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# WorkFirst NJ

Quarterly Progress Update

June 2015

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*STATE OF NEW JERSEY*

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT



Natasha Johnson  
Director

Elizabeth Connolly  
Acting Commissioner

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## Background

This quarterly report, mandated by the WorkFirst New Jersey (WFNJ) law, is a summary of New Jersey's welfare 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)

28,210 families received WFNJ/TANF at the end of June 2015, down 7% from the previous quarter.

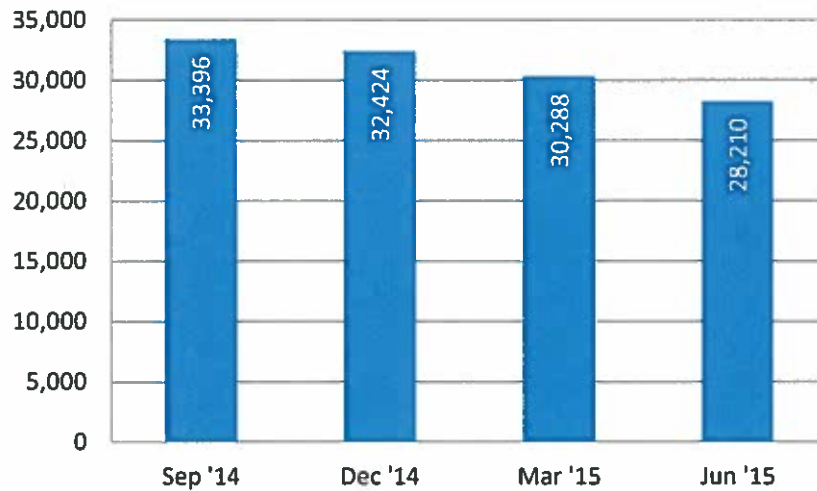


Figure 1: TANF family caseload by quarter.

### Client Deferrals and Exemptions

Of the total TANF family caseload (28,210), 12,660 cases (45%) had an adult in the household with a mandatory WFNJ/TANF work requirement. 7,506 cases (27%) were exempt child-only households and 3,230 cases (11%) had a long-term health deferral. 4,814 cases (17%) had some other type of deferral.

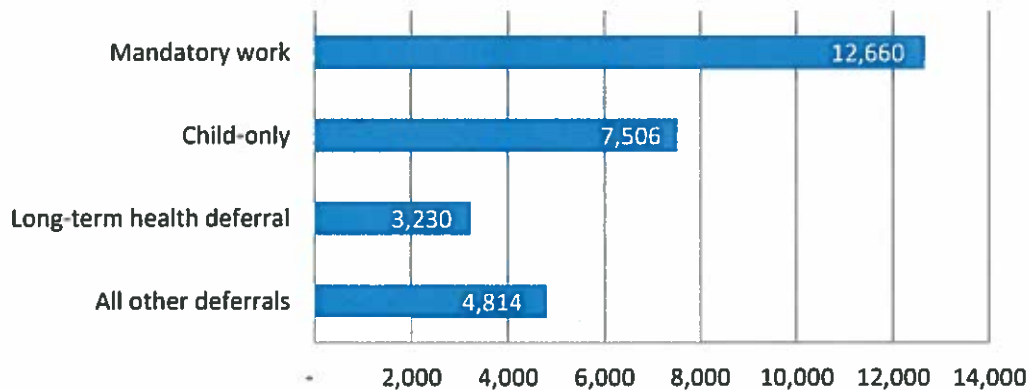


Figure 2: TANF caseload by case status as of June, 2015.



### General Assistance (GA)

The number of persons receiving General Assistance (GA) continued to decline, ending June at 26,012. That figure was down 7% from the previous quarter.

