
WorkFirst NJ

Quarterly Progress Update

March 2017

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT



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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)

17,582 families received WFNJ/TANF at the end of March 2017, down 8.5% from the previous quarter.

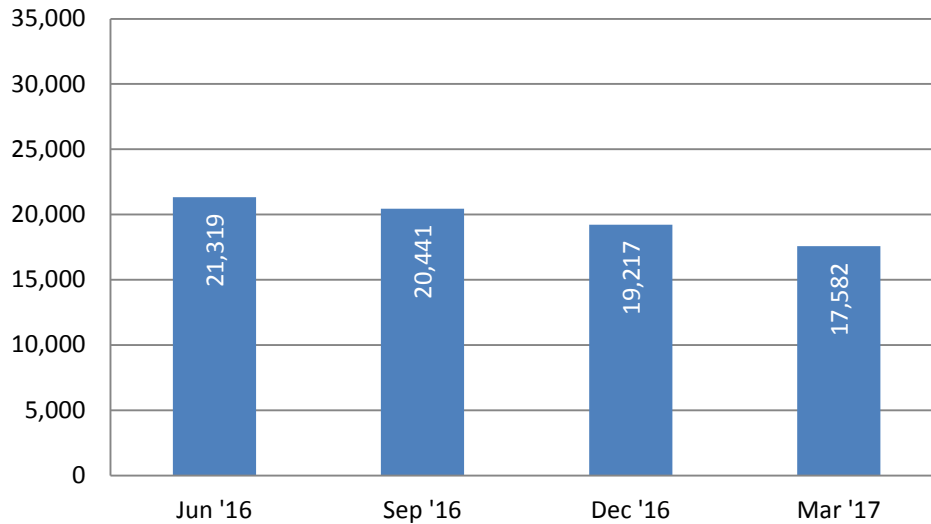


Figure 1: TANF family caseload by quarter.

Client Deferrals and Exemptions

Of the total TANF family caseload (17,582), 6,502 cases (37%) had an adult in the household with a mandatory WFNJ/TANF work requirement. 5,819 cases (33%) were exempt child-only households and 2,536 cases (14%) had a long-term health deferral. 2,725 cases (15%) had some other type of deferral.

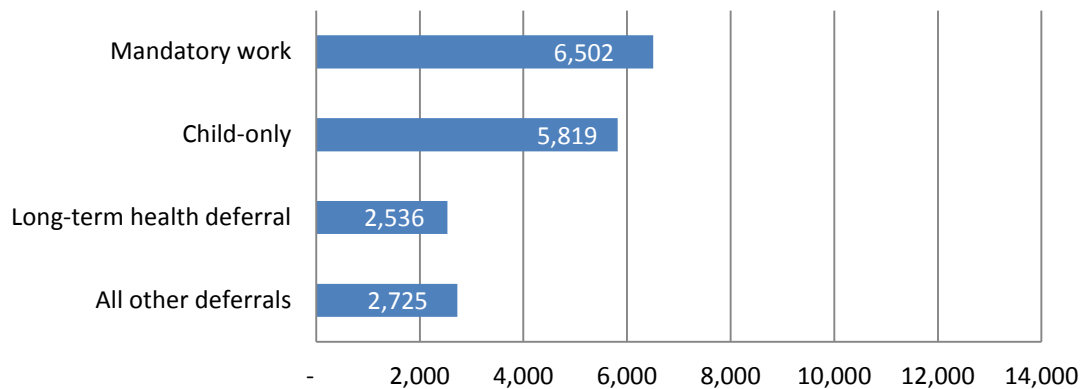


Figure 2: TANF caseload by case status as of March, 2017.

General Assistance (GA)

The number of persons receiving General Assistance (GA) at the end of March was 15,369. That figure was down 4% from the previous quarter.

