LOCAL PLANNING AREA WORKFIRST DATA

DATA DICTIONARY

Local Planning Area data reports are updated using data sources and measures agreed to by WorkFirst partners. State and local level performance information are included in each report. The reports are intended to provide Local Planning Areas with the most recent information about their standing relative to the performance measures established by the WorkFirst program. Definitions as of September 18, 2013.

These reports descend from WorkFirst GMAP reports produced between November 2007 and June 2013 and contain similar information. Any changes are described in the notes to each measure.

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http://www.workfirst.wa.gov/performance/measures.asp

Caseload

Number of adult, child-only, and total cases receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) each month, measured at the Local Planning Area (LPA) level.

Detail: CSO level unduplicated count of all distinct cases or Assistance Units (adult, child-only and total) who received a TANF cash benefit grant during the month reported.

Source: ACES, prepared by Economic Services Administration staff at DSHS.

Data Availability: Monthly, end of second week after ACES download.

Notes: Caseload counts are subject to revision over time.
First-look total caseload counts typically increase by three-tenths of one percent as the mature.

These caseload counts may differ from counts in the WorkFirst Performance Chartbook or EMAPS tables. Reasons for this will be explored.

Diversion Cash Assistance Clients Not Going to TANF

Percentage of adult clients who did not enroll in TANF within 6 or 12 months after receiving a Diversion Cash Assistance payment.

Numerator: Count of total adult clients receiving DCA during the reported month not enrolling in TANF within 6 or 12 months (i.e. those who didn't appear on a TANF case within the 6 or 12 following months).

Denominator: Total count of adult clients receiving DCA during the reported month.

Source: ACES, prepared by Economic Services Administration staff at DSHS.

Data Availability: Monthly, end of second week after ACES download.

Notes: DCA data is derived by using the CASE_SNAP table and AU_ADRQ to form PADA's DCA_CASELOAD table.

The 12 month version of this measure is included in the WorkFirst Chartbook as Count 2: DCA Success Rate.

Federal Participation Rate

Percentage of TANF adult clients meeting federal participation requirements in WorkFirst components.

Numerator: Total adult clients meeting federal all-family work participation requirements in countable WorkFirst components. The hours of participation required to meet the federal all-family participation rate depend on the number of adults in the family and age of children. In general, single adults with children under the age of six can meet federal participation requirements with 20 hours of work participation per week. In general, requirements for single parents with older children are 30 hours per week.

Denominator: Total WorkFirst adult clients minus those clients who are exempted from work participation. Exemptions include: adult caretaker relative who is age 55 or older; adults caring for an adult with disabilities or a child with special needs; or adult with severe and chronic disabilities. Subject to limits, adult clients who are being sanctioned for non-compliance with program rules and single parents with children under the age of one are also excluded from the denominator.

Sources: ACES, prepared by Economic Services Administration staff at DSHS.

Data Availability: Monthly; end of second week after ACES download.

Note: Receipt of data for this measure depends on the update schedule for WPR files.

Participation counts in this measure do not include the impacts of Supplemental State Programs like Career Services.

Child Support

Non-Custodial Parents (NCPs) With Payments

Percentage of current or former TANF Non-Custodial-Parent cases making child support payments.

Numerator:	Of those NCPs in the denominator, how many made a payment during the month reported. Note that about 8% of the NCPs live out-of-state.
Denominator:	Unduplicated count of Non-Custodial Parents with at least one IV-D case where the case was receiving TANF during the month reported or had received TANF within the past 12 months.
Sources:	SEMS, prepared by Economic Services Administration staff at DSHS.
Data Availability:	Monthly; end of second week after ACES download.
Note:	This measure differs from the Barometer Measure 27 in the WorkFirst Chartbook. The Chartbook Barometer Measure 27 is based on children, not on non-custodial parents. However, trends are quite similar.

Child Support Cases with Orders Established

Percentage of current or former TANF cases with child support orders established.

Numerator:	Of those cases in the denominator, a count of those cases that have child support orders established. Note that about 8% of the cases are out-of-state.
Denominator:	Count of IV-D cases currently on TANF or post-TANF (within 12 months of exit).
Sources:	SEMS, prepared by Economic Services Administration staff at DSHS.
Data Availability:	Monthly; end of second week after ACES download.

Job Search Placement Employment

Percent of adult TANF clients who gain unsubsidized employment within three calendar quarters after exit from ESD's job search (JS) program.

Numerator: Of those active adult clients who exited job search in a given quarter, the number who have obtained unsubsidized employment during any of the following three quarters.

Denominator: Active adult clients who exited job search in the given quarter. Includes only job seekers served by ESD.

