

Summary and Analysis of Data from Indiana's ACF 812 Report for April through June 2011

Section 812 of the Claims Resolution Act of 2010 requires each State to submit a 'Report on Engagement in Additional Work Activities.' The report must be submitted for two reporting periods. The first reporting period is from March 1 through March 31, 2011 and the reports are due no later than May 31, 2011. The second reporting period is from April 1 through June 30, 2011 and the reports are due no later than August 31, 2011. For each work-eligible individual (WEI) in a family receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) cash assistance during the reporting period, States must collect and report the following information: (1) whether the individual engaged in any activities that are directed toward attaining self-sufficiency and (2) if yes, the specific activities that (a) do not qualify as a countable work activity, but are otherwise reasonably calculated to help the family move to self-sufficiency or (b) that could be a countable work activity, but for the fact that either the WEI has not engaged in such activities for a sufficient number of hours; the WEI has reached a maximum time limit allowed for having participation in the activity count; or the number of WEIs engaged in such activity exceeds a statutory limitation.

Summary

When Congress created TANF in 1996, one of its goals was to ensure that families getting cash assistance received help in attaining self-sufficiency. Congress established the 'work participation rate' as the tool to measure whether or not a state meets this goal. Each State must meet an overall participation rate of 50% and a 90% participation rate for two-parent families or be subject to a financial penalty. The work participation rate focuses on 'work eligible individuals' and whether or not the WEI is engaged in specific work activities.

A 'work eligible individual' is an adult (or minor parent head-of-household) recipient of TANF cash assistance or a non-recipient parent living with a child receiving cash assistance unless the parent is:

- a minor parent, but not the head-of-household;
- a non-citizen who is ineligible to receive assistance due to his or her immigration status;
- a Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipient;
- a parent providing care for a disabled family member living in the home; or
- a parent receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits

For a WEI to count towards the work participation rate, the individual must have verified participation in countable activities for a specific number of hours each month. Parents with children 6 years of age and older, must participate in a countable activity for 30 hours a week for each week they are receiving a TANF benefit. Parents with children under 6 years old must participate for 20 hours. Families with two parents participating (receiving TANF cash assistance) must participate an average of 55 hours a week; two-parent families with one participating adult must participate an average of 35 hours a week.

Countable work activities are limited to:

- Unsubsidized employment;
- Subsidized employment;
- Community work experience;
- Community service;

- On-the-job training;
- Vocational education/training; and
- Job search/job readiness

WEIs with a 30 hour requirement must participate in the above activities for at least 20 hours and then also participate for 10 more hours in the above and/or:

- Job skills training;
- Education directly related to employment; and
- Satisfactory attendance of Secondary School/GED

There are limits to how long an individual may be engaged in specific work activities. For example, vocational education training has a twelve-month lifetime limit, and job search/job readiness training is limited to six weeks in a twelve-month period. Because Indiana meets the definition of ‘needy state’ under 45 CFR § 260.30, the job search/job readiness limit increases to twelve weeks in a twelve-month period. There is an additional limit for job search: an individual’s participation in job search/job readiness does not count for a week that follows four consecutive weeks of job search/job readiness activities.

All other activities are considered ‘non-countable’.

In March 2011, Indiana had 6,773 WEIs actively participating in work activities. Of these, 2,722 individuals had enough activity hours to meet the TANF work requirement. 4,001 other WEIs were engaged in countable work activities, but did not have enough hours to meet the work requirement. In addition, 301 WEIs participated in a countable work activity that did not count toward the work participation rates because the hours in the activity exceeded the statutory limit for reporting their participation as countable work activities.

For April through June, the percentage of individuals participating in countable activities improved over March with a downtick in June (35.5% to 36.9%.) The June decrease is tied to the end of the school year and a drop in the number of individuals enrolled in vocational training and other educational activities between the end of the spring semester and the start of the summer sessions. Throughout the reporting period, 21% of WEIs were participating in activities but not meeting the work requirement; however, there was an increase in the number of WEIs meeting the work requirement (35.5% in March to 36.9% in June.)

	Mar-11	Apr-11	May-11	Jun-11
Participating WEI Meeting Rate	2,722	2,774	2,705	2,391
Participating WEI Not Meeting Rate	4,001	3,344	3,339	3,244
All WEI	18,956	16,823	15,891	15,269

Analysis

April 2011

In April 2011, there were 18,399 work eligible individuals associated with Indiana's TANF cash assistance program. 6,141 individuals actively participated while 12,258 had no activity hours.

Employment is the primary focus of Indiana's TANF program, and the data produced for this report reflects that emphasis. For the majority of individuals meeting the work requirement, employment is the primary work activity.

Employment	63.3%
Attendance of Secondary School/GED	11.3%
Community Work Experience	10.2%
Vocational Training	10.3%
Job Search/Job readiness	4.4%
Other	0.4%

For individuals with countable activities not meeting the work rate, employment is still the primary activity.