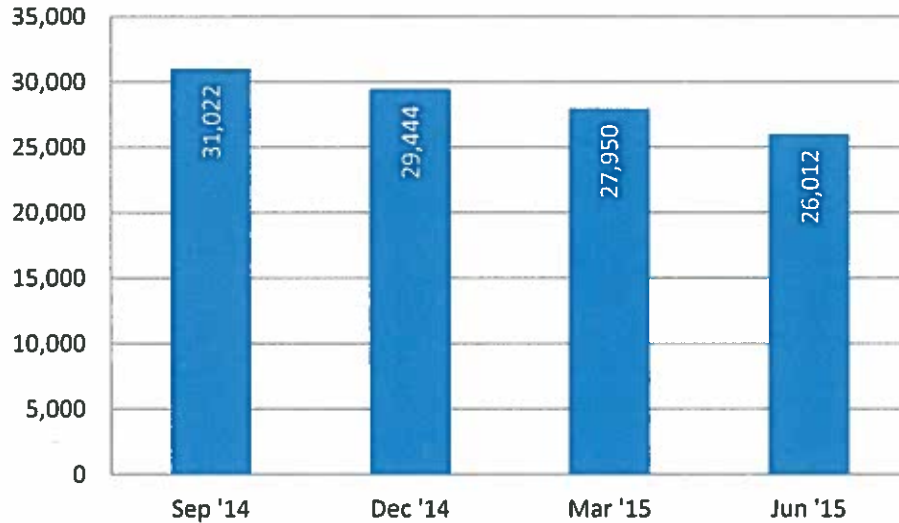


Figure 3: General Assistance (GA) participants by quarter.

## Part Two: Employment and Work Preparation

### Participation of WFNJ/TANF Clients in Employment-Directed Activities

In June 2015, 12,144 TANF clients were engaged in work activities. 3,515 (29%) of these individuals had begun working but were still receiving a partial cash assistance payment, due to income disregards.

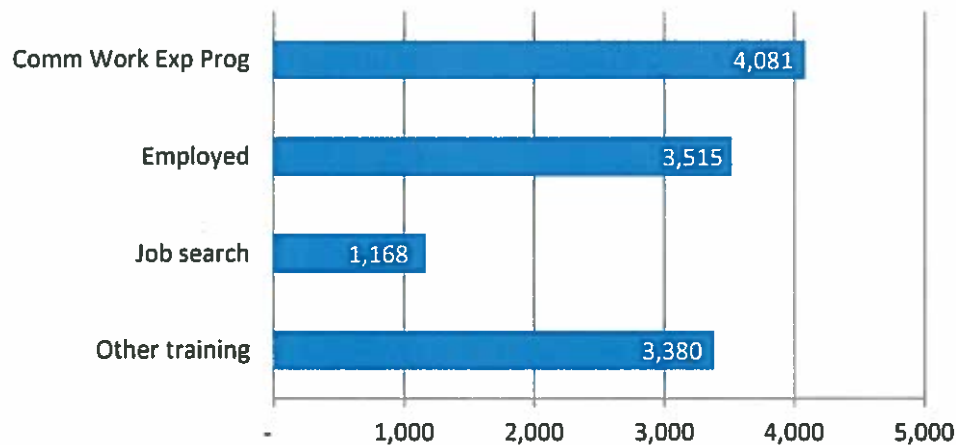


Figure 4: Participation of WFNJ/TANF clients in employment-directed activities.



## Federal Participation Requirement

Of the recipients scheduled to participate in the work-directed activities, 3,862 participated at levels sufficient to satisfy federal requirements.

## Cases Closed Due to Employment

During the quarter, an average of 866 WFNJ/TANF and GA clients left welfare for employment each month. The number of employed TANF clients trended upward during the quarter, rising 3% from April to June. Employed GA recipients increased 19% during the same period.

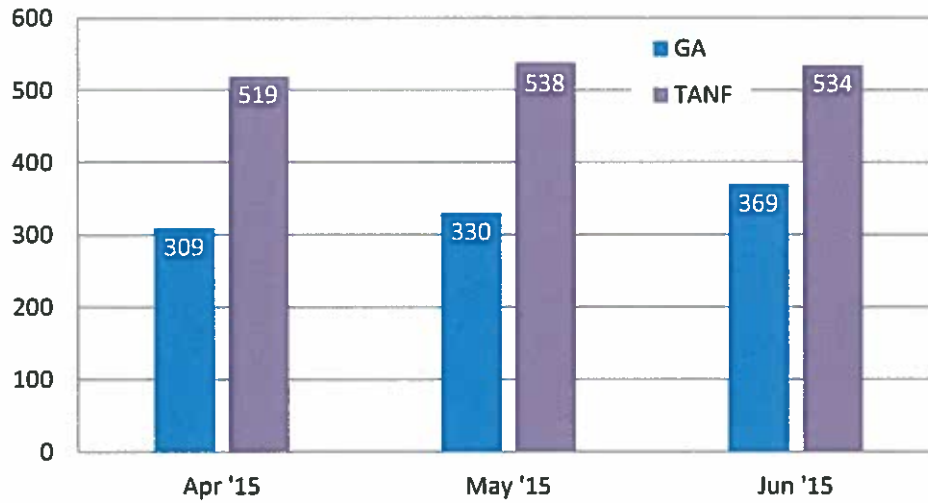


Figure 5: GA and TANF clients leaving due to employment.

