

Briefing on TANF in Arkansas

Presented to
TANF Oversight Committee

Phil Harris, Assistant Director-TANF
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Agenda for Today

- Brief Snapshot of TANF in AR
- Federal Updates
- State Updates – Legislative & More
- New Partnerships/Initiatives & Funding
- TANF Success Stories

TANF Snapshot - Programs

- **Transitional Employment Assistance (TEA)** - a 24-month time-limited program to accelerate single and two parent families get off public assistance and into a job
- **Work Pays** – a job retention program unique to the State of Arkansas, where clients get one-on-one career coaching to secure their existing jobs or get promoted to a higher wage job. Supportive services are extended

Benefit Program	Number of Participants								
	SFY 2020			SFY 2021			SFY 2022		
	Cases	Adults	Children	Cases	Adults	Children	Cases	Adults	Children
Transitional Employment Assistance (TEA)	4,312	2,798	6,833	3,083	2,136	5,178	2,229	1,316	4,421
Work Pays ²	448	474	906	278	299	570	112	121	223

Benefit Program	Grant Amounts		
	SFY 2020	SFY 2021	SFY 2022
Transitional Employment Assistance (TEA)	\$3,933,464	\$3,246,079	\$2,247,209
Work Pays	\$597,567	\$284,925	\$157,527

Figure 2

Benefit Program	Case Closures		
	SFY 2020	SFY 2021	SFY 2022
TEA Closures	1,528	881	1,419
Work Pays Closures	244	137	106

Figure 3

TANF Snapshot - Programs

- **Career Pathways Initiative**– Short-term career and technical education / training to help job seekers gain skills necessary to pursue careers in high-demand occupations

CPI Program Highlights

	SFY2020	SFY2021	SFY2022
CPI Enrollment	3,543	3,187	3,032
Credentials Awarded	2,772 (78%)	2,074 (65%)	2,046
Entered Employment	3,239 (91%)	2,835 (89%)	1,047 (82%)

- **Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) annual transfer for Pre-K**
- **Child Welfare (DHS Emergency Assessments) – Arkansas State Police (ASP) Crimes Against Children Division (CACD)**
- **Individual Development Account (IDA) Program**
- **AR Better Dads Fatherhood Initiative**

TANF Snapshot - Stakeholders



Arkansas Division of Workforce Services



– Reinvesting In Arkansas Families –

These Division of Workforce Services Programs and Services are Available Across Arkansas.

Transitional Employment Assistance Program
 Arkansas Work Pays Program
 Career Pathways Initiative
 Adult Education Services
 AR Rehabilitation Services
 TANF-WIOA Adult Pre-Apprenticeship Initiative
 High Demand Workforce Development & Training
 Our House Homelessness PipeLine to Employment
 Arkansas Better Dads Fatherhood Initiative
 Career Connect Subsidized Employment Services to Ex-offenders

Transitional Employment Assistance Program
 Arkansas Work Pays Program
 Children's Advocacy Centers
 AR State Police Crimes Against Children's Division (CACD) Hotline
 Emergency Assessments for Child Welfare Family Preservation
 Boys and Girls Clubs of Arkansas
 After School and Summer Academy

Career Coaching & Exploration
 High School

Parenting & Family Skills

Equipping Fathers For Economic & Parenting Success

Supportive Services
 Post Secondary Education & Training
 Employment & Training

Improving Literacy
 Elementary

Promoting Child Well-Being

Career Exploration
 Middle School
 Job Preparation & Life Skills

Transitional Employment Assistance Program
 Jobs For Arkansas Graduates (JAG)
 Arkansas Career Coaches Exploration Camps
 TANF Summer Youth Employment
 DHS-DYS Prevention/Intervention
 TANF-WIOA Youth Pre-Apprenticeship Initiative
 In-School Dropout Academy
 Boys and Girls Clubs of Arkansas



Financial Security Through Employment

Transitional Employment Assistance Program
 Arkansas Work Pays Program
 Arkansas Better Chance (ABC)
 Children's Advocacy Centers
 AR State Police Crimes Against Children's Division (CACD) Hotline
 Emergency Assessments for Child Welfare Family Preservation
 Boys and Girls Clubs of Arkansas
 After School and Summer Academy



Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
 Arkansas Division of Workforce Services

TANF Snapshot - Technology

- Integrated Service Delivery Model using the ARWINS IT platform
- Interfaces with Medicaid (AR Home), SNAP, and TANF Clients receiving benefits through DHS
- Work readiness assessments, Career Pathway Planning, Case Management, Integrated Provider Management and Federal / MIS Reporting
- Ability to support TANF partner programs such as AR Home, WOTC, Restore Hope, Career Connect and Career Pathways Initiative

TANF Federal Performance Measures

Performance Measures for TEA/WP recipients	Target	Actual FY 2020	Actual FY 2021	Actual FY 2022
Single Parent Work Activity Participation	50%	Met	Met	Met
All Family (Two-Parent) Work Activity Participation	90%	Met	Met	Met

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services requires each state's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, known in Arkansas as Transitional Employment Assistance or TEA) to meet two work participation rates, which are measurements of how well the state succeeds in helping work eligible individuals find employment. The TEA program successfully met both its overall and two-parent work participation rates for fiscal year 2020, 2021, and 2022 (unofficially).

