
WorkFirst NJ

Quarterly Progress Update
December 2017

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT



Natasha Johnson
Director

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Commissioner

Background

This quarterly report, mandated by the WorkFirst New Jersey (WFNJ) law, is a summary of New Jersey’s Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program. The data elements included in the report are those specified by N.J.S.A. 44:10-41.

Part One: WorkFirst NJ Caseload

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

15,524 families received WFNJ/TANF at the end of December 2017, down 0.5% from the previous quarter.

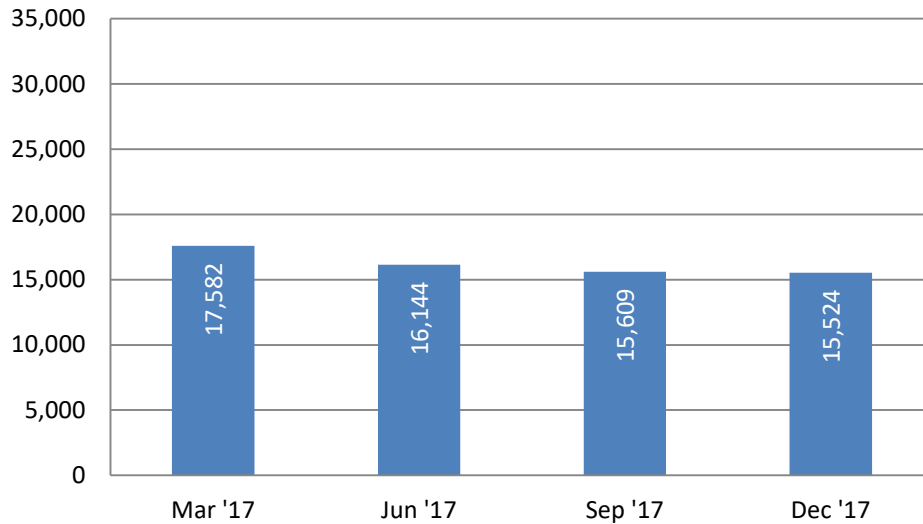


Figure 1: TANF family caseload by quarter.

Client Deferrals and Exemptions

Of the total TANF family caseload (15,524), 6,052 cases (39%) had an adult in the household with a mandatory WFNJ/TANF work requirement. 5,248 cases (34%) were exempt child-only households and 2,043 cases (13%) had a long-term health deferral. 2,181 cases (14%) had some other type of deferral.

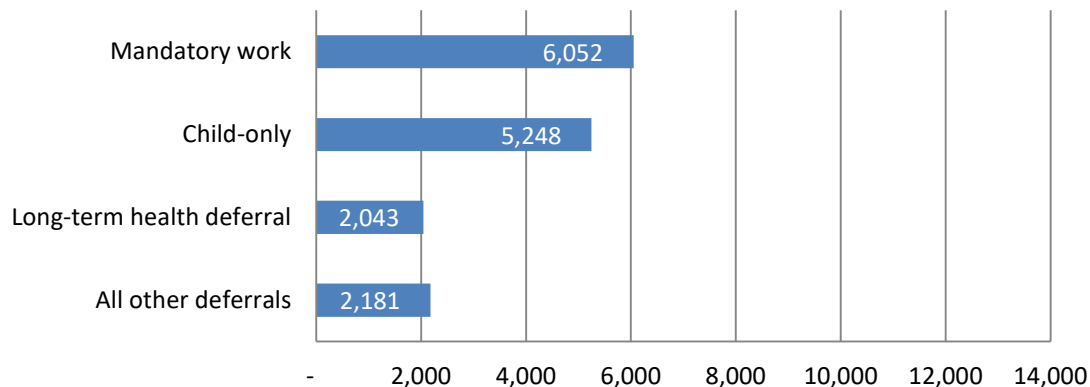


Figure 2: TANF caseload by case status as of December, 2017.

General Assistance (GA)

The number of persons receiving General Assistance (GA) at the end of December was 13,354. That figure was down 1% from the previous quarter.

