

Testimony
Department of Human Services
Human Services Committee
Representative Alon Wieland, Chairman
October 4, 2012

Caseload Comparison - Economic Assistance Policy
Carol Cartledge, Director, Economic Assistance Policy

	<u>2005 - 2007 Biennium</u>			<u>2007 - 2009 Biennium</u>			<u>2009 - 2011 Biennium</u>			<u>SFY 2012</u>
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Biennial</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Biennial</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Biennial</u>	<u>Actual</u>
	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>2012</u>
TANF	2,708	2,560	2,634	2,590	2,440	2,515	2,147	1,925	2,036	1,738
<p>The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) caseload has decreased over time due to the 2005 Deficit Reduction Act, which identified and required work activities for adults in TANF families. Additional factors attributing to the decreased caseload are the 2009 Pay After Performance policy implementation and the positive economic climate in North Dakota.</p>										
LIHEAP	5,737	5,872	5,805	5,732	6,353	6,042	6,265	6,100	6,182	5,269
<p>The Low Income Heating and Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) caseload is affected by weather conditions and fuel prices.</p>										
Child Care Assistance	4,060	3,955	4,003	4,054	3,810	3,932	3,780	3,589	3,685	2,526
<p>The Child Care Assistance caseload has decreased overtime due to the economic climate in North Dakota. Increased household incomes have resulted in ineligibility or lower payments through the Child Care Assistance program.</p>										
SNAP	19,214	19,926	19,570	21,572	23,104	22,338	26,686	27,857	27,272	27,439
<p>The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) caseload has increased over time due to the 2006 implementation of simplified reporting, which makes it easier for households to be on the program for longer periods of time. In addition, Federally-required outreach efforts have also raised awareness of the program and increased the number of SNAP cases. The Department launched the online Application for Assistance in August of 2010 and recently launched the online review to make it easier for people to apply for and requalify for the program.</p>										