

Missouri Department of Social Services
Family Support Division
Summary and Analysis from ACF 812 Report for April - June 2011
State of Missouri

The Claims Resolution Act of 2010 reauthorized funding of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program through September 30, 2011.

Section 812 of the Act amended the data reporting requirements for the TANF program. New reporting requirements created under the Claims Resolution Act of 2010 required States to submit a 'Report on Engagement in Additional Work Activities'. The report includes additional data regarding work activities for families receiving assistance under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families TANF and Separate State Programs – Maintenance of Effort (SSP – MOE) programs that are not captured in the TANF Data Report.

The following summary is provided for the second reporting period, from April 1, 2011 through June 30, 2011.

Summary

Missouri currently submits the TANF Data Report on all cases, and exercised the option to submit this report using a sample rather than all cases. The required sample size is 175 cases for each (TANF and SSP- MOE) report each month.

States are required to collect and report the following data for work-eligible individual adults in a household receiving TANF and SSP-MOE cash assistance during the reporting period. States are to collect information to determine if the individual is engaged in any activities that move the individual toward self-sufficiency and were not included in the work participation rate, or reasons for non-participation including:

- Participated but the state chose not to include them;
- Individual had insufficient hours of participation;
- Participated in a time-limited activity beyond the limit;
- Verification standards for participation were not met;
- Participated in activities that do not count but move the family toward self-sufficiency; or
- If not participating, the reason for not participating.

To be counted towards the participation rate, a work-eligible individual must be engaged for a specific number of verified hours per month, in a countable activity. Parents with children 6 years of age and older must participate in a countable activity for 30 hours per week for each week they are receiving a TANF benefit. Parents with children under 6 years of age must participate for 20 hours each week. Countable (core) work activities include:

- Unsubsidized Employment
- Subsidized Private Sector Employment

- Subsidized Public Sector Employment
- On-the-Job Training
- Job Search/Job Readiness
- Work Experience
- Community Service; or
- Vocational Educational Training Not to Exceed 12 months

Work-eligible individuals with a 30 hour participation requirement must participate in the (core) activities a minimum of 20 hours while the following three activities (non-core) can be used to satisfy the required hours above the 20 hours:

- Job Skills Training Directly Related to Employment
- Education Directly Related to Employment, and
- Satisfactory Attendance at Secondary School or in a GED program

All other activities are not included in the calculation of the work participation rate.

Statewide Data:

In Missouri, the total number of individuals considered to be 'work eligible' for April, May and June as defined by the federal agency is:

April - 25,581 individuals;
 May - 25,568 individuals; and
 June - 25,641 individuals.

From the total number of work eligible individuals in the state, the following participated in work activities:

April - 4,450 individuals or 17.4%;
 May - 5,944 individuals or 23.2%; and
 June - 5,831 individuals or 22.7%.

Of those that participated in work activities, the following met the required participation hours:

April - 2,611 individuals or 10.2%;
 May - 4,105 individuals or 16.1%; and
 June - 3,862 individuals or 15.1%.

Sample Data:

The information collected from random samples of 175 work eligible individuals for each of the TANF and SSP-MOE reports for April, May and June 2011 follows.

Data Element 8:

The work eligible individuals included in the TANF Report that participated the required hours, verified their participation in those activities, and were included in the work participation rate were:

April – 17 individuals or 9.7%;
May – 34 individuals or 19.4%; and
June – 16 individuals or 9.1%.

The work eligible individuals included in the SSP-MOE Report that participated the required hours, verified their participation in those activities and were included in the work participation rate were:

April – 99 individuals or 56.6%;
May – 101 individuals or 57.7%; and
June – 101 individuals or 57.7%.

Most of these individuals are receiving Temporary Employment Benefit cash assistance.

Data Element 9:

The sample cases reviewed reflected no work eligible individual was excluded from the work participation rate as a result of state option for the TANF or SSP-MOE Reports for any month of this reporting period.

Data Element 10:

For those work eligible individuals included in the TANF Report, the following participated in work activities but had insufficient hours to be included in the work participation rate:

April – 9 individuals or 5.1%;
May – 27 individuals or 15.4%; and
June – 9 individuals or 5.1%.

For the SSP-MOE Report, the following number of individuals participated but had insufficient hours:

April – 2 individuals or 1.1%;
May – 0 individuals;
June – 1 individual or .6%

Data Element 11:

The sample cases reviewed reflected no work eligible individual was excluded from the work participation rate as a result of participating in a work activity beyond any statutory restrictions for the TANF or SSP-MOE Reports for any month of this reporting period.

Data Element 12:

The sample cases reviewed for the TANF Report reflected the following work eligible individuals participated in work activities but were not included in the work participation rate due to verification standards not being met:

April – 2 individuals or 1.1%;
May – 0 individuals; and
June – 1 individual or .6%.