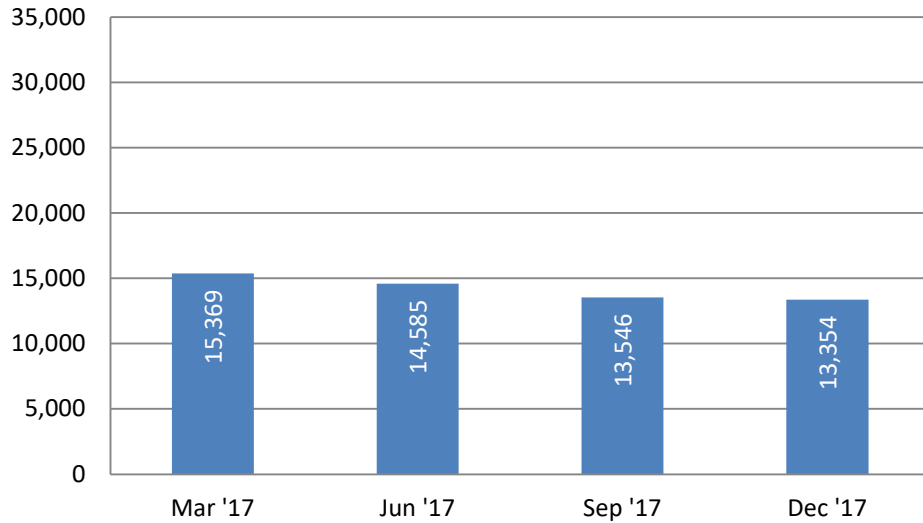


Figure 3: General Assistance (GA) participants by quarter.

Part Two: Employment and Work Preparation

Participation of WFNJ/TANF Clients in Employment-Directed Activities

In December 2017, 5,534 TANF clients were engaged in work activities. 1,574 (28%) of these individuals had begun working but were receiving a partial cash assistance payment due to income disregards.

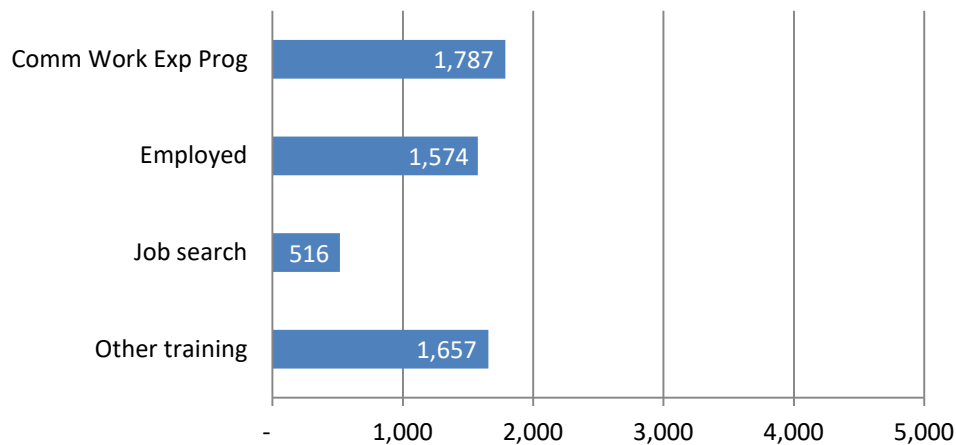


Figure 4: Participation of WFNJ/TANF clients in employment-directed activities.

Federal Participation Requirement

Of the recipients scheduled to participate in the work-directed activities, 1,579 participated at levels sufficient to satisfy federal requirements.

Cases Closed Due to Employment

During the quarter, an average of 449 WFNJ/TANF and GA clients left welfare for employment each month. The number of employed TANF clients trend upward during the quarter, increasing 4% from October to December, while employed GA recipients decreased 21% during the same period.

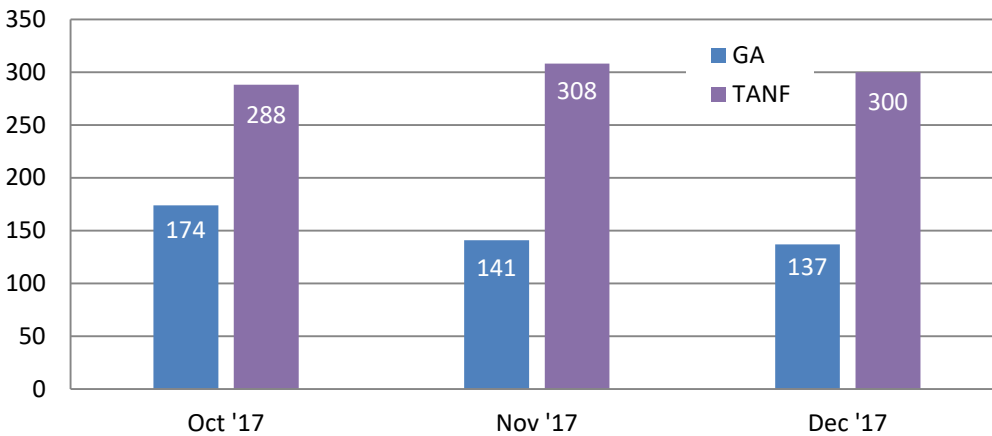


Figure 5: GA and TANF clients leaving due to employment.