Detail: For the denominator, exit from the job search component is determined from eJAS enrollment records. Job search enrollees may also receive vocational or postsecondary education or Community Jobs and Job Connection services. Exit occurs during the last month of activity in Employment Security job search prior to a four-month absence from the program.

Sources: Employment records are obtained from UI-Wage files. Prepared by OFM Forecasting Division staff.

Data Availability: Quarterly. There is a four quarter reporting lag in obtaining results, due to the need to collect three quarters of follow-up data following exit for this measure.

Note: Prior to 2012, the job search placement measure was prepared by Employment Security Department staff measuring employment during the three months after the start of job search using five separate data sources. Also, some job search episodes were excluded from follow-up under the original measure. The revised definition described above was developed by the WorkFirst Performance Measure Work Group during the summer of 2012. The revised definitions allow for common measures across programs. See the note following Exit to Employment for ways to overcome problems with use of UI-Wage files to measure employment in border areas. See also vocational and postsecondary employment and Community Jobs and Job Connection employment. This measure may also be found in the WorkFirst Chartbook as Targeted Measure 4.

Vocational and Postsecondary Employment

Percent of adult TANF clients who gain unsubsidized employment within three calendar quarters after exit from a vocational education or postsecondary education activity.

Numerator: Of those active adult clients who have been enrolled in a vocational or postsecondary education activity and exited all vocational or postsecondary activity in a given quarter, the number who have obtained unsubsidized employment during any of the following three quarters.

Denominator: Active adult clients who exited all vocational or postsecondary education components in the quarter.

Detail: For the denominator, vocational or postsecondary education is determined from eJAS enrollment records. Components used to identify vocational or postsecondary education are: VE - Vocational Education; HW- High Wage High Demand Training; PE - Customized Job Skills Training; VU - Unapproved Vocational Education; and DC- Degree Completion. Vocational and postsecondary education activities include those provided by the State Community and Technical College system along with those provided by other institutions, such as four-year colleges or private career schools. Educational activities may be followed by ESD job search or supported by Department of Commerce programs. Exit occurs during the last month of activity prior to a four-month absence from any of vocational or postsecondary education services that define the measure.

Sources: Employment records are obtained from UI-Wage files. Prepared by OFM Forecasting Division staff.

Data Availability: Quarterly. There is a four quarter reporting lag in obtaining results.

Note: Prior to 2012, separate High Wage High Demand and Customized Job Skills Training measures were prepared by SBCTC staff measuring employment during the first quarter after exit using of UI-Wage data for services provided at Community and Technical Colleges only. The original measures were available by college only, and not by Community Services Office or Local Planning Area. The revised definitions allow for common measures across programs. This measure may also be found in the WorkFirst Chartbook as Targeted Measure 5.

Community Jobs and Job Connection Employment

Percent of adult TANF clients who gain unsubsidized employment within three calendar quarters after exit from the Department of Commerce's Community Jobs (CJ) or Job Connection (JC) programs.

Numerator: Of those active adult clients who have been enrolled in an approved Community Jobs or Job Connection work assignment and left the program in a given quarter, the number who have obtained unsubsidized employment during any of the following three quarters.

Denominator: Active adult clients who have left an approved Community Jobs or Job Connection work assignment in the given quarter.

Detail: For the denominator, Community Jobs and Job Connection components are determined from eJAS enrollment records. Adults enter CJ or JC when they start an approved Community Jobs or Job Connection work assignment and exit when they leave that approved work assignment. Results are unduplicated across the two programs. Exit occurs during the last month prior to a four-month absence from either program.

Sources: Employment records are obtained from UI-Wage files. Prepared by OFM Forecasting Division staff. Community Jobs or Job Connection participants may also receive job search or participate in vocational or postsecondary education.

Data Availability: Quarterly. There is a four quarter reporting lag in obtaining results, due to the need to collect three quarters of follow-up data following exit for this measure.

Note: Prior to 2012, a Community Jobs Placement measure was prepared by Department of Commerce staff measuring employment during the four quarters of UI-Wage data beginning with the start of a Community Job work assignment. The revised definition described above was developed by the WorkFirst Performance Measure Work Group during the summer of 2012. The revised definitions allow for common measures across different programs. See also job search placement employment and vocational and postsecondary employment. The Job Connection program was first offered in July 2011 and was not part of the original measure. This measure may also be found in the WorkFirst Chartbook as Targeted Measure 6.

Median Job Search Placements Wages

Median of hourly wages at employment for those clients participating in ESD's Job Search program in the third quarter after exit from job search.

Median: A median is the value of a variable at the 50th percentile of a distribution. Half of the adults earned more and half earned less than the median wage rate.