There were no individuals reported on the SSP-MOE Reports for any month of the reporting period for this element.

Data Element 13:

The sample cases reviewed for the TANF and SSP-MOE Reports for April, May and June reflected only one work eligible individual participated in activities that were not included in calculation of the work participation rate. This individual was part of the June TANF sample, and participated in Adult Basic Education activities.

Data Element 14:

The sample cases reviewed for the TANF Reports reflected the following work eligible individuals were not participating in any activities. Reasons for non-participation included:

- First month of TANF assistance:
 - April – 6 of the individuals (3.4%);
 - May – 6 of the individuals (3.4%); and
 - June – 2 of the individuals (1.1%).
- Assigned to a work activity that has not yet begun:
 - April – 1 individual (.6%);
 - May – 2 of the individuals (1.1%); and
 - June – none reported.
- Failed to be engaged by the Missouri Work Assistance Program contractor:
 - April – 76 individuals (43.4%);
 - May – 65 of the individuals (37.1%); and
 - June – 88 of the individuals (50.2%).
- Disregarded from the work participation rate calculation due to having a child under the age of twelve months for less than twelve months, or had been sanctioned for three months or less within the past twelve months:
 - April – 34 individuals (19.4%);
 - May – 25 individuals (14.3%); and
 - June – 37 individuals (21.1%).
- Exempted by Missouri due to having a child under the age of 12 months, but had already had this exemption for twelve months:
 - April – 10 individuals (5.7%);
 - May – 2 individuals (1.1%); and
 - June – 6 individuals (3.4%).
- In the process of being sanctioned but had not had the TANF grant reduced for the month:
 - April – 11 individuals (6.3%);
 - May – 11 individuals (6.3%); and
 - June – 8 individuals (4.6%).
- Exempted by Missouri due to the work eligible individual having a disability as defined by the state:
 - April – 1 individual (.6%);
 - May – none reported; and
 - June – none reported.
- Exempted by Missouri due to domestic violence:
 - April – 1 individual (.6%);
 - May – none reported; and
 - June – 1 individual (.6%).
- Not participating in work activities for 'other' reasons:
 - April – 7 individuals (4%);

- May – 3 individuals (1.7%); and
- June – 6 individuals (3.4%).

The sample cases reviewed for the SSP-MOE Reports reflected the following work eligible individuals were not participating in any activities. Reasons for non-participation included:

- Failed to be engaged by the Missouri Work Assistance Program contractor:
 - April – 32 individuals (18.3%);
 - May – 15 individuals (8.6%); and
 - June – 15 of the individuals (8.6%).
- Disregarded from the work participation rate calculation due to having a child under the age of twelve months for less than twelve months, or had been sanctioned for three months or less within the past twelve months:
 - April – 4 individuals (2.3%);
 - May – 3 individuals (1.7%); and
 - June – none reported.
- In the process of being sanctioned but had not had the TANF grant reduced for the month:
 - April – none reported;
 - May – 1 individual (.6%); and
 - June – none reported.
- Exempted by Missouri due to the work eligible individual having a disability as defined by the state:
 - April – 38 individuals (21.7%);
 - May – 54 individuals (30.8%); and
 - June – 54 individuals (30.8%).
- Exempted by Missouri due to illness or disability of child or other family member:
 - April – none reported;
 - May – 1 individual (.6%); and
 - June – 1 individual (.6%).
- Exempted by Missouri for other state exemption – over 60 years of age:
 - April – none reported;
 - May – none reported; and
 - June – 1 individual (.6%).
- Not participating in work activities for 'other' reasons:
 - April - none reported;
 - May – none reported; and
 - June – 2 individuals (1.1%).

Analysis:

The sample data selected for this report indicates an average of 43% of the TANF report group have not been engaged by the Missouri Work Assistance program contractor. This group includes those individuals that have been sanctioned over three months in the preceding twelve months and those individuals that have not participated in any activities. Developing strategies to engage these individuals in work activities is necessary if Missouri is to meet the 50% federal work participation rate requirement. The state agency is working with contractors to connect individuals with services, address barriers to participation and encourage active participation.

An average of 14% of the participants in the TANF sample were engaged in activities but did not meet the required number of hours. The majority of the hours reported were in the following activities: Unsubsidized Employment, Job Search/Job Readiness, and Vocational Education activities. Increasing hours of participation for these individuals is also vital to meeting the federal work participation rate. Available hours for paid employment activities may not be sufficient; Job Search/Job Readiness and Vocational Education activities are time-limited. Expanding the definition of work activities may increase participation hours for these individuals.

The sample data selected for the SSP-MOE report group indicated an average of 28% were exempted from participation in work activities due to the work eligible individual having a disability as defined by the state agency. These individuals may qualify for federally funded disability benefits or may be candidates to work with vocational rehabilitative services and gain employment. Engaging individuals with disabilities would also increase the work participation rate.

