
WorkFirst NJ

Quarterly Progress Update

March 2015

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT



Elizabeth Connolly
Acting Commissioner

Natasha Johnson
Director

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)

30,288 families received WFNJ/TANF at the end of March 2015, down 6% from the previous quarter.

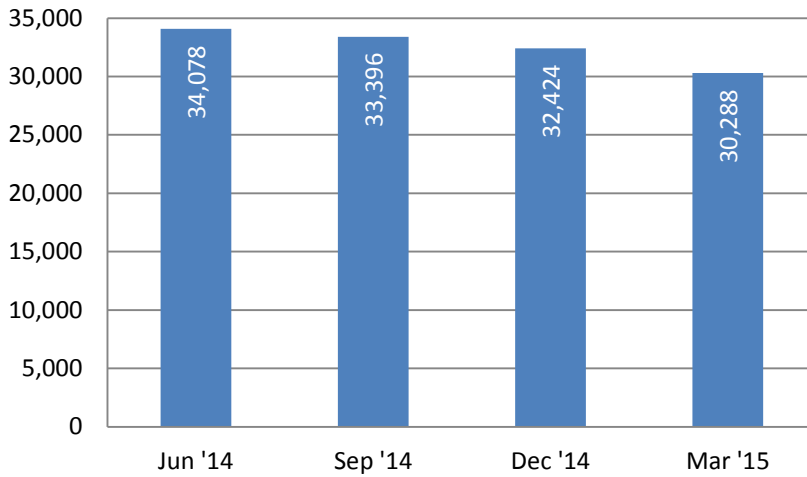


Figure 1: TANF family caseload by quarter.

Client Deferrals and Exemptions

Of the total TANF family caseload (30,288), 13,974 cases (46%) had an adult in the household with a mandatory WFNJ/TANF work requirement. 7,849 cases (26%) were exempt child-only households and 3,226 cases (11%) had a long-term health deferral. 5,239 cases (17%) had some other type of deferral.

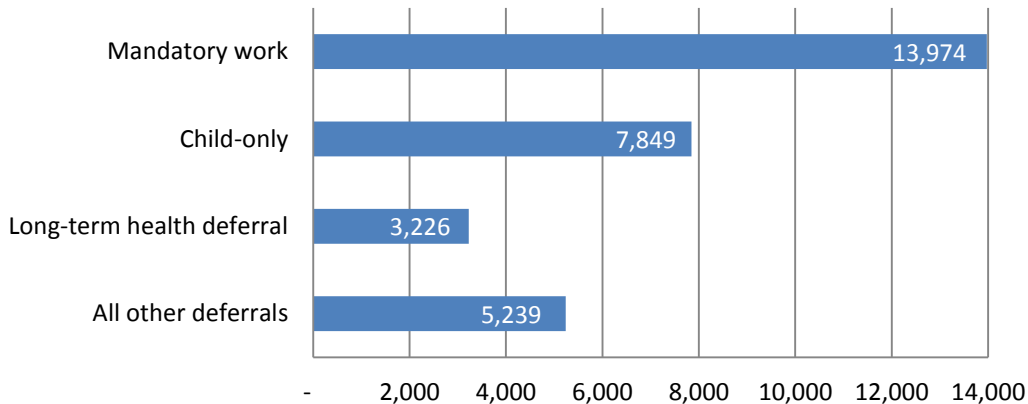


Figure 2: TANF caseload by case status as of March, 2015.

General Assistance (GA)

The number of persons receiving General Assistance (GA) continued to decline, ending March at 27,950. That figure was down 5% from the previous quarter.

