



TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF) REAUTHORIZATION UPDATE

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TANF Reauthorization Status of Regulations

- Interim Final regulations were published on June 29, 2006, implementing key provisions of the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA).
- Administration for Children and Families (ACF) received 470 individual letters commenting on the proposed regulations and held five listening sessions around the country.
- Proposed final regulations are currently in U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary's Office and from there will go to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).
- Final regulations are expected to be released in September, 2007.



TANF Work Participation Rates

- Work Participation Rates
 - All Families: 50%
 - Two Parent Families: 90%
- Caseload Reduction Credit for Wisconsin is:
 - All Families: 11.8%
 - Two Parent Families: 39.3%
- Wisconsin's Work Participation Rate is:
 - All Families: 38.2%
 - Two Parent Families: 50.7%



Participation Rate Exclusions

Certain types of W-2 cases are excluded from the work participation rates. These include:

- Individuals who are not receiving TANF cash assistance (i.e., Trial Jobs, CMF, CMU, CMS, CMP, CMD, CMM, CMN and some CMCs);
- CSJ and W-2 T Participants who are assigned to care for a disabled child or family member.
 - These parents are not work-eligible individuals as defined in TANF Regulations

TANF Core Work Activities and W-2

- Unsubsidized Employment
 - Working Full Time
 - Working Part Time
- Work Experience
 - Work Experience
- Vocational Educational Training
 - Technical College
 - Job Skills Training
 - Vocational ABE
 - Vocational ESL
 - Vocational Literacy Skills

Key

Green Font = Moved from other Federal Category

Purple Font = New

TANF Core Work Activities and W-2 (cont.)

- Job Readiness and Job Search Assistance
 - Employment Search
 - Job Readiness/Motivation
 - Career Planning/Counseling
 - Life Skills (Previously combined with Parenting Skills)
 - Job Retention Services
 - Mentor/Coach
 - Career Advancement Services
 - Occupational Testing
- Drivers Education
- Disability and Learning Assessment
- AODA Assessment
- AODA Counseling
- MH Assessment
- MH Counseling
- DV Assessment and Supportive Services
- Physical Rehabilitation
- Physicians Assessment

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TANF Non-Core Work Activities and W-2

- Job Skills Training (Direction Related to Employment)
 - ABE
 - ESL
 - Literacy Skills
- Education Directly Related to Employment (for individuals with no HS Diploma or Equivalent)
 - ABE
 - ESL
 - Literacy Skills
- Satisfactory School Attendance
 - GED
 - HSED
 - Regular School



W-2 Activities Not TANF-Related

- Housing-Related Activities
- Court-Related/Legal Appointments
- Ongoing Medical
- Personal Care/Self Care
- SS(D)I Advocacy/Application
- Parenting Skills (Previously combined with Life Skills)
- Personal Development
- Caring for Disabled Child (not work-eligible)
- Caring for Other Family Member (not work-eligible)
- On-The-Job Training

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Participation Requirements

Single Parent - Youngest Child < 12 Mos.

W-2 Requirement

- Parents with infant under 12 weeks of age have no participation requirements.
- When child reaches 12 weeks, participation is based on W-2 placement.

Federal Requirement

- No participation requirements – up to 12 months over lifetime of participation.

December 2006 Caseload Data
Single Parent - Child Under 12 Months

<u>W-2 T</u>	<u>CSJs</u>	<u>TJB</u>	<u>CMC</u>	<u>Unpaid</u>	<u>Total</u>
161	582	6	616	728	2,093



Participation Requirements Teen Parent – No High School

W-2 Requirement

- 18 and 19 year olds with no HS diploma can meet some or all of requirements through participation in HS courses or equivalent.

Federal Requirement

- Maintain satisfactory school attendance.

December 2006 Caseload Data
Teen Parent - No High School

<u>W-2 T</u>	<u>CSJs</u>	<u>TJB</u>	<u>Unpaid</u>	<u>Total</u>
22	159	0	61	242



Participation Requirements Single Parent – Youngest Child Age 1 through 5

W-2 Requirement

- Participation is based on W-2 placement.

Federal Requirement

- 20 hours per week.

December 2006 Caseload Data

Single Parent – Youngest Child Age 1 through 5

<u>W-2 T</u>	<u>CSJs</u>	<u>TJB</u>	<u>Unpaid</u>	<u>Total</u>
1,024	876	9	1,823	3,732



Participation Requirements Single Parent – Youngest Child Age 6 through 18

W-2 Requirement

- Participation is based on W-2 placement.

Federal Requirement

- 30 Hours Per Week; Not Fewer than 20 in Core Work Activities.

December 2006 Caseload Data

Single Parent – Youngest Child Age 6 through 18

<u>W-2 T</u>	<u>CSJ</u>	<u>TJB</u>	<u>Unpaid</u>	<u>Total</u>
1,304	378	1	667	2,350



Participation Requirements Two Parent Cases

W-2 Requirement

- One parent participates up to 40 hours per week; Not fewer than 30 hours in work training activities.
- If receiving Federally Funded Child Care, second parent must also participate; Combined total hours must be 55.

Federal Requirement

- 35 hours per week; Not fewer than 30 in Core Work Activities.
- If Receiving Federally Funded Child Care, 55 hours per week; Not fewer than 50 in Core Work Activities.

December 2006 Caseload Data – Two Parent Cases

<u>W-2 T</u>	<u>CSJ</u>	<u>TJB</u>	<u>CMC</u>	<u>Unpaid</u>	<u>Total</u>
37	57	5	3	185	287



Reauthorization Penalties

- Minimum Work Participation Rate (No Change): Failure to satisfy minimum work participation rate results in 5% penalty the first year; Increases by 2% for each subsequent year. Requires increase to 80% MOE.
 - Effective: 2008 Retroactive to FFY 2007
- Work Participation Verification Procedures: Failure to establish or comply with verification procedures results in penalty between 1% and 5% depending on severity of failure.
 - Effective: October 1, 2007



Work Verification Plan

States required to submit a Work Verification Plan to HHS:

- First draft due to ACF September 30, 2006.
- ACF responded December 20, 2006, with further general guidance to all states.
- Second draft due to ACF February 28, 2006.
- Anticipate response from ACF in April 2007 .
- Work Verification Plan must be fully implemented by October 1, 2007.



Work Verification Plan

Work Verification Plan Includes:

- Countable work activities
- Procedures for verifying and documenting hours of work
- Excused absence policies (i.e. Good Cause)
- Procedures to accurately input data and properly track hours of participation
- Procedures to accurately report hours to HHS
- Procedures to ensure non-work hours are not reported
- Description of internal controls
 - QA process
 - Sampling methodology



Work Verification Plan

Attendance Documentation, Verification and Supervision Criteria:

- Supervision requirement for all activities;
- Requirements for attendance documentation and verification will vary by activity (e.g., electronic methods, group sign-in sheets, attendance reports, individual activity logs, treatment plans);
- Generally, attendance documentation must be placed in participants' case files;
- Where W-2 agency has large number of participants engaged in an activity at one location, the verification may be kept in central location at the W-2 agency;
- Supervisor signature not required with electronic methods of verification



TANF Reauthorization Impact on W-2

- Work Participation for Paid Placements
- Hours Assigned to Activities
- Scheduled vs. Actual Hours of Participation
- Implement Procedures for Verification of Work Participation
- Monitoring Implementation of Required Procedures
- Opportunity to better utilize Vocational Education