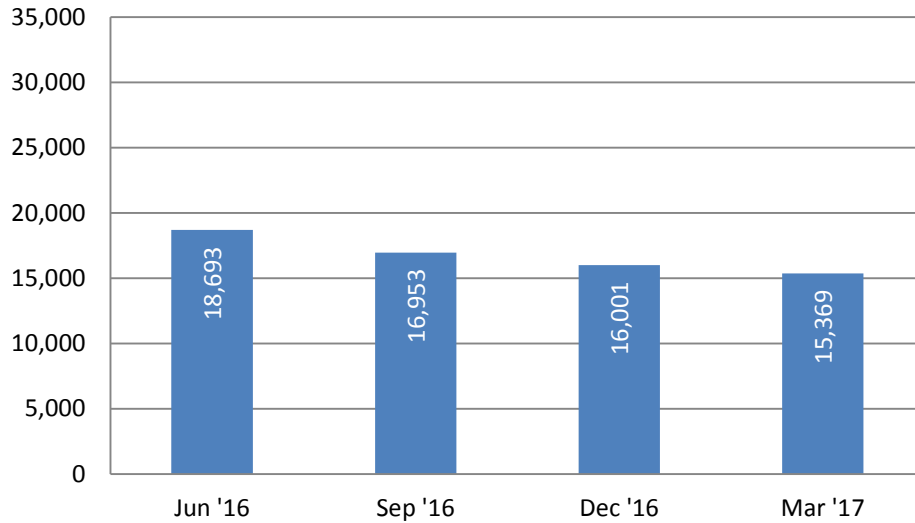


Figure 3: General Assistance (GA) participants by quarter.

Part Two: Employment and Work Preparation

Participation of WFNJ/TANF Clients in Employment-Directed Activities

In March 2017, 6,460 TANF clients were engaged in work activities. 1,763 (27%) of these individuals had begun working but were still receiving a partial cash assistance payment, due to income disregards.

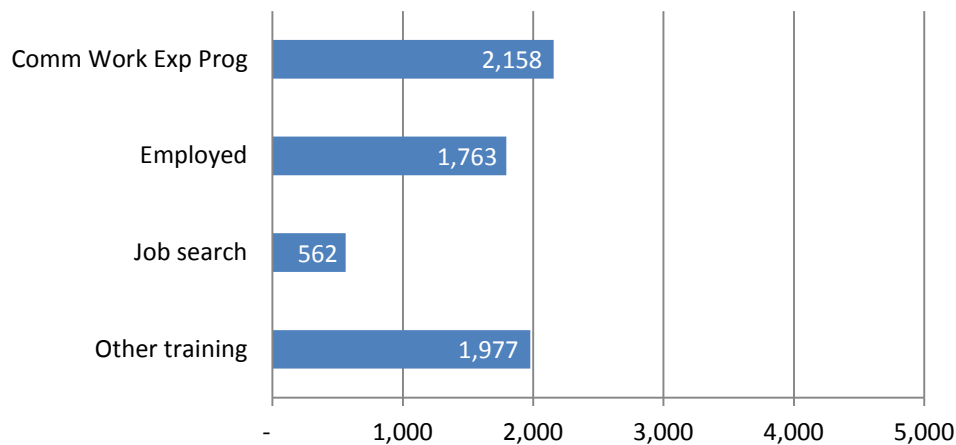


Figure 4: Participation of WFNJ/TANF clients in employment-directed activities.

Federal Participation Requirement

Of the recipients scheduled to participate in the work-directed activities, 1,988 participated at levels sufficient to satisfy federal requirements.

Cases Closed Due to Employment

During the quarter, an average of 487 WFNJ/TANF and GA clients left welfare for employment each month. The number of employed TANF clients trended downward during the quarter, decreasing 8% from January to March, while employed GA recipients increased 26% during the same period.

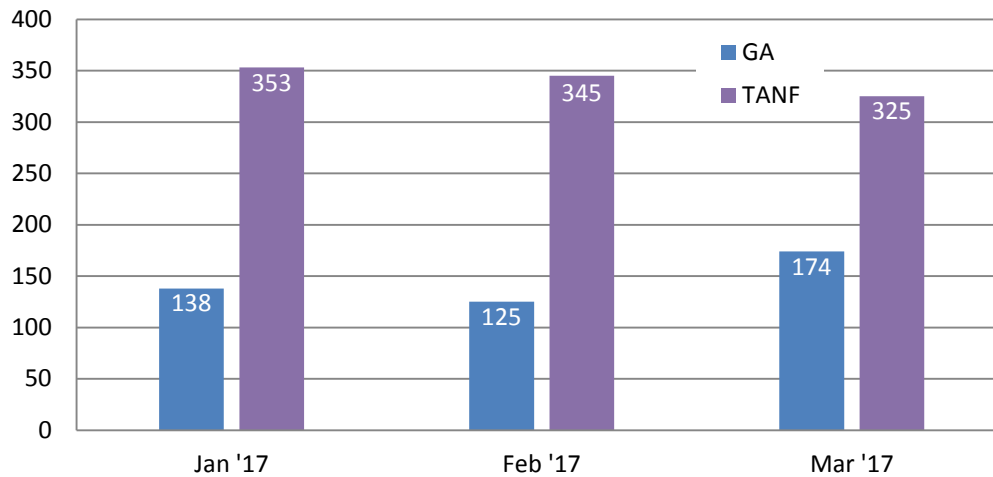


Figure 5: GA and TANF clients leaving due to employment.