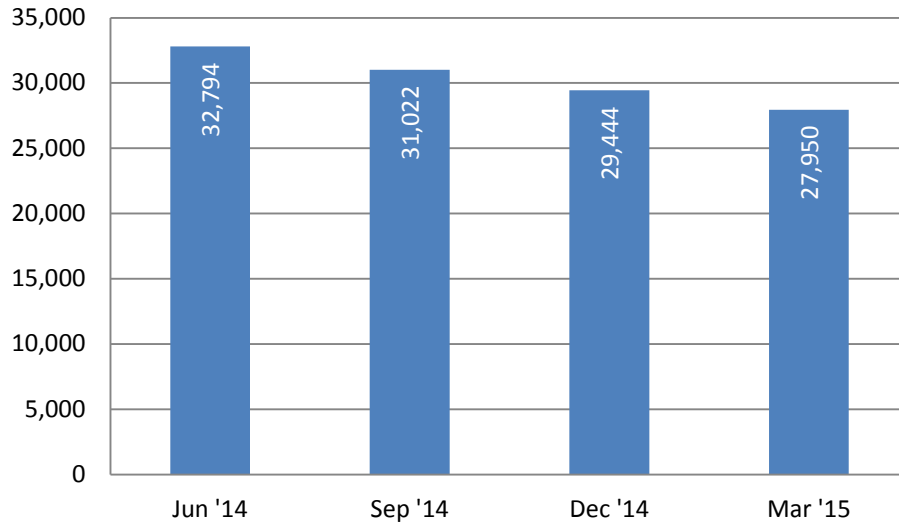


Figure 3: General Assistance (GA) participants by quarter.

Part Two: Employment and Work Preparation

Participation of WFNJ/TANF Clients in Employment-Directed Activities

In March 2015, 12,849 TANF clients were engaged in work activities. 3,400 (26%) of these individuals had begun working but were still receiving a partial cash assistance payment, due to income disregards.

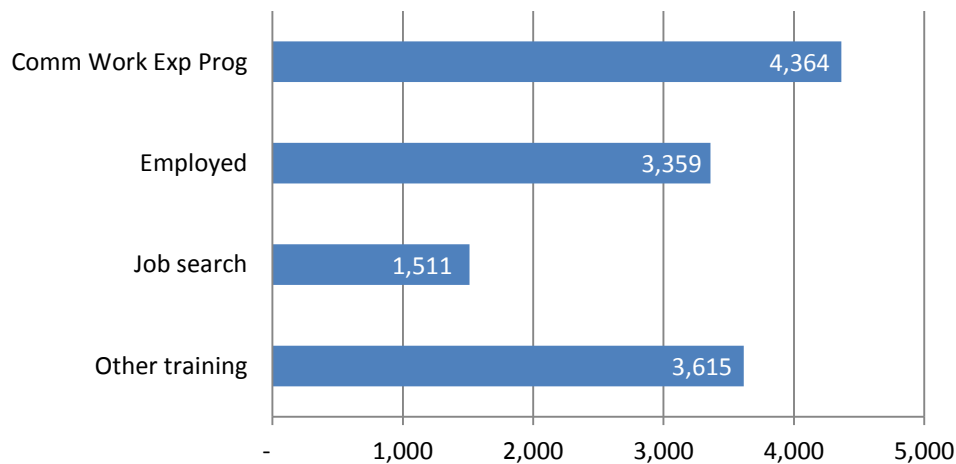


Figure 4: Participation of WFNJ/TANF clients in employment-directed activities.

Federal Participation Requirement

Of the recipients scheduled to participate in the work-directed activities, 4,423 participated at levels sufficient to satisfy federal requirements.

Cases Closed Due to Employment

During the quarter, an average of 806 WFNJ/TANF and GA clients left welfare for employment each month. The number of employed TANF clients trended downward during the quarter, falling 22% from January to March, while employed GA recipients increased 21% during the same period.

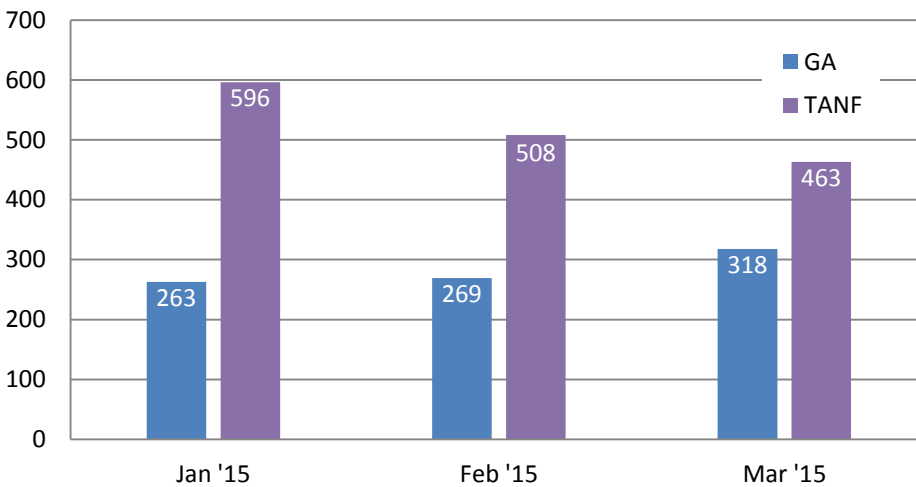


Figure 5: GA and TANF clients leaving due to employment.

