

## Summary and Analysis of Engagement in Additional Activities

Under H.R. 4783 (P.L. 111-29), the Claims Resolution Act of 2010, each State agency, the District of Columbia, and the Territories are required to submit this report for the month of March 2011 and for the months of April, May, and June, 2011. The March report is due no later than May 31, 2011. The April - June report is due no later than August 31, 2011.

The “Engagement in Additional Work Activities” report will contain the following information for each work-eligible individual in a family receiving assistance during a specified reporting period: whether the individual engages in any activities directed toward attaining self-sufficiency during a month occurring in the reporting period, and if so, the specific activities that do not qualify as a work activity under section 407(d) but that are otherwise reasonably calculated to help the family move toward self-sufficiency; or that are of a type that would be counted toward the State participation rates under section 407 but for the fact that the work-eligible individual did not engage in sufficient hours of the activity; the work-eligible individual has reached the maximum time limit allowed for having participation in the activity counted toward the State’s work participation rate; or the number of work-eligible individuals engaged in such activity exceeds a limitation under such section. Also, the report must include documentation of the principal reason or reasons for non-participation if the individual has no hours of participation. The State agency should collect and report data for each family with one or more work-eligible individuals, as reported on the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Data Report and on the Separate State Program – Maintenance of Effort (SSPMOE) Data Report for the report month.

For a State that submits the TANF Data Report and the SSPMOE Data Report for all cases receiving assistance for a report month, the State has the option to submit this report for the entire caseload or submit this report based on a sample. If a State opts to report based on a sample, a separate monthly sample must be selected for TANF cases and, if applicable, for SSPMOE cases each month. Virginia has opted to use the sample option and submit a sample of 175 TANF cases as well as 175 SSPMOE cases.

### **TANF**

We selected a sample of 175 were sampled from 16,994 work-eligible individuals receiving TANF for March, 2011. The individuals were from 63 different FIPS across the state. We determined that 63 work-eligible individuals in our sample were participating in countable work activities for a sufficient number of hours for the family to count toward the work participation rate for March, 2011. An additional 112 work-eligible individuals in our sample were not participating in countable work activities for a sufficient number of hours for the family to count toward the work participation rate for March, 2011.

Five work-eligible individuals participated in a work activity that could count toward the work participation rate but we chose not to report the hours of participation in the TANF Data Report. These individuals participated in Job Search and Job Readiness Assistance activities but did not have enough hours to meet the participation requirement. This generally occurs when the individual has not been engaged in a work activity for a full month (usually at the time of the

initial entry into the Virginia Initiative for Employment not Welfare - VIEW program). As hours of participation in Job Search/Job Readiness activities are subject to a statutory limit, the state has chosen not to report hours when this situation occurs.

Eight work-eligible individuals participated in a countable work activity that did not count toward the work participation rate because the work-eligible individual was engaged for insufficient hours to meet the work requirements for counting toward the work participation rates. Three of these individuals participated in Unsubsidized Employment; three individuals participated in Community Service; one individual participated in Vocational Educational Training; and one individual participated in Job Search and Job Readiness Assistance activities that, when combined with hours of participation for other work activities, were not sufficient to meet the work participation requirement.

Six work-eligible individuals participated in a countable work activity that did not count toward the work participation rates because the hours of participation in the activity are beyond a statutory limit for reporting the hours of participation as countable work activities. All six of these individuals participated in Job Search and Job Readiness Assistance activities.

One work-eligible individual participated in a countable work activity that we did not report such hours of participation in the TANF Data Report because we could not meet the Federal verification standards for including the hours of participation in the report. This individual participated in Community Service.

One work-eligible individual did not participate in countable work activities for a sufficient number of hours for the family to count toward the overall work participation rate but did participate in an activity that, while it would not qualify as a countable work activity under section 407(d) of the Social Security Act, did move the family toward self-sufficiency. The individual participated in High School or GED classes.

Ninety work-eligible individuals were not engaged in any countable work activity or in any non-countable activity that moved the family toward self-sufficiency. The principal reasons for nonparticipation were:

- For eight individuals, March was the family's first month on assistance and no work activity was assigned.
- For four individuals, the individual was assigned to a work activity that had not yet begun as of March 31.
- For twenty-three individuals, the local agency failed to engage the individual in a work activity during March.
- For two individuals, the individuals were exempt as a single custodial parent with child under age 1 but were not disregarded due to 12-month limitation on this type of disregard.
- For eighteen individuals, they were in the process of being sanctioned (including fair hearing process) or were subject to a sanction for refusing to work during March.
- For one individual, the individual was exempt as a single custodial parent with child under age 6 and child care was unavailable (the individual and the agency were in the process of making arrangements for care during March).

- For twenty-eight individuals, the individuals were exempt due to illness or disability (including, but not limited to, in process of applying for SSI/SSDI) during March.
- For one individual, the individual was exempt due to the illness or disability of child or other family member during March.
- For one individual, the individual was exempt due to age (over age 60). We allow this as an exemption in Virginia.
- Four individuals were awaiting reevaluation (and possible exemption from the employment services program) by the TANF worker during March.

## **SSPMOE**

We selected a sample of 175 cases from 2,358 work-eligible individuals that received a VIEW Transitional Payment in March, 2011. The individuals were from 54 different FIPS across the state.

These individuals are recipients of a VIEW Transitional Payment (VTP). The individual is eligible for a VTP when the TANF case has been closed and the individual was employed at least 30 hours per week at minimum wage or higher at the time of the case closure. The employment must be verified at the time of the TANF case closure and at a review six months later. If the individual remains eligible for the VTP, a payment can be issued for up to 12 months after the closure of the TANF case. Due to established criteria for receipt of a VTP, these individuals are engaged in sufficient hours to meet the participation requirements for Federal Work Participation. These individuals are not assigned to any additional work activities during the VTP period.

This report does not change the measures of total engagement in work activities from what was reported by the State in the quarterly report submitted under subsection (a) for the comparable period.

The most common activity is Job Search and Job Readiness Assistance completed by individuals who have already reached the maximum countable hours for the 12-month period.