Major Reasons for TANF Case Closings

During the first quarter of 2017, 4,805 TANF cases were closed. 21% of these TANF cases closed due to employment.

Table 1: Major reasons for case closing, Jan-Mar, 2017.

Reason for Closing	Jan '17	Feb '17	Mar '17	Total
TANF Sanctions	439	469	463	1,371
Employment	353	345	325	1,023
Recipient Withdrawal	93	114	118	325
No Eligible Children	89	117	97	303
No Redetermination	87	99	47	233
Recipient Initiative	38	59	54	151
Unable to Verify Residence	32	45	35	112
Moved Out of State	24	41	26	91
Unemployment benefits	35	30	26	91
60-Month Time Limit	34	29	28	91
Moved to Another County	28	23	22	73
Other Closed Cases	330	306	305	941
	1,582	1,677	1,546	4,805

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

Earnings of TANF Recipients

During the first quarter of 2017, working WFNJ/TANF recipients earned an average of \$10.90 per hour, an increase of 2% since June 2016.

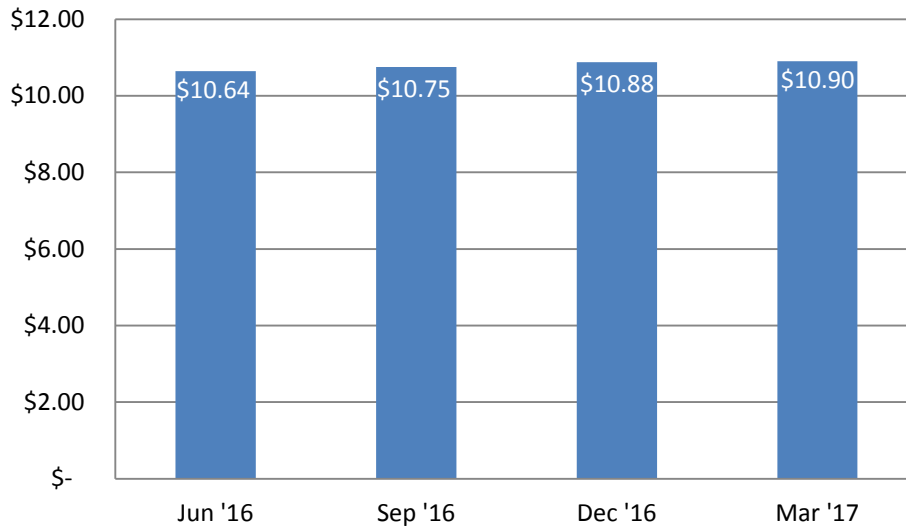


Figure 6: Mean hourly wage of TANF recipients by quarter, June 2016 – March 2017.

Statewide Job Openings

According to the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development, there were 240,270 job openings statewide during the period from April 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017. The majority of positions available were in the Administration & Support, Waste Management & Remediation Services category, followed by the Health Care and Social Assistance and the Professional, Scientific and Technical Services categories.

Table 2: NJ LWD Statewide Job Openings, April 2016 - March 2017.

Occupation	Openings
Admin. & Support, Waste Mgmt. & Remediation Services	40,942
Health Care & Social Assistance	38,351
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	35,641
Manufacturing	33,009
Retail Trade	17,336
Finance and Insurance	14,691
Wholesale Trade	10,988
Transportation and Warehousing	9,569
Information	8,772
Accommodation and Food Services	6,460
Construction	5,101
Other Services	4,835
Educational Services	3,437
Management of Companies and Enterprises	3,287
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	2,552
Real Estate and Rental & Leasing	2,218
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	1,309
Utilities	1,163
Public Administration	570
Mining	39
Total	240,270

Part Three: Child Care

WFNJ/TANF Cases Receiving Child Care Benefits

As of March 2017, over 1,700 WFNJ/TANF clients received child care benefits. Post-TANF child care benefits were issued to over 2,700 families who had become employed and were no longer receiving cash assistance.

