

West Virginia ACF 812 Report Summary and Analysis

Section 812 of the Claims Resolution Act of 2010 includes additional state reporting requirements that identify Additional Work Activities for TANF recipients involved in Work Programs. The legislation identified two (2) reporting periods and deadlines to submit for each reporting period. The first reporting period is from March 1, 2011 through March 31, 2011 and is due no later than May 31, 2011. The second reporting period is from April 1, 2011 through June 30, 2011 and is due into ACF no later than August 31, 2011. These additional reports supplement existing current ACF reporting that all states are required to submit on a Federal Fiscal Quarterly basis. These reports include information that ACF leverages to calculate the official state TANF Work Participation Rate (WP%).

Summary

One of the stated goals of the TANF program is to reduce the dependency of needy parents by promoting job preparation. The Work Participation requirements associated with the TANF program is the enabler to the self-sufficiency intended outcome. Individuals participating in the Work Programs offered by the state are more likely to move off the TANF program and into unsubsidized private sector employment. By effectively managing Work Participation, the state is able to stave off additional federal sanctions and positively influence a recipient's future. States are required to meet an overall WP% of 50% and a 90% WP% for two-parent families. If states do not meet these federally mandated WP% requirements, they face potential sanctions from ACF. The WP% includes Work Eligible Individuals and whether or not these Work Eligible Individuals are engaged in specific work activities that could help lead to the self-sufficiency goal of the TANF program.

A Work Eligible Individual is an adult or minor parent head of household recipient of a cash benefit or a non-recipient parent living with a child received a cash benefit unless the parent is

1. A minor parent but not the head of household
2. A non-citizen who is ineligible to receive assistance due to his or her immigration status
3. A Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipient
4. A parent providing care for a disable family member living in the home
5. A parent receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits

A Work Eligible Individual must have verified participation in countable work activities for a specified number of hours each month. Single parents with children six (6) years of age and older must complete a minimum of thirty (30) hours a week of work when receiving a TANF benefit. Single parents with children under the age of six (6) must participate in activities for a minimum of twenty (20) hours per week. Two parent families must be engaged in work activities for a minimum of thirty-five (35) hours er week.

As defined by Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act (PRWORA), countable work activities include the following activities:

1. Unsubsidized employment

2. Subsidized employment
3. Work experience
4. Satisfactory school attendance
5. Providing Child Care to an individual who is participating in a Community Service Program
6. Volunteer Work or Community Service
7. Education directly related to employment
8. On the job training (OJT)
9. Vocation Education/Training (time limited)
10. Job Search/Job Readiness (time limited)

Parents with a thirty (30) hour requirement must participate in the activities defined above for 20 hours and then participate for an additional ten (10) hours in the above or the following:

1. Job skills training
2. Education directly related to employment
3. Basic education

All other activities are considered 'non-countable'.

Analysis

When calculating WP%, the state is at liberty to provide an entire sample of Work Eligible Individuals or a random sample of Work Eligible Individuals for ACF reporting requirements. West Virginia has consistently used the random sample approach when calculating WP%. For the month of March 2011, West Virginia had the following:

Work Eligible Individuals – 5,047

TANF Sample – 328

Work Eligible Individuals within the TANF Sample – 304

Work Eligible Individuals within the TANF Sample who met WP% - 98

TANF Sample Work Eligible Individuals that met WP% for the month of March participated in the following countable activities:

Employment – 43%

Work Experience – 5%

Job Search/Job Readiness – 3%

Community Service – 10%

Vocational Training – 34%

Education – 5%

Narrative of Activities Not Counted Toward WP%

For the month of March, West Virginia had eleven (11) individuals in the TANF sample that participated in non-countable activities. Of these, 70% were accessing work support activities (finding child care, obtaining drivers license), 20% were in assessment and 10% were in other activities.