Detail: Hourly wage rates are calculated for each adult who exited ESD job search who had unsubsidized employment (earnings <u>and</u> hours worked) reported in the UI Wage file during the third quarter after exit. Earnings and hours may be summed across multiple jobs if more than one job was held during the quarter. Reported work hours are cleaned to exclude adults with zero hours or more than 800 hours in the quarter. Calculated wage rates less than $5.00 per hour or more than $50.00 per hour are also excluded due to likely error in reporting of either earnings or hours worked.

Medians are calculated for Local Planning Areas (LPAs) and the State. Several LPAs are combined for the purposes of preparing medians: Port Angeles and Port Townsend; Skagit and Whidbey Island; Asotin and Walla Walla. Medians for each of these LPA pairs are identical.

Sources: Employment and work hour records are obtained from UI-Wage files. Prepared by OFM Forecasting Division staff.

Data Availability: Quarterly, with a four quarter lag for UI-wage data collection.

Note: Prior to 2012, a similar median wage measure was prepared by Employment Security Department staff using UI wages and hours during the first quarter after the start of ESD job search.

To obtain medians for three-month periods in local planning area reports, medians for three consecutive months are averaged. This result is not, strictly speaking, a median wage. The numbers shown as the "denominator" for these average medians are the sum of the adults with valid wage data included in the measure across those three months. The average monthly number of adults from which these medians are calculated would be the "denominator" shown divided by three. A related measure may be found in the WorkFirst Chartbook as Barometer Measure 37.

Job Retention

Percentage of former adult TANF clients who remain employed for one year after an employment-related exit from TANF

Numerator: Number of adult clients who exit TANF in the reported quarter (Q_0), who have unsubsidized employment earnings of at least $1,875 in the quarter after exit (Q_1), and have unsubsidized employment earnings of at least $2,500 per quarter in Q_2, Q_3, and Q_4, or $13,800 total in Q_1, Q_2, Q_3, Q_4.

Denominator: Adult clients who exited TANF in the reported quarter (Q_0) and presented unsubsidized employment earnings of at least $1,875 in the quarter of exit (Q_1).

Detail: A Q_0 exit from TANF is defined a record receiving a TANF grant on at least one month during Q_0 and not receiving a TANF grant in any of the three months of Q_1.

Sources: CARD, UI-Wage file. Prepared by OFM Forecasting Division staff.

Data Availability: Quarterly, with a six quarter lag for UI-wage data collection.

Note: This is a former GMAP measure. There is no analogous measure in the WorkFirst Chartbook.

Earnings Progression

Percentage of former adult TANF clients whose earnings increased by 10% within one year after leaving TANF.

Numerator: Number of adult clients who exit TANF in the reported quarter (Q_0), who have unsubsidized employment earnings in Q_1 and whose unsubsidized employment earnings in Q_5 were at least 10 percent greater than earnings in Q_1; also counted are exiting adults who had unsubsidized employment earnings that exceed \$5,000 in each quarter $Q_2 - Q_5$.

Denominator: Adult clients who exited TANF in the reported quarter (Q_0) and presented any amount of unsubsidized employment earnings in Q_1.

Detail: A Q_0 exit from TANF is defined a record receiving a TANF grant on at least one month during Q_0 and not receiving TANF in any of the three months of Q_1.

Sources: CARD, UI-Wage file. Prepared by OFM Forecasting Division staff.

Data Availability: Quarterly, with a seven quarter lag for UI-wage data collection.

Note: This is a former GMAP measure. There is no analogous measure in the WorkFirst Chartbook.

Return to TANF after Exit

Percentage of closed WorkFirst cases who return to a TANF/SFA grant in any one of the following 12 months.

Numerator: Of those cases in the denominator, a count of those cases where the AU or any client on the AU received TANF/SFA in any one of the following 12 months.

Denominator: Count of distinct cases or assistance units with adult clients who received a TANF/SFA cash benefit during the month reported and where the AU was closed in ACES as of the end of the month reported.

Sources: ACES, prepared by Economic Services Administration staff at DSHS.

Data Availability: Monthly; end of second week after ACES download.

Note: A version of this measure was previously reported as a GMAP measure called Long-Term Exit. Those with long-term exits are those who do not return to TANF within 12 months. The measure was inverted to measure return to TANF in response to the Legislature's interest in measuring return to TANF instead of long term exits. A quarterly roll-up of this measure may also be found in the WorkFirst Chartbook as Barometer Measure 14.

WorkFirst Exits Due to Income, Earnings, or Customer Request

Percentage of TANF cases closed for income, earnings, or at customer request who didn't return to TANF within the three months after exit. These exit reasons have sometimes been referred to as "self-sufficiency" reasons.