## Major Reasons for TANF Case Closings

During the second quarter of 2015, 6,940 TANF cases were closed. 23% of these TANF cases closed due to employment.

Table 1: Major reasons for case closing, Apr-Jun, 2015.

Reason for Closing	Apr '15	May '15	Jun '15	Total
TANF sanctions	598	553	545	1,696
Employment	519	538	534	1,591
No eligible children	225	177	171	573
Recipient withdrawal	158	162	111	431
No redetermination	139	144	123	406
60-month time limit	56	86	66	208
Moved out of state	93	44	64	201
Moved out of county	55	49	39	143
Unable to verify residence	54	44	39	137
Unemployment benefits	39	36	55	130
Recipient initiative	51	34	30	115
Other Closed Cases*	463	425	421	1,309
	2,450	2,292	2,198	6,940

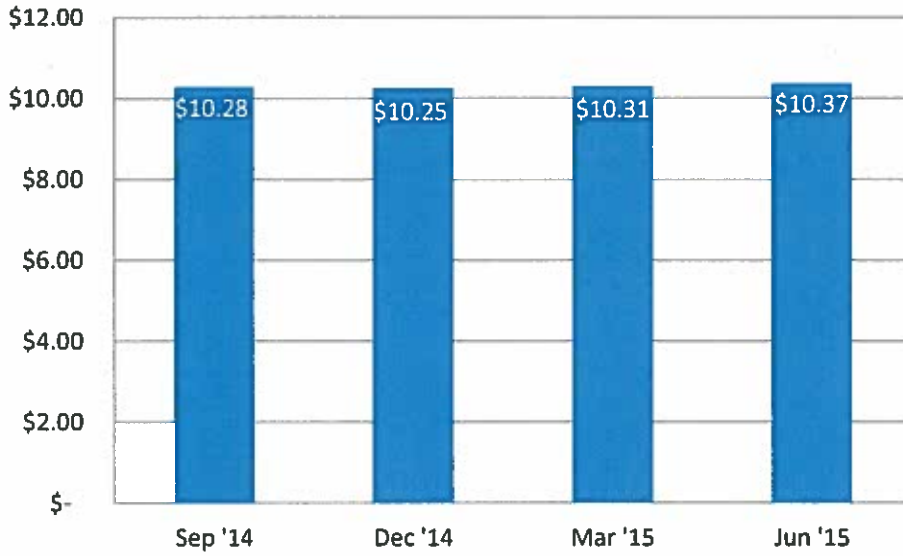
\* Primarily unearned income-child support, pension, federal benefits.





### Earnings of TANF Recipients

During the second quarter of 2015, working WFNJ/TANF earned an average of \$10.37 per hour, an increase of 9% since September 2014.



**Figure 6:** Mean hourly wage of TANF recipients by quarter, September 2014 – June 2015.



## Statewide Job Openings

According to the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development, there were 238,250 job openings statewide during the period from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. The majority of positions available were in the Professional, Scientific and Technical Services category, followed by the Finance and Insurance and Administration & Support, Waste Management & Remediation Services.

**Table 2: NJ LWD Statewide Job Openings, July 2014 - June 2015.**

Occupation	Openings
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	64,939
Finance and Insurance	30,732
Admin. & Support, Waste Mgmt. & Remediation Services	28,749
Health Care & Social Assistance	26,039
Information	21,462
Retail Trade	15,185
Manufacturing	11,801
Transportation and Warehousing	10,351
Management of Companies and Enterprises	6,421
Wholesale Trade	5,408
Other Services	3,731
Accommodation and Food Services	3,190
Construction	2,701
Educational Services	2,628
Real Estate and Rental & Leasing	1,674
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	1,407
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	1,016
Public Administration	492
Utilities	226
Mining	98
<b>Total</b>	<b>238,250</b>



## Part Three: Child Care

### WFNJ/TANF Cases Receiving Child Care Benefits

As of June 2015, over 3,500 WFNJ/TANF clients received child care benefits. Post-TANF child care benefits were issued to nearly 3,200 families who had become employed and were no longer receiving cash assistance.

