Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Form

Caseload Reduction Credit Methodology for FFY 

**Summary**

**Introduction**

The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-171) reauthorized the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program. As a condition of the receipt of the TANF grant, states are required to meet or exceed certain minimum Work Participation Rates (WPR): an overall rate and a two-parent rate. The overall work participation rate requires that fifty percent (50%) of all families receiving TANF assistance participate in work activities during the fiscal year. The second requires that ninety percent (90%) of two-parent families receiving TANF assistance during the fiscal year participate in work activities. States that successfully meet their work participation requirements receive a reduction in their maintenance-of-effort (MOE) requirement. Failure to meet the requirements may result in financial penalty to the state under federal regulations at 45 CFR 261.50.

As part of the Deficit Reduction Act, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) was directed to establish regulations to grant states a caseload reduction credit. This credit reduces a state's required WPR for the subsequent fiscal year by the number of percentage points its caseload declined between Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2005 and the comparison year, which is defined as the year prior to the current fiscal year. This adjusted target rate becomes the WPR that the state must meet to receive a reduced MOE requirement and to avoid penalty.

**Methodology**

Wisconsin’s FFY caseload reduction credit is based on a decline in caseload between FFY 2005 (the base year) and FFY *2023* (the comparison year) divided by the base year caseload.

To determine a caseload decline, first States must disregard any caseload decreases in the comparison year that are due to policy or program changes implemented since FFY 2005. For the calculation of the FFY *2024* caseload reduction credit, Wisconsin had no policy changes that affected the FFY *2023* caseload compared to FFY 2005.

States may also earn credits for any excess MOE they contribute toward the program. Wisconsin’s total TANF expenditures in FFY *2023* were $*467,827,259* of which $*262,746,591* was the State’s MOE expenditures. Wisconsin met all its FFY *2023* WPR requirements, its required MOE spending is 75% of the historical spending on programming as calculated in FY2018, or $166,938,253. This results in an excess MOE expenditure for FFY *2023* of $95,808,338 ($262,746,591 - $166,938,253). All figures are based on the figures submitted in the federal Quarterly State TANF Financial Report (ACF-196).

Wisconsin’s total TANF expenditures on assistance in FFY *2023* was $56,213,838 which was 12.02% of the total expenditures ($56,213,838 ÷ $467,827,259). Therefore, Wisconsin’s excess MOE expenditures on assistance are $*11,512,271*. The average expenditure per case on assistance was $*4,525*. The number of assistance cases funded by excess MOE is *2,544* cases ($*11,512,271* ÷ *$4,525* per case). All caseload data is based on caseload data submitted in Section 3 of the Federal TANF and Separate State Program (SSP)-MOE Data Reports (ACF-199 and ACF 209).

In FFY *2023*, there was a decrease to *12,423* cases compared to the average monthly caseload of *20,721* cases in FFY 2005. States are allowed to exclude cases funded with excess MOE from their overall TANF caseload. Adjusting for the *2,544* assistance cases funded by excess MOE resulted in an adjusted caseload of *9,879* (*12,423* – *2,544*) for a Caseload Reduction Credit of *52.3%* (*10,842* ÷ *20,721)*. The two-parent caseload decreased to *326* cases compared to *466* cases in FY2005. Excluding the *67* two-parent cases funded by excess MOE results in an adjusted caseload of *259* and a decline of *207* cases for a caseload reduction credit of *44.4*% (*207* ÷ *466)*. There were no policy changes affecting the rates.

Given this credit, Wisconsin will need to have an average All Families WPR of 0% (50% - *52.3*% in FFY *2024* to meet the 50% requirement and 45.6 % (90% - *44.4*%) to meet the 90% two-parent rate.

Comments and/or Additional Information

Comments or requests for additional information on the TANF Caseload Reduction Credit methodology may be sent to: bwf\_co@wisconsin.gov, or write to:

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