



## **Transitional Employment Assistance (TEA)**

Texarkana (*SFY 2019*)

Ms. Hayes came into the Texarkana Workforce Center on December 21, 2016 and met with WFS Taylor for the Initial TEA Assessment. Ms. Hayes' child had recently turned three months old. She had family support for child care and transportation. She had some college courses but was not certain about returning to school. Ms. Hayes had employment skills in food service and retail and requested AJS for her work activity; however, Ms. Hayes did not obtain employment.

During her Employment Plan Update, WFS Taylor and Ms. Hayes discussed barriers to employment. Ms. Hayes indicated that she was discouraged because her limited job skills were preventing her from obtaining the employment opportunities she was seeking, such as in an office environment. It was determined that Ms. Hayes would be placed in Work Experience at the ADWS Texarkana office to obtain skills that could lead to employment opportunities aligned with her goals. The TEA department provide Ms. Hayes with Transportation Reimbursement to and from her work activity location. While participating in WEX, Ms. Hayes took the Career Readiness test and obtained a Silver Certification and took several of the Key Train training courses. The Work Experience and training courses led to employment.

In September 2017, Ms. Hayes was hired by ADWS for the ADMIN position, working part-time at the front desk with a salary of \$11.21 per hour. Her TEA case closed due to employment, and she was awarded the Employment and Transportation Bonuses and entered the Work Pays Program. Ms. Hayes continued to develop her skill level and strong work ethics and in July 2018 she was offered a position with the TANF Department as the full-time ADMIN for the TEA program where she is currently employed. Ms. Hayes has received the first and second Work Pays bonuses and used the money to purchase her very first vehicle and is no longer dependent on others for providing transportation. Ms. Hayes has become a strong team member in the Texarkana office and to the Agency.