

FORM ACF-202 – TANF CASELOAD REDUCTION REPORT

Date of Completion 12/23/2020

State: Washington

Fiscal Year to which credit applies: 2021

Overall Report (check one)
Two-parent Report

Apply the overall credit to the two-parent participation rate? yes
 no

PART 1 –Eligibility Changes Made Since FY 2005 (Complete this section for EACH change)

1. Name of eligibility change: Full-Family Sanctions
2. Implementation date of eligibility change: 09/01/2006
3. Description of policy, including the change from prior policy:

In 2006, families in which the head of household refuses to engage in work participation activities are terminated after six months of noncompliance. Effective November 1, 2014 the sanction policy was changed that further reduced to two months before termination or termination without a reduction following adequate notice if the participant doesn't attend the non-compliance sanction good-cause appointment or the scheduled home visit.

During the COVID-19 pandemic statewide declared emergency, Washington made temporary mitigating changes to their program to support families during the situation. These changes included taking no adverse action if a participant does not engage in activities listed in their plan. This includes temporarily suspending all reductions or terminations of TANF grants (sanctions) as of March 16, 2020.

4. Description of the methodology used to calculate the estimated impact of this eligibility change (attach supporting materials to this form):

In December, 2020 a list of cases terminated during FFY 2020 using the Sanction Reason Code 252 was reviewed to determine if the case had at least a one-month break in service after the case was closed. This number includes adult cases receiving an NCS termination without a grant reduction (Adults in these cases did not attend the NCS case staffing nor the home visit. They are terminated from the program without a grant reduction if a good cause is not determined (closure code 252 without an RE coding on ACES WORK screen). The results are displayed in the chart below.

| Total number of Families Terminated | |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| 01OCT2019 | 17 |
| 01NOV2019 | 18 |
| 01DEC2019 | 23 |
| 01JAN2020 | 28 |
| 01FEB2020 | 21 |
| 01MAR2020 | 22 |
| 01APR2020 | 1 |

5. Estimated average monthly impact of this eligibility change on caseload in comparison year: -251

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1. Name of eligibility change: Permanent Disqualification Due to 3 or More Non-compliance Sanction (NCS)
2. Implementation date of eligibility change: 11/01/2011
3. Description of policy, including the change from prior policy:

Permanent TANF/SFA disqualifications for clients who have had 3 or more WorkFirst non-compliance sanction (NCS) terminations since March 1, 2007 when the NCS termination policy was implemented.

4. Description of the methodology used to calculate the estimated impact of this eligibility change:
(attach supporting materials to this form)

This policy was rescinded on 7/1/2018, residual implementation and attrition will continue to be tracked until the effects are zero.

5. Estimated average monthly impact of this eligibility change on caseload in comparison year: -3

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1. Name of eligibility change: Mandatory Orientation
2. Implementation date of eligibility change: 06/01/2014
3. Description of policy, including the change from prior policy:

Effective June 1, 2014, completion of a new WorkFirst (WF) Orientation was required as a condition of eligibility for all work-eligible Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) (would exclude child-only cases). The new orientation was implemented to ensure clients receive consistent information statewide about the WorkFirst program, including the services and supports available and activities that may be required for participation in the program. Previously, some local offices offered their own orientation, all of which differed greatly from each other.

4. Description of the methodology used to calculate the estimated impact of this eligibility change: (attach supporting materials to this form)

In December, 2020 the client data for FFY 2020 was reviewed. All applications that were denied were screened by reason code to determine if the denial was based on lack of the new Mandatory Orientation. The resulting list was further screened to eliminate repetitions of clients who subsequently reapplied and successfully completed the Mandatory Orientation. This is displayed in the table below.

| | Total # of Families Terminated |
|-----------------|---|
| OCT 2018 | 34 |
| NOV 2018 | 27 |
| DEC 2018 | 22 |
| JAN 2019 | 20 |
| FEB 2019 | 20 |
| MAR 2019 | 30 |
| APR 2019 | 53 |
| MAY 2019 | 27 |
| JUN 2019 | 31 |
| JUL 2019 | 17 |
| AUG 2019 | 9 |
| SEP 2019 | 17 |

5. Estimated average monthly impact of this eligibility change on caseload in comparison year: -324

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1. Name of eligibility change: Changing Grant Standards
2. Implementation date of eligibility change: Various, see below
3. Description of policy, including the change from prior policy:

In accordance with the operating budget passed by the State Legislature from year to year, the department needed to adjust the client benefit amounts effective with the date of the change. The client benefit amount is also used to determine eligibility for TANF benefits. The Legislature first changed the benefit amount by raising it 3% starting 7/1/2008. As a result, a number of clients were added to the caseload that otherwise would have been denied in 2005. Subsequently, in February 2011 the Legislature responded to the effects of the Great Recession with a number of austerity measures, including a 15% reduction in the grant standard. In July 2014 the State Legislature changed the benefit amount again – this time raising the benefit standard 9%, and again in July 2018, raising the benefit another 9.3%. The net result of these eligibility changes needed to be factored together in order to determine the true change from 2005.

4. Description of the methodology used to calculate the estimated impact of this eligibility change: (attach supporting materials to this form)

The allowable grant standard was determined for each family size during the period of the reported change. See Table 1. All cases denied or terminated during the current report period for reasons of being over the income limit were examined to determine if they would have been acceptable under the 2005 standard. A list of such cases was tabulated, resulting in Table 2.