Employment	59.2%
Job Search/Job readiness	27.2%
Vocational Training	5.3%
CWEP	5.3%
Attendance of Secondary School/GED	1.5%
Other	1.5%

Individuals with no activities fall into two broad categories: (1) those required to participate in work activities and (2) those not required to participate by state or federal regulation. 'Engaged' includes individuals in the sanction process for failing to participate.

Engaged but No Activity Hours	43.2%
State Exemption/Federally Disregarded	37.8%
Not Engaged	12.3%
Other	6.7%

'Engaged' is further broken down as follows:

Family's First Month of Assistance and No Work Activity Assigned	41.1%
Individual Assigned to a Work Activity That Has Not Yet Begun	30.6%
Individual in the Process of Being Sanctioned	28.4%

The majority of 'Exempt/Disregarded' are due to illness or disability.

Federally Disregarded	30.3%
-----------------------	-------

Single Parent with Child Under Age 1	3.8%
Exempt Due to Illness or Disability of WEI	38.0%
Exempt Due to Illness or Disability of Child/Other Family Member	11.5%
Short Term Good Cause	5.5%
Other State Exemption	10.9%

May 2011

In May 2011, there were 17,348 work eligible individuals associated with Indiana's TANF cash assistance program. 6,064 individuals actively participated while 11,284 had no activity hours.

For the majority of individuals meeting the work requirement, employment is the primary work activity.

Employment	66.3%
Attendance of Secondary School/GED	11.2%
Community Work Experience	12.1%
Vocational Training	5.2%
Job Search/Job readiness	4.7%
Other	0.5%

For individuals with countable activities not meeting the work rate, employment is still the primary activity.

Employment	57.5%
Job Search/Job readiness	29.6%
Vocational Training	4.3%
CWEP	5.6%
Attendance of Secondary School/GED	1.4%
Other	1.6%

Individuals with no activities fall into two broad categories: (1) those required to participate in work activities and (2) those not required to participate by state or federal regulation. 'Engaged' includes individuals in the sanction process for failing to participate.

Engaged but No Activity Hours	45.1%
State Exemption/Federally Disregarded	37.5%
Not Engaged	10.4%
Other	7.0%

'Engaged' is further broken down as follows:

Family's First Month of Assistance and No Work Activity Assigned	42.7%
Individual Assigned to a Work Activity That Has Not Yet Begun	33.9%
Individual in the Process of Being Sanctioned	23.4%

The majority of 'Exempt/Disregarded' are due to illness or disability.

Federally Disregarded	30.0%
Single Parent with Child Under Age 1	3.8%
Exempt Due to Illness or Disability of WEI	37.0%
Exempt Due to Illness or Disability of Child/Other Family Member	12.5%
Short Term Good Cause	5.4%
Other State Exemption	11.3%

June 2011

In June 2011, there were 16,607 work eligible individuals associated with Indiana's TANF cash assistance program. 5,744 individuals actively participated while 10,833 had no activity hours.

For the majority of individuals meeting the work requirement, employment is the primary work activity.

Employment	71.2%
Attendance of Secondary School/GED	12.5%
Community Work Experience	11.7%
Vocational Training	3.6%
Job Search/Job readiness	1.0%
Other	0.0%

For individuals with countable activities not meeting the work rate, employment is still the primary activity.

Employment	54.8%
Job Search/Job readiness	28.3%
Vocational Training	6.1%
CWEP	7.7%
Attendance of Secondary School/GED	1.5%
Other	1.4%

Individuals with no activities fall into two broad categories: (1) those required to participate in work activities and (2) those not required to participate by state or federal regulation. 'Engaged' includes individuals in the sanction process for failing to participate.

Engaged but No Activity Hours	47.2%
State Exemption/Federally Disregarded	36.5%
Not Engaged	9.6%
Other	6.8%

'Engaged' is further broken down as follows:

Family's First Month of Assistance and No Work Activity Assigned	43.0%
Individual Assigned to a Work Activity That Has Not Yet Begun	34.3%

Individual in the Process of Being Sanctioned 22.7%

The majority of 'Exempt/Disregarded' are due to illness or disability.

Federally Disregarded	30.0%
Single Parent with Child Under Age 1	3.9%
Exempt Due to Illness or Disability of WEI	34.9%
Exempt Due to Illness or Disability of Child/Other Family Member	12.8%
Short Term Good Cause	5.3%
Other State Exemption	13.0%

Narrative of Most Common Activities Not Counted Towards the WPR

From April through June 2011, the leading work activities with uncountable hours remained vocational training or job search/job readiness work activities. The number of affected individuals had decreased in April and May, but increased in June.

	March	April	May	June
Job Search/Job Readiness	270	139	202	518
Vocational Training	31	27	22	12
Total	301	166	224	530

The increase in uncountable job readiness hours is linked to a push in June to schedule additional work activities for employed participants who were not meeting the work rate through employment. Because of the limited types of countable work activities for these situations, job search was the most appropriate activity available although it was not a countable activity for those who had already maximized their allowable job search/job readiness hours.

Increased vigilance in assigning vocational training hours has led to the steady decrease in uncountable hours.