Major Reasons for TANF Case Closings

During the first three months of 2015, 6,752 TANF cases were closed. 23% of these TANF cases closed due to employment.

Table 1: Major reasons for case closing, Jan-Mar, 2015.

Reason for Closing	Jan '15	Feb '15	Mar '15	Total
TANF sanctions	570	662	593	1,825
Employment	596	508	463	1,567
No eligible children	184	155	150	489
Recipient withdrawal	124	153	158	435
No redetermination	76	93	62	231
60-month time limit	64	63	60	187
Moved out of state	57	63	64	184
Moved out of county	51	44	55	150
Unable to verify residence	51	46	46	143
Unemployment benefits	45	45	40	130
Recipient initiative	39	30	36	105
Other Closed Cases*	464	421	421	1,306
	2,321	2,283	2,148	6,752

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

Earnings of TANF Recipients

During the first quarter of 2015, working WFNJ/TANF earned an average of \$10.31 per hour, an increase of 2% since June 2014.

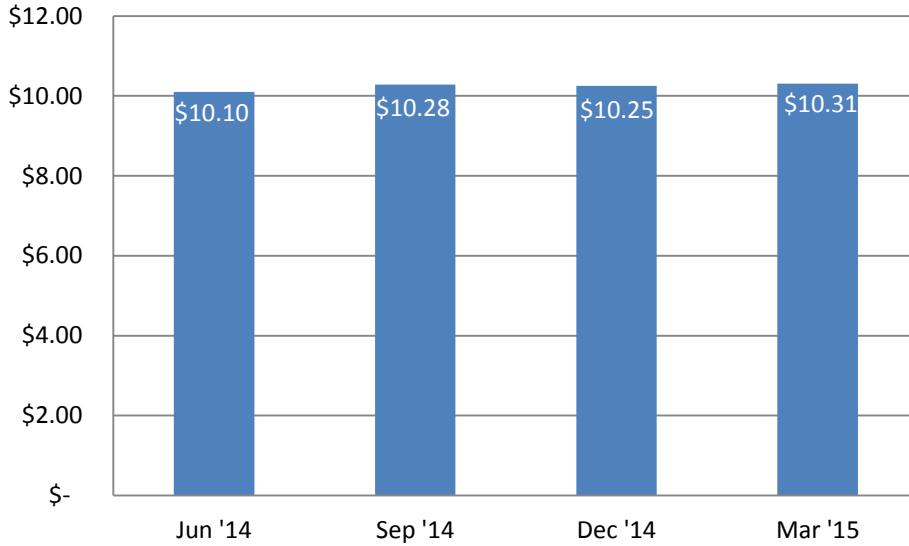


Figure 6: Mean hourly wage of TANF recipients by quarter, June 2014 – March 2015.

Statewide Job Openings

According to the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development, there were 248,227 job openings statewide during the period from April 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015. The majority of positions available were in the Professional, Scientific and Technical Services category, followed by Finance and Insurance. Administration & Support, Waste Management & Remediation Services ranked third.

Table 2: NJ LWD Statewide Job Openings, April 2014 - March 2015.

Occupation	Openings
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	74,847
Finance and Insurance	37,160
Admin. & Support, Waste Mgmt. & Remediation Services	26,342
Health Care & Social Assistance	24,643
Information	24,274
Manufacturing	10,929
Retail Trade	10,905
Transportation and Warehousing	10,481
Wholesale Trade	6,244
Management of Companies and Enterprises	4,558
Other Services	3,703
Educational Services	3,054
Construction	2,802
Accommodation and Food Services	2,431
Public Administration	1,594
Real Estate and Rental & Leasing	1,539
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	1,497
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	888
Utilities	255
Mining	81
Total	248,227

Part Three: Child Care

WFNJ/TANF Cases Receiving Child Care Benefits

As of March 2015, over 3,900 WFNJ/TANF clients received child care benefits. Post-TANF child care benefits were issued to nearly 3,200 families who had become employed and were no longer receiving cash assistance.