Federal Updates

- **Congress last reauthorized TANF in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005** (P.L. 109-171) and has renewed the program through a series of short-term extensions since its expiration in 2010. Most recently, Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 (P.L.)
- P.L. 117-328, the Consolidated Appropriation Act, 2023, enacted December 29, 2022, extended TANF funding through September 30, 2023.

State Updates – Legislative & More

- Increasing caseload was one of the important topics that has been on our plate for some time now. We had laid out multiple strategies to make this happen. While we have not been able to action all of them, below are a couple that will most likely help alleviate the caseload situation:
 - **Increasing the TEA eligibility standard to \$513 -effective as of 1/1/2023**
 - Implementing TEA Diversion/NRST programs – The policy, procedure and systems changes are being drafted to start a soft launch. We are looking to startup these services in and around May through our existing TANF case management staff

- **2023 Legislative Session**
 - **Act 266 – Time Limits**
 - **Act 832 – Transfer of TANF Program**

New Program Initiatives & Funding

Initiative	Funding Level	Outcomes
<p>Little Rock Workforce Development Board CDL Training Project</p>	<p>\$ 726,041.88</p>	<p>As of the 4th quarter, 7 participants had enrolled, making a total of 42 participants enrolled for occupational skills training. 40 out of 50 (80%) – Total enrollment as of 11/7/2022 26 out of 40 (65%) –Total completed the 160 CDL course hours 22 out of 26 (84%) – Total obtained CDL Credential 22 out of 26 (84%) – Total MSG’s Attained for Skills Progression 15 out of 22 (68%) – Total employed with a CDL Credential 8 out of 40 (20%) –Total actively enrolled in CDL training 4 out of 40 (10%) – Total waiting for their training to start 7 out of 40 (15%) – Total that failed to complete the 160 course hours and did not obtain a CDL credential</p>
<p>Workforce Development Board of Western Arkansas Youth Pre-Apprenticeship Training Project</p>	<p>\$ 316,310.00</p>	<p>At 4th quarter reporting, thirty-six (36) applications were received, and twenty-three (23) were actively enrolled. Among the twenty-three (23), multiple barriers to employment included 1- In Foster care or aging out, 5- Homeless, 15-Disability, 5-Basic Skills Deficient, 1-ESL, 1-Single Parent, and 2-Pregnant.</p> <p>Spring 2022 school year statistics: Included 15 participants from 7 schools; WAPDD paid thirteen (13), two (2) were paid through partner programs, eleven (11) completed the program, and eleven (11) certifications were administered:</p> <p>2 ea. Construction 4 ea. General Industry 2 ea. Automotive 3 ea. Healthcare</p> <p>Fall 2022 – Spring 2023 school year statistics: Sixteen (16) are currently enrolled in six (6) schools. There will be no completers until May of 2023.</p>
<p>Our House, Inc. Pipeline to Employment Project</p>	<p>\$ 321,763.71</p>	<p>As of the 4th quarter & closeout, prior date extension of 6.30.23 New Client Enrollment in Program - 20 Cumulative New Client Enrollment - 78 Previously enrolled clients who received services - 69 Total TANF eligible households to receive services - 89 Participants in occupational training - 15 Co-enrolled in TANF Work-Based Learning program - 33 Found or maintained unsubsidized employment - 57</p>

TANF Success Story – TEA/Work Pays

TEA & WORKPAYS

TIFFANY

To Whom It May Concern-

My name is Tiffany Traw. I have been blessed to have gotten to utilize the TEA Program and Work Pays program that the Department of Workforce Services offers. I never thought I would need a program like these, but I am so thankful they are in place. When I started the TEA Program, I was going through hard times and was at my lowest low in life. I had three kids to raise with family to help, but not financially or readily available. With the TEA program, I was able to start back to college and start my education of becoming an elementary teacher. After starting back to college, I was able to become a work study. Fast forward two years and

I got a part-time job while I was finishing my 2-year associate degree. I was then able to transition into the Work Pays program. Around that time, I transferred to a 4-year college taking online courses to get my bachelor's degree. Looking at today, I now have a full-time job with benefits and just finished up my classes and received my bachelor's degree. If it wasn't for these programs, I don't think I would have financially been able to make it through all these years. I am blessed by everyone who has assisted me in these programs and who supported me going back to school while being a full-time mommy the entire time. I know people are always weary on getting on government programs, but when utilized the correct way they have such a huge impact. I was that person as well, but when you have a family to support you will swallow your pride to do what is best for them and ultimately yourself (even though you don't realize it at the time). Thank you again for all the support throughout my time on the TEA and Work Pays Programs.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Traw



TANF Success Story – Our House, Inc.



Elizabeth

Elizabeth and her two young daughters came to Our House after going through a divorce in 2017 that left her family without a clear path forward. Learning how to navigate her new life as a single mom, Elizabeth reached out to Our House for assistance with budgeting and financial matters. Through our Career Center, Elizabeth's family enrolled in CAFSI, our family stability program. For two years, Elizabeth worked with her CAFSI case manager to find resources, counseling, and earn her associates degree! After exiting the program, Elizabeth later re-engaged with Our House to seek out training opportunities to boost her job skills. Elizabeth attended a nursing assistant training at no cost to her—another stand out point on her resume! With the knowledge she gained from the Career Center, Elizabeth was a strong advocate for herself and found the scholarship money she needed to be able to attend LPN school, and she is more determined than ever to continue doing this hard work of growing in her field to make a great life for her family!

TANF Success in Education



Questions



Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
Arkansas Division of Workforce Services