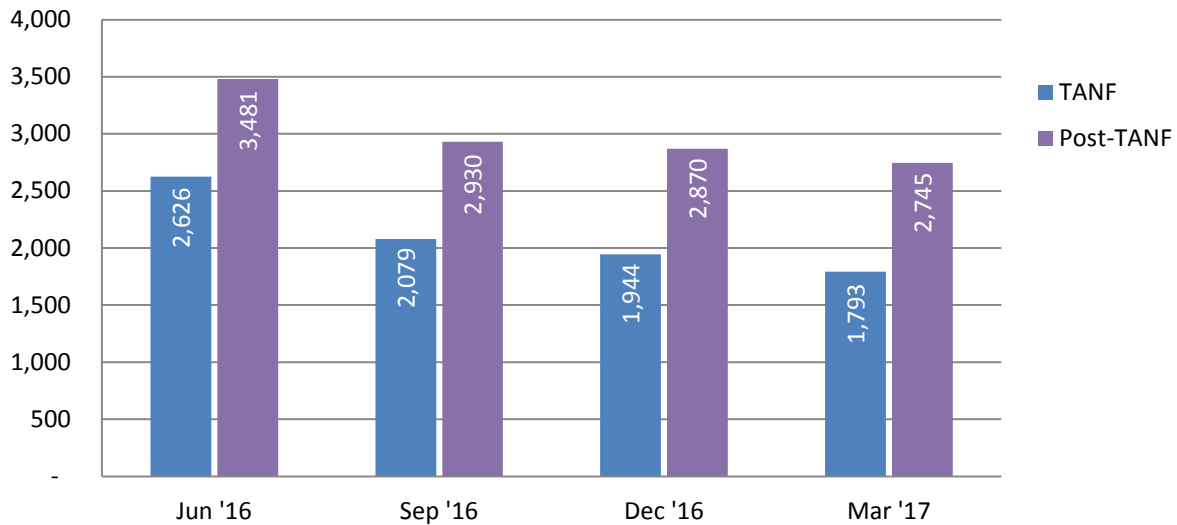


Figure 7: WFNJ/TANF cases receiving child care benefits by quarter, June 2016 - March 2017.

Part Four: WFNJ Program Expenditures

The table below provides a summary of WFNJ program expenditures for the quarter ending March 31, 2017.

THE DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT WORK FIRST NEW JERSEY (WFNJ) EXPENDITURES Quarter Ending March 31, 2017									
	Actual Mar. 31, 2016	Actual June 30,2016	Actual Sept. 30,2016	Actual Dec. 31, 2016	Estimated Mar. 31, 2017	TOTAL COSTS SFY 2016 7/15 - 6/16	TOTAL COSTS CY2016 1/16-12/16	TOTAL COSTS SFY 2017 7/16 - 03/17	TOTAL COSTS CY2017 1/17-03/17
(A) CASE MANAGEMENT									
TANF	\$7,980,675	\$8,847,158	\$9,339,799	\$10,362,003	\$9,516,320	\$37,136,831	\$36,529,635	\$19,701,802	\$9,516,320
SNAP/Able Bodied Adults w/o Dependents	\$4,660,331	\$4,495,779	\$5,363,055	\$5,276,389	\$5,045,074	\$19,162,834	\$19,795,554	\$10,639,444	\$5,045,074
GA	\$1,012,196	\$1,061,888	\$1,003,294	\$1,161,881	\$1,075,688	\$4,464,250	\$4,239,260	\$2,165,176	\$1,075,688
(B) CHILD CARE	\$11,873,256	\$13,295,297	\$11,974,287	\$11,261,648	\$12,177,078	\$52,394,525	\$48,404,489	\$23,235,936	\$12,177,078
(C) TRAINING RELATED EXPENSE, PARTICIPANT ALLOWANCE AND TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT									
TANF	\$2,238,106	\$2,029,173	\$801,517	\$1,424,650	\$1,418,447	\$8,253,246	\$6,493,446	\$2,226,167	\$1,418,447
SNAP	\$1,034,104	\$1,020,081	\$890,483	\$841,795	\$917,453	\$4,062,160	\$3,786,463	\$1,732,279	\$917,453
GA	\$98,705	\$94,334	\$66,749	\$66,749	\$75,944	\$384,047	\$326,537	\$133,498	\$75,944
(D) DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT - EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING									
TANF	\$9,594,568	\$12,287,353	\$9,797,440	\$9,316,527	\$10,467,107	\$41,254,843	\$40,995,888	\$19,113,967	\$10,467,107
SNAP/Able Bodied Adults w/o Dependents	\$6,613,365	\$6,278,439	\$5,541,371	\$5,431,347	\$5,750,386	\$22,433,774	\$23,864,523	\$10,972,718	\$5,750,386
GA	\$1,013,621	\$944,802	\$765,364	\$982,382	\$897,516	\$3,368,186	\$3,706,168	\$1,747,745	\$897,516
(E) OMEGA SYSTEM	\$54,690	\$75,014	\$70,990	\$69,205	\$71,737	\$259,014	\$269,900	\$140,196	\$71,737
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$46,173,616	\$50,429,319	\$45,614,350	\$46,194,577	\$47,412,749	\$193,173,710	\$188,411,863	\$91,808,927	\$47,412,749

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.