Major Reasons for TANF Case Closings

During the fourth quarter of 2017, 3,860 TANF cases were closed. 23% of these TANF cases closed due to employment.

Table 1: Major reasons for case closing, Oct-Dec, 2017.

Reason for Closing	Oct '17	Nov '17	Dec '17	Total
TANF Sanctions	345	366	346	1,057
Employment	288	308	300	896
No Eligible Children	104	88	87	279
Recipient Withdrawal	78	93	101	272
No Redetermination	70	56	51	177
Recipient Initiative	36	36	34	106
Unable to Verify Residence	33	35	36	104
Moved Out of State	28	35	27	90
Moved to Another County	34	18	28	80
Unemployment benefits	22	24	30	76
60-Month Time Limit	14	26	25	65
Other Closed Cases	224	195	239	658
	1,276	1,280	1,304	3,860

* Primarily unearned income-child support, pension, federal benefits.

Earnings of TANF Recipients

During the fourth quarter of 2017, working WFNJ/TANF recipients earned an average of \$11.10 per hour, an increase of 2% since March 2017.

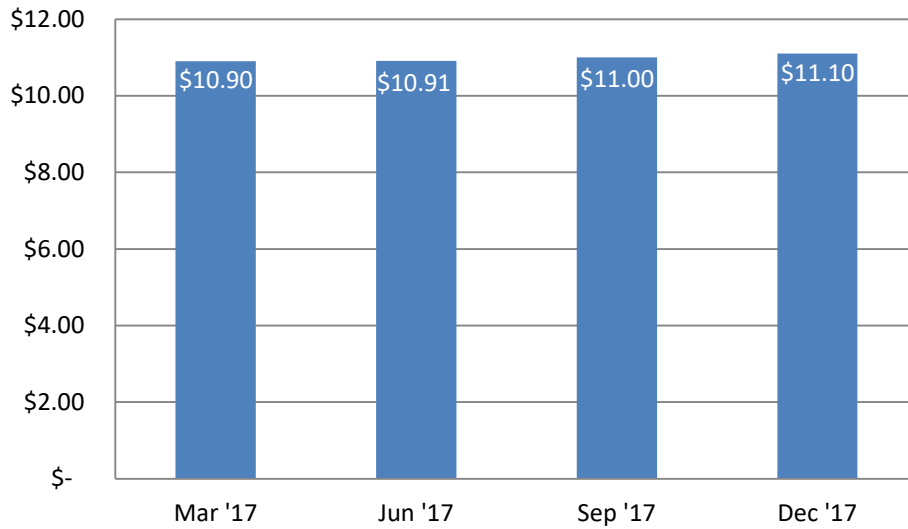


Figure 6: Mean hourly wage of TANF recipients by quarter, March 2017 – December 2017.

Statewide Job Openings

According to the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development, there were 271,089 job openings statewide during the period from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017. The majority of positions available were in the Finance and Insurance category, followed by the Health Care and Social Assistance and the Manufacturing categories.

Table 2: NJ LWD Statewide Job Openings, January 2017 - December 2017.

Occupation	Openings
Finance and Insurance	50,964
Health Care & Social Assistance	39,515
Manufacturing	31,381
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	30,845
Admin. & Support, Waste Mgmt. & Remediation Services	29,981
Transportation and Warehousing	29,577
Retail Trade	19,449
Information	7,225
Wholesale Trade	7,214
Accommodation and Food Services	5,142
Construction	4,409
Other Services	3,278
Management of Companies and Enterprises	2,809
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	2,587
Educational Services	2,505
Real Estate and Rental & Leasing	2,472
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	1,073
Public Administration	485
Utilities	131
Mining	47
Total	271,089

Part Three: Child Care

WFNJ/TANF Cases Receiving Child Care Benefits

As of December 2017, over 1,400 WFNJ/TANF clients received child care benefits. Post-TANF child care benefits were issued to over 2,000 families who had become employed and were no longer receiving cash assistance.

