

**NORTH CAROLINA
TANF ACF-812, REPORT ON ENGAGEMENT
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS – APRIL – JUNE 2011**

I. BACKGROUND

Section 812 of the Claims Resolution Act of 2010 requires States to submit a Report on Engagement in Additional Work Activities for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients. This report focuses on work-eligible individuals in families receiving TANF cash assistance who are not working or enrolled in education or training programs sufficiently to meet the work participation rate. States must collect and report the following information:

- A. Whether the individual engages in any activities that are directed toward attaining self-sufficiency; and
- B. If yes, the specific activities that
 - (1) do not qualify as a countable work activity, but are otherwise reasonably calculated to help the family move to self-sufficiency; or
 - (2) that could be a countable work activity, but for the fact that either the work-eligible individual has not engaged in such activities for a sufficient number of hours; the work-eligible individual has reached a maximum time limit allowed for having participation in the activity count; or the number of work-eligible individuals engaged in such activity exceeds a statutory limitation.

The March 2011 report was submitted to meet the May 31, 2011 deadline. The April, May, and June report is due no later than August 31, 2011.

Additional background information can be found in the NC's TANF ACF-812 Summary and Analysis for March 2011 document also available on the North Carolina Division of Social Services' website

(<http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dss/publications/docs/NC's%20TANF%20ACF-812%20Summary%20and%20Analysis%20for%20201103.pdf>).

II. SUMMARY OF THE INFORMATION SUBMITTED IN THE REPORT

North Carolina has more than 23,000 families receiving Work First Family Assistance, which is the TANF program in this State. For the quarterly Federal work participation reports, the State sends a sample of 5,280 cases to the Federal government.

The following work-eligible individuals and cases were reported for April – June 2011.

Report Month	Number of WEIs	Number of TANF Cases
April 2011	174	128
May 2011	161	115
June 2011	165	113

On the following page is a list of the data elements for the TANF cases reported showing the number of work-eligible individuals in each category.

Breakdown Summary of the ACF-812 Report on Engagement data for April – June 2011

NC submits the monthly TANF Data Report based on a stratified sample. The % in this report uses the number of WEIs for the TANF Data Report sample:		April 2011 WEIs		May 2011 WEIs		June 2011 WEIs	
		174		161		165	
Field	Description	April 2011 Individual Count	April 2011 % of WEIs	May 2011 Individual Count	May 2011 % of WEIs	June 2011 Individual Count	June 2011 % of WEIs
8	Participating in countable work activities for a sufficient number of hours for the family to count toward the work participation rates	56	32%	53	30%	48	29%
9	Unreported hours of participation in a countable work activity	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Insufficient hours of participation in countable work activities	38	22%	40	25%	52	32%
11	Countable hours beyond statutory limit?	1	.57%	1	.62%	0	0
12	Hours of participation in a countable work activity do not meet verification standards	0	0	0	0	0	0

Field	Description	April 2011 Individual Count	April 2011 % of WEIs	May 2011 Individual Count	May 2011 % of WEIs	June 2011 Individual Count	June 2011 % of WEIs
13	Participated in activities that do not qualify as countable activities, but move the family toward self-sufficiency	42	24%	37	23%	36	22%
14A	Participating in a countable work activity or a non-countable activity	126	72%	121	75%	130	79%
14A	NOT participating in a countable work activity or a non-countable activity	48	28%	40	25%	35	21%
14B	Principal Reason for Non-Participation						
				April 2011 Individual Counts	May 2011 Individual Counts	June 2011 Individual Counts	
	01	Family's first month on assistance and no work activity assigned		13	14	9	
	02	Individual assigned to a work activity that has not yet begun		0	2	0	
	03	State/Local agency (or its contractor) has failed to engage individual		0	0	0	
	04	Individual relocating from one local jurisdiction within State to another		0	0	0	
	05	Work activities reports received too late for inclusion in report to HHS		0	1	0	
	06	Family disregarded from participation rate		1	1	1	

		April 2011 Individual Counts	May 2011 Individual Counts	June 2011 Individual Counts
07	State exempt, single custodial parent with child under age 1; not disregarded due to 12-month limitation	0	0	0
08	Individual in process of being sanctioned (including fair hearing process) or is subject to a sanction	0	0	0
09	State exempt, single custodial parent with child under age 6 & child care unavailable	0	0	0
10	State exempt due to illness or disability of the WEI	6	5	6
11	State exempt, due to illness or disability of child or other family member	0	0	1
12	State exempt under a domestic violence waiver	0	0	0
13	Good Cause Exemption	3	4	1
14	Other State Exemption	0	0	0
99	Other	25	13	17

III. ANALYSIS

The Report on Engagement in Additional Work Activities contains self-sufficiency activities that are not included in the TANF Data Report. These activities help families prepare for employment and achieve self-sufficiency, but are not included as “countable” activity under current TANF regulations.

The data indicate that even though not all work-eligible individuals are participating in countable activity, the majority of them (an average of 75% over the 3 months) are participating in some activity specific to their individual or family needs.

The percentages of individuals not participating in any activity during April, May, and June are 28%, 25%, and 21%, respectively.

The data also show that even though not every work-eligible individual was participating in activities, the family was “participating” since a parent in the household was completing countable hours. In April, 7 out of 25 individuals coded ‘99’ in data element 14B were not participating because the second parent in the family was participating and completing the hours for the family. In May, there were 6 out of 13 individuals; and in June, there were 7 out of 17 individuals who were not participating because the second parent was participating for the family.

IV. SUMMARY OF NON-COUNTABLE ACTIVITIES

For the April – June ACF-812 Report, the following activities were not countable for the number of individuals identified below because the individual did not meet the required number of hours.

Unsubsidized Employment: In April, 10 individuals participated in an average of 62 hours.
In May, 9 individuals participated in an average of 76 hours.
In June, 12 individuals participated in an average of 65 hours.

Subsidized Private Employment: In May, 1 individual participated in 57 hours.

Work Experience: In April, 9 individuals participated in an average of 46 hours.
In May, 10 individuals participated in an average of 58 hours.
In June, 9 individuals participated in an average of 60 hours.

Job Search/Job Readiness: In April, 23 individuals participated in an average of 64 hours.
In May, 24 individuals participated in an average of 69 hours.
In June, 33 individuals participated in an average of 74 hours.

Community Service: In April, 3 individuals participated in an average of 49 hours.
In May, 1 individual participated in 86 hours.
In June, 3 individuals participated in an average of 66 hours.

Vocational Educational Training: In April, 7 individuals participated in an average of 76 hours.
In May, 2 individuals participated in an average of 33 hours.
In June, 4 individuals participated in an average of 107 hours.

Job Skills Training Directly
Related to Employment: In April, 1 individual participated in 72 hours.
In May, 4 individuals participated in an average of 70 hours.
In June, 2 individuals participated in an average of 88 hours.

An average of 23% of individuals in the April through June sample participated in activities that do not qualify as countable activities, but move the family toward self-sufficiency. The two most common non-countable activities included accessing work support activities (e.g., finding and arranging childcare, obtaining a driver's license) and assessment.

In summary North Carolina's families receiving cash assistance have a variety of challenges to achieving self-sufficiency. Federal work participation requirements do not account for all the challenges our families face during the current economic situation.