's annual caseload. Additionally, States do not have the opportunity to resubmit data if new information is received or if data entry errors are discovered. For these reasons, this data may be inconsistent with what will be reported by Louisiana in the quarterly TANF report.

Narrative of Most Common Activities Not Counted Towards the Work Participation Rate

Although the March 2011 data is not representative of Louisiana's annual caseload, it demonstrates that WEIs are engaged in activities which are leading them to self-sufficiency. This includes partial participation in countable activities, and participation in non-countable activities, such as Job Search/Job Readiness (over the statutory limit), Vocational Education (over the statutory limit), High School/GED, Adult Education, English as a Second Language, Post-Secondary Education, Assessment, Treatment Activities, Family Life Skills, Accessing Work Support, Care for Extended Family Members, Jury Duty or Court Date, Meetings with Social Service Agencies, and Meetings with Schools regarding Child's Issues. Treatment Activities includes activities related to medical care or hospital admittance for the WEI or the WEI's child, post-natal or pre-natal care, medical appointments for social security or SSI, physical therapy visits, and activities related to domestic violence. Family Life Skills includes activities related to nutritional classes, organizational skills or budgeting skills workshops, personal development, and mentoring. Accessing Work Support includes activities related to meetings with Vocational Rehabilitation, finding and arranging support services such as child care or transportation, and obtaining a driver's license. Care for Extended Family Members includes activities that are non-medical related. Meeting with Social Service Agencies includes activities related to meetings with child welfare staff, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospital staff, probation officers, etc. Meeting with Social Service Agencies does not include meetings with the TANF case manager. Meetings with Schools regarding Child's Issues includes activities related to meetings to discuss discipline, truancy, Individual Education Plans for disabled children, and conferences as needed regarding grades, etc.

Conclusion

A review of Louisiana's Summary results has led to increased knowledge of information that has not been previously tracked for each WEI. This information has been beneficial in causing us to shift our focus to reasons of non-participation and sheds light on the varied activities a WEI participates in while attempting to achieve self-sufficiency. Whether by partial participation in countable activities or by participation in non-countable activities, we encourage individuals to participate to the degree that they are capable. Louisiana hopes that nationwide survey results will lead to additional flexibility in rules related to capturing the success of the TANF program.

March 2011 Summary

DATA ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION	RESULTS
8.	Participating In Countable Work Activities For A Sufficient Number Of Hours For The Family To Count Toward The Work Participation Rate	1385
9.	Unreported Hours Of Participation In A Countable Work Activity	0
10.	Insufficient Hours Of Participation In Countable Work Activities	374
11.	Beyond Statutory Limit	0
12.	Hours Of Participation In A Countable Work Activity Do Not Meet Verification Standard	0
13.	Participated In Activities That Do Not Qualify As Countable Activities, But Move The Family Toward Self-Sufficiency	457
14A.	Is The WEI Engaged In A Countable Work Activity Or In Any Activity That Moves Family Toward Self-Sufficiency?	1776-Yes 1687-No
14B.	Principal Reason For Non-Participation	
	01=Family's first month on assistance and no work activity assigned	124
	02=Individual assigned to a work activity that has not yet begun	29
	03=State/Local agency (or its contractor) has failed to engage individual	1007
	04=Individual relocating from one local jurisdiction within State to another	4
	05=Work activities reports received too late for inclusion in report to HHS	0
	06=Family disregarded from participation rate	358
	07=State exempt, single custodial parent with child under age 1, not disregarded due to 12-month limitation	0
	08=Individual in process of being sanctioned (including fair hearing process) or is subject to a sanction for refusing to work, not disregarded due to statutory or subject to a non-work sanction limitations	0
	09=State exempt, single custodial parent with child under age 6 & child care unavailable	0
	10=State exempt due to illness or disability of the WEI (including, but not limited to, in process of applying for SSI/SSDI)	62
	11=State exempt, due to illness or disability of child or other family member	0
	12=State exempt under a domestic violence waiver	1
	13=Good Cause Exemption	102
	14=Other State Exemption	0
	99=Other	0
14C.	Specify Other Reason	N/A