Numerator: All Family TANF cases closed for: Child Support More Than Grant (324), Excess Net Income-Cash Assistance (331), Exceeds Earned Income Limit (334), Change in Child Support Payment (507), and AU requests closure (557).

Denominator: All Family TANF closure cases -- an unduplicated count of cases or assistance units who received a TANF/SFA cash benefit during the month reported where neither the AU nor any client on the AU received TANF/SFA in any of the following three months.

Detail: The CASE_SNAPSHOT table from the CARD database was used to determine if the AU received TANF/SFA assistance during the month reported. The AU status code from the STAT screen in ACES or the AU_STS table in the STAGING database was used to determine if the AU was closed (status code = 'C' for closed).

Sources: ACES, prepared by Economic Services Administration staff at DSHS.

Data Availability: Monthly; end of second week after ACES download.

Note: This measure was formerly named self-sufficiency exits. This measure has been re-named and is now a Results Washington measure. The Results Washington version is measured on a quarterly basis. This measure may also be found in the WorkFirst Chartbook as Targeted Measure 2. Targeted Measure 2 is calculated on a monthly basis to show how well we are progressing toward quarterly Results Washington outcomes.

Exits to Employment

Percentage of former TANF adult clients with unsubsidized employment earnings in the quarter of exit.

Numerator: Adult clients exiting TANF in a given quarter who had covered employment in that quarter. From the denominator, select the subset of clients who show positive UI Wages during the quarter of exit.

Denominator: Adult clients exiting TANF in a given quarter. A record is counted in the denominator if the exit occurs in any month within the quarter. A record is counted as an exit in a given month if the record shows TANF income in the previous month, but does not show TANF income in the given month.

Detail: This is a quarterly measure that will contain information on (1) the number of adult clients exiting TANF during a given quarter, (2) the number of clients employed during that quarter out of those exiting TANF, and (3) the percent of adult TANF exiters who are employed during the quarter of exit. This information will be compiled by CSO, by DSHS regions and state totals.

Sources: AFarrays file, UI-Wage file. Prepared by OFM Forecasting Division staff.

Data Availability: Quarterly, with a two quarter lag for UI-wage data collection.

Note: This measure may also be found in the WorkFirst Chartbook as Targeted Measure 1. UI Wage data may be missing for some out-of-state employment, affecting results in border areas. When this measure is low in border areas, consult WorkFirst Exits Due to Income, Earnings or Customer Request and Return to TANF to get a fuller picture of whether exits are related to earnings and are long-term.

Glossary

CARD CARD is a subset of the DSHS Automated Client Eligibility System (ACES) data warehouse.

CJ JAS code for Community Jobs: wage subsidized employment in training provided by contractors of the Department of Commerce.

DC JAS code for Degree Completion: Degree completion can be authorized if the adult enters WorkFirst and is within 12 months of completing a degree, including an academic degree.

ESD Employment Security Department (a Washington State Department).

Exiter An Exiter is an adult who was recorded as enrolled in an activity during a month and was not enrolled in that activity during the following four months. The last month of the activity is the month of exit used to define follow-up periods.

HW JAS code for training for a High-Wage High Demand occupation.

JAS Jobs Automated System. Management system (database) that stores documentation and data. Data tables reflecting JAS activities are stored in the ACES data warehouse.

JC JAS code for Job Connection: wage subsidized employment in training provided by contractors of the Department of Commerce.

JS JAS code for Job Search. Contractor codes in the Component_Detail table are used to distinguish Job Search provided by ESD from Job Search provided by other partners.

PE JAS code for Customized Job Skills Training

Quarter The consolidated time frame of the UI-Wage file. There are 4 quarters in a year, each defined from: Jan 1 – Mar 31, Apr 1 – Jun 30, Jul 1 – Sep 30, and Oct 1 – Dec 31.

SBCTC State Board for Community and Technical Colleges. SBCTC manages services with its 34 member Community and Technical Colleges and provides over 60% of the vocational and postsecondary education provided to WorkFirst adults statewide.

UI-Wage file Unemployment Insurance (Wage files). This data is listed by Quarter and includes total earnings, and usually the total hours worked. Wage files are populated continuously, and are considered almost fully populated within 6 to 8 months after the end of that Quarter.

VE JAS code for Approved Vocational Education. Vocational education includes training that leads to a certificate or degree in a specific occupation. Approved vocational education is typically provided to students who have a high school diploma or GED. However, approved vocational activities can also include the I-BEST program at community and technical colleges. I-BEST combines vocational education with basic education.

VU JAS code for Unapproved Vocational Education. Unapproved Vocational Education is education that does not meet the criteria for Approved Vocational Education and does not count toward Federal work participation requirements.