Table 1

| HH | 2005 | 7/1/2008 (+3%) | 2/1/2011 (-15%) | 7/1/2015 (+9%) | 7/1/2018 (+9.3%) |
|----|---------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | \$349 | \$359 | \$305 | \$332 | \$363 |
| 2 | \$440 | \$453 | \$385 | \$420 | \$459 |
| 3 | \$546 | \$562 | \$478 | \$521 | \$569 |
| 4 | \$642 | \$661 | \$562 | \$613 | \$670 |
| 5 | \$740 | \$762 | \$648 | \$706 | \$772 |
| 6 | \$841 | \$866 | \$736 | \$802 | \$877 |
| 7 | \$971 | \$1,000 | \$850 | \$927 | \$1,013 |
| 8 | \$1,075 | \$1,107 | \$941 | \$1,026 | \$1,121 |
| 9 | \$1,180 | \$1,215 | \$1,033 | \$1,126 | \$1,231 |
| 10 | \$1,283 | \$1,321 | \$1,123 | \$1,224 | \$1,338 |

Table 2

| | Would Have Been Approved |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| OCT 2018 | 0 |
| NOV 2018 | 0 |
| DEC 2018 | 1 |
| JAN 2019 | 0 |
| FEB 2019 | 0 |
| MAR 2019 | 0 |
| APR 2019 | 2 |
| MAY 2019 | 0 |
| JUN 2019 | 0 |
| JUL 2019 | 0 |
| AUG 2019 | 1 |
| SEP 2019 | 1 |

*Per the 2018 grant increase, the State of Washington has exceeded its 2005 base year grant standard.

5. Estimated average monthly impact of this eligibility change on caseload in comparison year: -17

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1. Name of eligibility change: Two-Parent Pregnancy to Employment Solely State-Funded Program
2. Implementation date of eligibility change: 02/01/2016
3. Description of policy, including the change from prior policy:

In February 2016 the State began to fund, as a solely-state funded activity, that portion of the Two Parent caseload that State law exempts from participation, but for which the federal rules still require participation. This primarily consists of parents choosing to take the Infant Exemption, as this federal exemption only applies to single parents. By funding them as a Solely State Funded Program (non-MOE) they are removed from the WPR computation. This was an element of the State’s Corrective Compliance Plan.

4. Description of the methodology used to calculate the estimated impact of this eligibility change:
(attach supporting materials to this form)

In December, 2020 the client data for FFY 2020 were reviewed. All new cases that were removed from the federally-funded TANF caseload as a result of this policy and had not been removed in the previous six month period were tallied. The tabulated results are shown below.

| | Total # of Families PTE |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| OCT 2018 | 100 |
| NOV 2018 | 111 |
| DEC 2018 | 140 |
| JAN 2019 | 118 |
| FEB 2019 | 92 |
| MAR 2019 | 138 |
| APR 2019 | 302 |
| MAY 2019 | 185 |
| JUN 2019 | 145 |
| JUL 2019 | 121 |
| AUG 2019 | 115 |
| SEP 2019 | 99 |

5. Estimated average monthly impact of this eligibility change on caseload in comparison year: -1,605

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1. Name of eligibility change: 60-Month All Family Time Limit Exceptions
2. Implementation date of eligibility change: 01/01/2011
3. Description of policy, including the change from prior policy:

In January 2011 the agency changed the approach by which exceptions to the existing 60-month time limit were granted. This change to how the exceptions are being granted constitutes a policy change resulting in fewer current cases.

During the COVID-19 pandemic statewide declared emergency, Washington made temporary mitigating changes to their program to support families during the situation. These changes included expanding the 60-month time limit extension criteria to support families. These temporarily extensions were provided effective April 1, 2020.

4. Description of the methodology used to calculate the estimated impact of this eligibility change: (attach supporting materials to this form)

In December, 2020 the client data for FFY 2020 were reviewed. All cases that were terminated were screened by reason code to determine if the termination was based on reaching the 60-month time limit. The resulting list was further screened to determine if the case was reinstated for successful completion of a Time Limit exception. The tabulated results are shown below.

| | #of Families Terminated |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| OCT 2018 | 2 |
| NOV 2018 | 0 |
| DEC 2018 | 0 |
| JAN 2019 | 3 |
| FEB 2019 | 0 |
| MAR 2019 | 2 |
| APR 2019 | 0 |
| MAY 2019 | 0 |
| JUN 2019 | 0 |
| JUL 2019 | 0 |
| AUG 2019 | 0 |
| SEP 2019 | 1 |

5. Estimated average monthly impact of this eligibility change on caseload in comparison year: -21

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PART 2 – Estimate of Caseload Reduction Credit

(Complete Part 2 using Excel Workbook provided.)

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PART 3 -- Certification

I certify that we have provided the public an appropriate opportunity to comment on the estimates and methodology used to complete this report and considered those comments in completing it. Further, I certify that this report incorporates all reductions in the caseload resulting from State eligibility changes and changes in Federal requirements since Fiscal Year 2005.



(signature)

David Stillman

(name)

Assistant Secretary, Economic Services Administration

(title)