

Testimony
House Bill 1308, Department of Human Services
Senate Human Services Committee
Senator Lee, Chairman
March 13, 2017

Chairman Lee, members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Carol Cartledge, Director of the Economic Assistance Division, for the Department of Human Services (Department). I am here today to provide information on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

TANF adults receiving a TANF benefit are referred to Job Opportunity and Basic Skills (JOBS) to meet with an employment contractor. The employment contractor assesses individuals for barriers to employment and determines the appropriate work activity for the individual. The assessment includes a variety of questions about general health, behavioral health, education, domestic violence, and lack of transportation, child care or housing. The outcome of the assessment is used to develop an individualized employment plan. Individuals are assessed at the initial meeting and at least every four months thereafter.

In addition, TANF participants have ongoing contact with the employment contractor, this may include home visits. If the employment contractor identifies any area of concern, the employment plan may be updated to include a requirement to resolve the issue.

If the individual does not follow-through with the employment plan, they are disqualified. A disqualification means the TANF benefit is reduced to the amount for children only, and if the individual does not resolve the outstanding issue within a month, the entire case is closed.

Department data on TANF for July 2015 – December 2016:

- Average monthly number cases - 1,148
- Average monthly benefit - \$275
- Average monthly number of individuals participating JOBS - 792

This concludes my testimony and I would be happy to answer any questions.