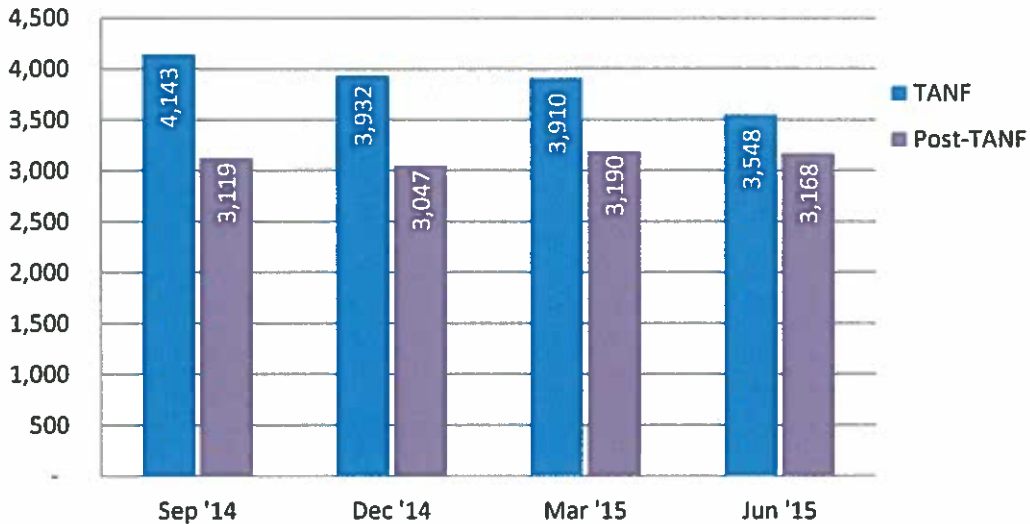


Figure 7: WFNJ/TANF cases receiving child care benefits by quarter, September 2014 - June 2015.



## Part Four: WFNJ Program Expenditures

The table below provides a summary of WFNJ program expenditures for the quarter ending June 30, 2015.

THE DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT WORK FIRST NEW JERSEY (WFNJ) EXPENDITURES Quarter Ending June 30, 2015									
	Actual June 30, 2014	Actual Sept. 30, 2014	Actual Dec. 31, 2014	Actual Mar. 31, 2015	Estimated June 30, 2015	TOTAL COSTS SFY 2014 7/13 - 6/14	TOTAL COSTS CY 2014 1/14 - 12/14	TOTAL COSTS SFY 2015 7/14 - 6/15	TOTAL COSTS CY 2015 1/15 - 6/15
<b>(A) CASE MANAGEMENT</b>									
TANF	\$9,048,037	\$9,271,203	\$11,031,211	\$8,494,148	\$9,461,150	\$39,280,779	\$38,250,509	\$38,257,712	\$17,955,237
SNAP/Able Bodied Adults w/o Dependents	\$4,234,226	\$4,445,821	\$4,907,010	\$4,118,846	\$4,426,476	\$17,025,667	\$17,418,688	\$17,898,152	\$8,545,322
GA	\$1,356,645	\$1,133,705	\$1,352,307	\$1,140,428	\$1,245,696	\$5,728,713	\$5,122,440	\$4,871,836	\$2,385,824
<b>(B) CHILD CARE</b>	\$17,989,893	\$14,278,248	\$16,131,415	\$13,300,156	\$15,424,928	\$82,207,842	\$67,697,641	\$59,134,747	\$28,725,084
<b>(C) TRAINING RELATED EXPENSE, PARTICIPANT ALLOWANCE AND TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT</b>									
TANF	\$2,798,694	\$1,870,490	\$2,727,822	\$2,048,261	\$2,361,317	\$10,533,918	\$9,824,397	\$9,007,890	\$4,409,578
SNAP	\$1,364,320	\$1,130,575	\$1,259,021	\$1,062,515	\$1,204,108	\$4,966,089	\$4,813,175	\$4,656,220	\$2,266,623
GA	\$115,774	\$103,374	\$106,962	\$115,176	\$110,322	\$491,481	\$450,100	\$435,834	\$225,498
<b>(D) DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT - EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING</b>									
TANF	\$12,920,370	\$9,552,900	\$10,957,256	\$10,980,504	\$11,102,758	\$43,296,218	\$44,302,321	\$42,593,418	\$22,083,262
SNAP/Able Bodied Adults w/o Dependents	\$7,255,836	\$4,872,973	\$5,524,278	\$5,718,300	\$5,842,847	\$21,169,292	\$22,140,140	\$21,958,397	\$11,561,146
GA	\$1,823,128	\$1,064,684	\$1,139,795	\$1,125,426	\$1,288,258	\$5,902,650	\$5,209,543	\$4,618,164	\$2,413,685
<b>(E) OMEGA SYSTEM</b>	\$59,250	\$180,078	\$112,509	\$156,051	\$126,972	\$811,403	\$500,857	\$575,611	\$283,023
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	\$58,966,173	\$47,904,051	\$55,249,587	\$48,259,512	\$52,594,831	\$231,426,052	\$215,729,811	\$204,007,980	\$100,854,342

### 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.