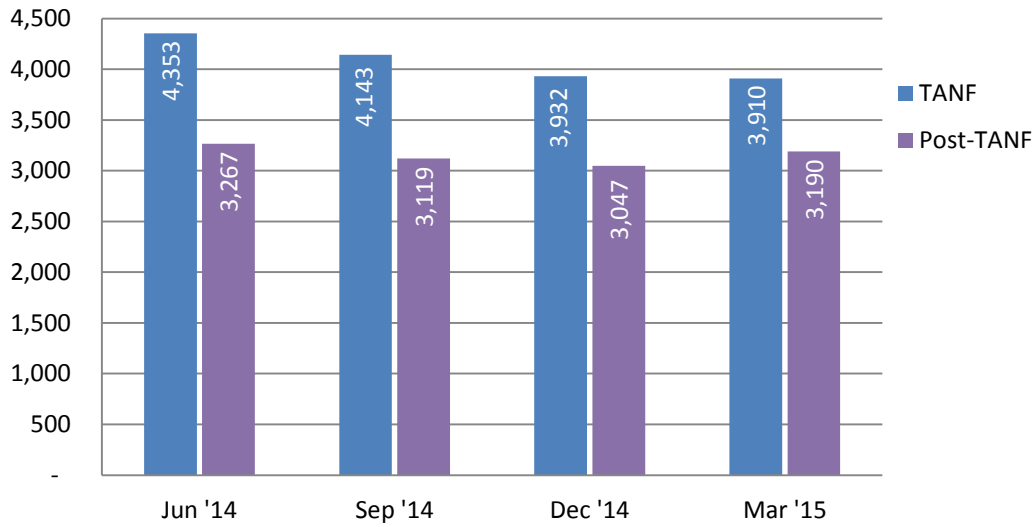


Figure 7: WFNJ/TANF cases receiving child care benefits by quarter, June 2014 - March 2015.

Part Four: WFNJ Program Expenditures

The table below provides a summary of WFNJ program expenditures for the quarter ending March 31, 2015.

THE DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT WORK FIRST NEW JERSEY (WFNJ) EXPENDITURES Quarter Ending March 31, 2015									
	Actual Mar. 31, 2014	Actual June 30, 2014	Actual Sept. 30, 2014	Actual Dec. 31, 2014	Estimated Mar. 31, 2015	TOTAL COSTS SFY 2014 7/13 – 6/14	TOTAL COSTS CY 2014 1/14 – 12/14	TOTAL COSTS SFY 2015 7/14 – 3/15	TOTAL COSTS CY 2015 1/15 – 3/15
(A) CASE MANAGEMENT									
TANF	\$8,900,058	\$9,048,037	\$9,271,203	\$11,031,211	\$9,073,099	\$39,290,779	\$38,250,509	\$29,375,514	\$9,073,099
SNAP/Able Bodied Adults w/o Dependents	\$3,831,631	\$4,234,226	\$4,445,821	\$4,907,010	\$4,170,559	\$17,025,667	\$17,418,688	\$13,523,390	\$4,170,559
GA	\$1,279,783	\$1,356,645	\$1,133,705	\$1,352,307	\$1,256,711	\$5,728,713	\$5,122,440	\$3,742,723	\$1,256,711
(B) CHILD CARE	\$19,298,085	\$17,989,893	\$14,278,248	\$15,508,324	\$16,781,520	\$82,207,842	\$67,126,081	\$46,619,623	\$16,781,520
(C) TRAINING RELATED EXPENSE, PARTICIPANT ALLOWANCE AND TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT									
TANF	\$2,427,391	\$2,798,694	\$1,708,099	\$2,645,810	\$2,394,999	\$10,533,918	\$9,579,994	\$6,748,908	\$2,394,999
SNAP	\$1,059,259	\$1,364,320	\$1,130,575	\$1,259,021	\$1,203,294	\$4,968,089	\$4,813,175	\$3,592,890	\$1,203,294
GA	\$123,990	\$115,774	\$103,374	\$106,962	\$112,525	\$491,481	\$450,100	\$322,861	\$112,525
(D) DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT - EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING									
TANF	\$10,871,795	\$12,920,370	\$9,552,900	\$10,957,256	\$11,115,022	\$43,296,218	\$44,302,321	\$31,625,178	\$11,115,022
SNAP/Able Bodied Adults w/o Dependents	\$4,487,054	\$7,255,836	\$4,872,973	\$5,524,278	\$5,538,621	\$21,169,292	\$22,140,140	\$15,935,872	\$5,538,621
GA	\$1,181,935	\$1,823,128	\$1,064,684	\$1,139,795	\$1,356,583	\$5,902,650	\$5,209,543	\$3,561,062	\$1,356,583
(E) OMEGA SYSTEM	\$149,019	\$59,250	\$180,078	\$112,509	\$125,214	\$811,403	\$500,857	\$417,802	\$125,214
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$53,610,000	\$58,966,173	\$47,741,660	\$54,596,015	\$53,128,146	\$231,426,052	\$214,913,848	\$155,465,821	\$53,128,146

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.