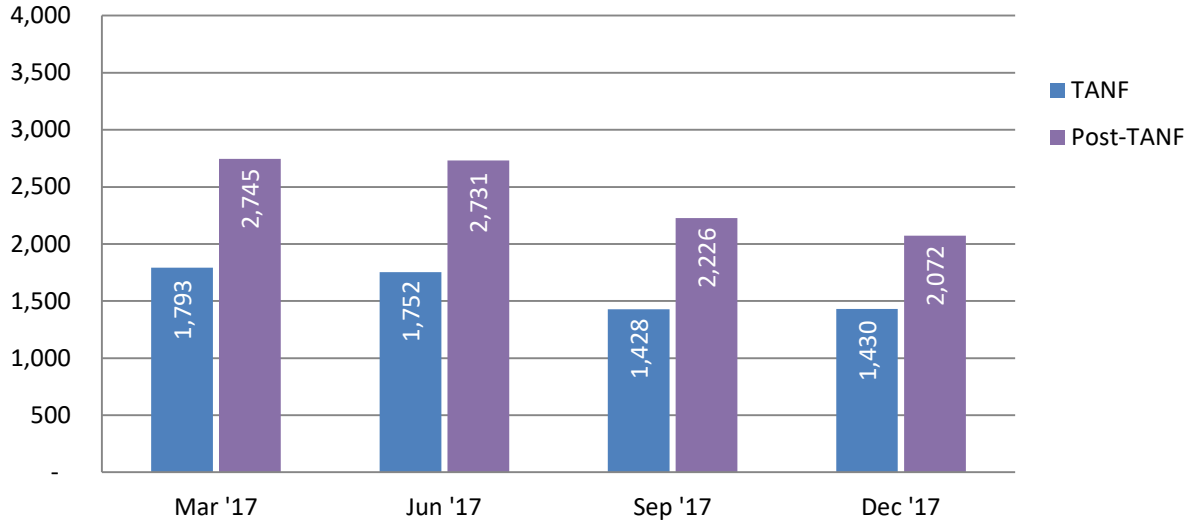


Figure 7: WFNJ/TANF cases receiving child care benefits by quarter, March 2017 – December 2017.

Part Four: WFNJ Program Expenditures

The table below provides a summary of WFNJ program expenditures for the quarter ending December 31, 2017.

THE DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT WORK FIRST NEW JERSEY (WFNJ) EXPENDITURES Quarter Ending December 31, 2017									
	Actual Dec. 31, 2016	Actual Mar. 31, 2017	Actual Jun. 30, 2017	Actual Sep. 30, 2017	Estimated Dec. 31, 2017	TOTAL COSTS SFY 2017 7/16 – 06/17	TOTAL COSTS CY 2017 1/17 – 9/17	TOTAL COSTS SFY 2018 7/17-9/17	TOTAL COSTS CY 2018 9/17-12/17
(A) CASE MANAGEMENT									
TANF	\$10,362,003	\$8,109,100	\$9,023,641	\$7,340,346	\$8,708,773	\$34,835,091	\$16,363,987	\$7,340,346	\$8,708,773
SNAP/Able Bodied Adults w/o Dependents	\$5,276,389	\$4,284,385	\$4,952,203	\$4,731,465	\$4,811,111	\$19,244,443	\$9,683,669	\$4,731,465	\$4,811,111
GA	\$1,161,881	\$908,162	\$1,236,882	\$952,136	\$1,064,765	\$4,259,062	\$2,189,018	\$952,136	\$1,064,765
(B) CHILD CARE	\$11,261,648	\$8,959,564	\$10,301,146	\$8,321,195	\$9,710,889	\$38,843,555	\$18,622,342	\$8,321,195	\$9,710,889
(C) TRAINING RELATED EXPENSE, PARTICIPANT ALLOWANCE AND TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT									
TANF	\$1,424,650	\$1,522,023	\$1,132,856	\$732,538	\$1,203,017	\$4,812,068	\$1,865,394	\$732,538	\$1,203,017
SNAP	\$841,795	\$757,132	\$762,117	\$606,258	\$741,826	\$2,967,302	\$1,368,375	\$606,258	\$741,826
GA	\$66,749	\$77,147	\$65,453	\$57,651	\$66,750	\$267,000	\$123,104	\$57,651	\$66,750
(D) DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT - EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING									
TANF	\$9,316,527	\$9,891,698	\$18,297,928	\$18,027,512	\$13,883,416	\$55,533,665	\$36,325,440	\$18,027,512	\$13,883,416
SNAP/Able Bodied Adults w/o Dependents	\$5,431,347	\$7,061,840	\$5,530,170	\$5,341,356	\$5,841,178	\$23,364,713	\$10,871,527	\$5,341,356	\$5,841,178
GA	\$982,382	\$971,367	\$797,361	\$788,332	\$884,860	\$3,539,441	\$1,585,692	\$788,332	\$884,860
(E) OMEGA SYSTEM	\$69,205	\$77,250	\$26,027	\$22,502	\$48,746	\$194,984	\$48,529	\$22,502	\$48,746
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$46,194,577	\$42,619,670	\$52,125,784	\$46,921,292	\$46,965,331	\$187,861,323	\$99,047,076	\$46,921,292	\$46,965,331

FOOTNOTES:

ACTUAL expenditures are subject to subsequent adjustment and reconciliation to be reflected on future reports.

ACTUAL expenditures for OMEGA SYSTEM have been revised to reflect OIT CAP expenditures.