The samples reviewed did include one individual that had participated in Adult Basic Education as an activity that was not included in determining if the work participation requirement was met. With the focus of participation in countable work activities and individuals meeting the work requirement, there is little incentive for participation in these activities.

Assessment of the data obtained clearly indicates a need to engage those participants that have been sanctioned if Missouri is to increase work participation to the level established by the federal agency.

Missouri Department of Social Services
ACF 812 Report for April, May and June 2011

Form 812 Data Element	April TANF	April SSP-MOE	May TANF	May SSP-MOE	June TANF	June SSP-MOE
DATA ELEMENT 8 PARTICIPATED IN COUNTABLE ACTIVITY						
No, did not meet work participation rate	158	76	141	74	159	74
Yes, met work participation rate	17	99	34	101	16	101
DATA ELEMENT 9 PARTICIPATED IN COUNTABLE WORK ACTIVITIES BUT STATE CHOSE NOT TO REPORT HOURS						
No	175	175	175	175	175	175
Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0
DATA ELEMENT 10 INSUFFICIENT HOURS TO MEET WORK REQUIREMENTS FOR COUNTING TOWARD WPR						
No	166	73	148	175	166	174
Yes	9	2	27	0	9	1
If yes, total hours participated in the following activities:						
*Unsubsidized Employment	236		573		116	
*Subsidized Private Employment						
*Subsidized Public Employment			60			
*Work Experience		28	82			
*On-The-Job Training						
*Job Search/Job Readiness	219		325		108	
*Community Service	8				122	53
*Vocational Education Training			334		10	
*Job Skills Training Directly Related to Employment						
*Education Directly Related to Employment						
*Satisfactory School Attendance		45				
*Providing Child Care Service for Individual in CWEP						
DATA ELEMENT 11 COUNTABLE WORK ACTIVITIES BEYOND STATUTORY LIMIT						
No	175	175	175	175	175	175
Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0

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Form 812 Data Element	April TANF	April SSP-MOE	May TANF	May SSP-MOE	June TANF	June SSP-MOE
DATA ELEMENT 12 UNVERIFIED COUNTABLE ACTIVITIES						
No	173	175	175	175	174	175
Yes	2	0	0	0	1	0
If yes, total hours participated in the following activities:						
*Unsubsidized Employment	260				48	
*Subsidized Private Employment						
*Subsidized Public Employment						
*Work Experience						
*On-The-Job Training						
*Job Search/Job Readiness						
*Community Service						
*Vocational Education Training						
*Job Skills Training Directly Related to Employment						
*Education Directly Related to Employment						
*Satisfactory School Attendance						
*Providing Child Care Service for Individual in CWEP						
DATA ELEMENT 13 PARTICIPATION IN NON-COUNTABLE ACTIVITIES THAT MOVES TOWARD SELF SUFFICIENCY						
No	175	175	175	175	174	175
Yes	0	0	0	0	1	0
If yes, total hours participated in the following activities:						
*High School or GED						
*Adult Basic Education/English as a Second Language					72	
*Post-Secondary Education						
*Treatment Activities						
*Family Life Skills Activities						
*Accessing Work Support Activities						
*In Assessment						
*Other						

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Form 812 Data Element	April TANF	April SSP-MOE	May TANF	May SSP-MOE	June TANF	June SSP-MOE
DATA ELEMENT 14 NO ACTIVITIES AND PRINCIPAL REASON FOR NON-PARTICIPATION						
No	147	74	114	74	148	73
Yes	28	101	61	101	27	102
If no, principle reason for non-participation:						
*Families first month on assistance and no work activity assigned	6	0	6	0	2	0
*Individual assigned to a work activity that has not yet begun	1	0	2	0	0	0
*State/Local agency (or it's contractor) has failed to engage individual	76	32	65	15	88	15
*Individual relocating from one local jurisdiction within State to another	0	0	0	0	0	0
*Work activities reports received too late for inclusion in report to HHS	0	0	0	0	0	0
*Family disregarded from participation rate (ie. single custodial parent with child under age one, subject to sanction, or Tribal work program)	34	4	25	3	37	0
*State Exempt, single custodial parent child under one not disregarded	10	0	2	0	6	0
*Individual in process of being sanctioned (including fair hearing process) subject to sanction for refusing to work not disregarded	11	0	11	1	8	0
*State Exempt, single custodial parent child under 6 no available child care	0	0	0	0	0	0
*State Exempt, due to illness or disability of WEI (including SSI/SSDI application)	1	38	0	54	0	54
*State Exempt due to illness or disability of child or family member	0	0	0	1	0	1
*State Exempt under a domestic violence waiver	1	0	0	0	1	0
*Good Cause Exemption						
*Other State Exemption	0	0	0	0	0	1
*Other	7	0	3	0	6	2