

Summary and Analysis of Engagement in Additional Work Activities

April thru June 2011

Section 812 of the Claims Resolution Act of 2010 requires states to submit a report on engagement in additional work activities to the Administration for Children and Families, of individuals eligible for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program and who are required to participate in work requirements to attain self-sufficiency. The Act also requires states to publish a summary of this information on the North Dakota Department of Human Services website.

Individuals in receipt of TANF who have a work requirement must participate in one or more work activities for periods of time necessary to allow a participant to complete tasks that will move them directly into employment. Countable work activities include:

- unsubsidized employment
- subsidized public or private sector employment
- on the job training
- public or private work experience
- job search and job readiness activities; community service
- vocational training
- education directly related to employment for a participant under age 20 who has not completed high school or received a GED
- satisfactory attendance at secondary school or in a course of study leading to a GED for a participant under age 20
- providing child care services to another participant engaged in a community service program; and job skills training directly related to employment.

The report summarizes information collected from North Dakota's three Job Opportunity and Basic Skills (JOBS) Program Employment Contractors who work with the TANF program participants, Job Service North Dakota, Community Options Inc., and Turtle Mountain Employment and Training regarding TANF individuals with a work requirement who may or may not count towards the states work participation rate. It also includes information regarding TANF individuals who:

- participated in countable work activities for a sufficient number of hours to count towards the states work participation rate
- participated in a work activity that could count toward the work participation rate, but the state chose not to report the hours
- participated in a countable work activity that did not count toward the work participation rate because the individual was not engaged for sufficient hours to meet the requirements

- participated in a countable work activity that did not count toward the work participation rate because the hours are beyond the statutory limit
- participated in a countable work activity but the hours of participation were not reported as they could not be verified
- participated in a work activity that was not countable, but could move the family toward self-sufficiency
- did not participate in any countable work activities and the reason for the nonparticipation

The results of these findings have been used to provide information to the JOBS Employment Contractors to identify reasons individuals are not meeting their work participation requirements. This enables the employment contractors to enhance their processes for working with the participants, which should result in an increase in North Dakota's Work Participation rate.

Based on the information, the most common activities contained in the report that are not countable toward the State participation rates participation are educational, treatment and family life skills activities.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Carol Cartledge, Director of Economic and Public Assistance at (701) 328-4008 or Brenda Peterson, TANF Lead Policy Analyst at 701-328-2167.

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