

Claims Resolution Act of 2010

Summary and Analysis of Engagement in Additional Activities

Background: Section 812 of the Claims Resolution Act of 2010 requires that each State submit a Report on Engagement in Additional Work Activities. The new report must be submitted for two reporting periods. The first reporting period is from March 1 through March 31, 2011 and is due no later than June 15, 2011. The second reporting period is from April 1 through June 30, 2011 and the report is due no later than August 31, 2011. The legislation also requires that an analysis of the data be prepared and published on an ACF-approved website concurrent with the submission of each report. New Jersey submitted the requested information for the first reporting period (March 1-March 31) on form ACF-812 as instructed by the Administration for Children and Families on June 3, 2011.

(A) Summary of the information submitted in the report:

In New Jersey, the average monthly number of work-eligible individuals in families receiving TANF or SSP-MOE assistance from March 1 through March 31 was 25,309.

Of these, the average monthly number of individuals engaged in activities directed toward attaining self-sufficiency was 7,948.

The average monthly number of individuals engaged in activities that do not qualify as a countable work activity, but are otherwise reasonably calculated to help the family move to self-sufficiency, was zero.

The average monthly number of individuals engaged in activities that could be countable work activities, but for the fact that the work-eligible did not engage in such activities for a sufficient number of hours, was 1,144. Specific activities include:

- 1,047 in Work Experience activities
- 379 in Job Skills Training Directly Related to Employment

Note: Some individuals may have been in more than one activity in the month.

The average monthly number of individuals engaged in activities that could be countable work activities, but for the fact that the work-eligible individual had reached a maximum time limit allowed for having participation in the activity count, was 561. Specific activities include:

- 494 in Vocational Education programs
- 68 in Job Search and Job Readiness activities

The average monthly number of individuals engaged in activities that could be countable work activities, but for the fact that the number of work-eligible individuals engaged in such activity exceeds a statutory limitation, was 1,048. Specific activities include:

- 527 in Job Search and Job Readiness activities
- 527 in Vocational Education programs

(B) Analysis statement regarding the extent to which the information changes measures of total engagement in work activities from what will be reported by the State in the quarterly report for the comparable period

Although the data indicates that a larger number of TANF and SSP-MOE work eligible individuals are totally engaged in work activities than New Jersey's work participation rate reflects, this information will not change what will be reported by the State in the quarterly report for the comparable period. Statutory work activity time limits, enrollment caps, definitions and reporting restrictions prevent many individuals who are actively engaged in activities to help them become self sufficient from being included in the work participation rate. The statutory restrictions on the implementation of the TANF program negatively impact the State's ability to meet the mandated work participation rate required to maintain eligibility for TANF funding.

(C) Narrative describing the most common activities contained in the report that are not countable toward the State's participation rate under section 407

The data indicates that the most common activities that TANF and SSP-MOE work eligible individuals engage in that are not countable towards the State's participation rate include:

- 3,152 Disregard as permissible under federal guidelines (child under 1 or short term sanction status)
- 2,524 Other *(see below)
- 1,778 First month of TANF financial assistance
- 1,704 State exempt under a domestic violence waiver
- 1,184 Other state exemption (such as 60 years of age or older and caretakers of ill of disabled child/dependent)
- 1,176 State exempt due to illness or disability of the work eligible individual
- 1,058 Individual assigned to work activity that has not yet begun
- 999 Sanctioned
- 420 Work activity report received too late for inclusion in report to HHS
- 150 Child under 1, not disregarded due to 12 month limitation

Of the 2,524 coded as other:

- 940 Assessment/Evaluation in progress, not completed
- 762 Activity scheduled, client did not attend
- 689 Medical/mental health barrier assessment and treatment evaluation
- 132 Employment scheduled, hrs not verified
- 1 in transition within the program

*Note: Individuals who are unable to work full time because of a medical condition are not required to participate part time in a work activity. Although this policy does not impact our work participation rate because these individuals can not participate enough hours to count, it is why these individuals are not engaged in any activity.