



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona

State Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Welfare Reform Report



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Introduction

Pursuant to Laws 1997, Chapter 300, Section 76, the Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES/Department) submits its Annual Welfare Reform Report:

By September 1 of each year, the department of economic security shall submit a report to the president of the senate, speaker of the house of representatives and governor regarding welfare reform implementation. The report shall include information on outcome measures such as length of employment, amount of earned income, hourly wage, hours worked per week, total family income, health coverage, use of child care, issues concerning welfare reform in rural areas, housing, number of out-of-wedlock births, length of deferral for victims of domestic violence, level of participation in job training, education for the transition to self-sufficiency and number of substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect. The information shall be for the most current year and the previous year and shall be compiled in a manner and form that allow an assessment of the effectiveness of welfare reform in this state, including areas in which temporary assistance for needy families is being operated by the Arizona works agency pursuant to title 46, chapter 2, article 9, Arizona Revised Statutes, as added by this act.

The Arizona State Legislature established ADES in 1972 by consolidating the authority, power, and duties of seven State entities, followed by an eighth entity in 1974 (A.R.S. § 41-1954) to provide an integrated approach to human services. On May 29, 2014, the Arizona State Legislature established the Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS), separate from ADES, to provide oversight, transparency, and independence for the State's child welfare function, according to A.R.S. § 8-451. ADES employees serve approximately 2.9 million fellow Arizonans annually through the more than 40 programs administered by the Department. These programs provide a wide array of services delivered both virtually and in-person, throughout Arizona, in ADES offices and via a network of community-based providers.

The attached appendices include data tables with welfare reform outcome measures for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2021 and SFY 2020.

Appendix One: Cash Assistance Program

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Cash Assistance (CA) Program provides temporary financial aid to needy families and opens the door for additional services designed to support families as they move toward self-sufficiency.

Appendix One, Data Table 1 provides the average number of TANF CA cases per month, the average TANF CA payment received by an assistance unit per month and the average number of months of benefits received by TANF CA cases that are subject to the State Benefit Limit (STBL) of 12 months. The STBL applies to all Arizona TANF CA cases except for Tribal TANF programs and child-only cases where TANF CA benefits are provided only for a child in the legal custody of the state, an Arizona tribal court, or a tribal child welfare agency and placed in unlicensed foster care. Table 1 also provides, out of the average monthly TANF CA caseload, the number of assistance units that qualified for the Two-Parent Employment Program (TPEP).

Appendix One, Data Table 2 provides the total number of TANF CA cases that were sanctioned during SFY 2021, and the total number of TANF CA cases that include a benefit cap child who was born or adopted during the natural or adoptive parent's Family Benefit Cap Period (FBCP) and is not eligible for TANF CA benefits due to not meeting an exemption from the FBCP policy. Table 2 also provides the number of TANF CA cases that reached the STBL and the Federal time limit of 60 months during the SFY, as well as the number of cases that were granted a hardship extension.

Appendix Two: Work Activities through the Jobs Program

The TANF Jobs Program is a mandatory employment and training program for work-eligible individuals in households receiving TANF CA benefits and engages individuals in a variety of work-related activities to improve their employability skills by offering supportive and specialized services to remove barriers to employment.

Appendix Two, Data Table 1 provides the number of individuals served by the TANF Jobs Program, the average wait time for TANF CA recipients to begin participation in the TANF Jobs Program, and the number of participants who received deferrals from the Program, including the reasons for which deferrals were issued.

Appendix Two, Data Table 2 provides the outcomes for individuals who participated in the TANF Jobs Program and achieved Unsubsidized Employment. Data Table 2 also provides the percentage of persons who did not return to TANF CA after achieving Unsubsidized Employment.

Appendix Two, Data Table 3 provides a breakdown of TANF Jobs Program participants who participated in Non-Core Activities or complied with Program requirements through activities that were not Unsubsidized Employment. These activities include preparing and searching for employment, work experience for capacity-building, and high school/General Education Development (GED) courses. For teen parents, high school/GED courses are considered a Core Activity.

Appendix Three: Self-Sufficiency Assistance for TANF Jobs Participants

The Data Table in Appendix three shows the types of Self-Sufficiency Assistance provided to TANF Jobs Program participants. This includes client participation in employment where Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) supplemental payments were required or where Grant Diversion (GD) was provided. Clients in FLSA supplemental payment employment are those who are considered employed, but whose employer does not provide wages that meet the FLSA, thus the Department provides supplemental payment to ensure the employment meets federal standards.

GD is an alternative to traditional TANF CA in Arizona. The GD Program allows persons who are likely to be employed within a 90-day window to qualify for short-term financial assistance. A GD recipient is awarded a lump-sum cash payment equal to three times the full amount of the monthly TANF CA payment for which they would be eligible. In addition to the financial support, GD recipients may receive employment services and short-term support services to resolve one-time issues during the 90-day window, pending employment. An eligible person is limited to one GD payment within a 12-month period.

Appendix Four: Child Care

Child Care Assistance provides financial support to allow eligible families better access to high-quality child care services while participating in employment or specific education and training activities related to employment.

The Data Table in Appendix four provides the average monthly number of children authorized to receive child care assistance, the average monthly number of children receiving child care, TANF

related and transitional child care assistance, child care assistance reimbursement and expenditure amounts, and the total amount clients paid in co-payments for child care.

Under the TANF-related child care, child care assistance is available to Jobs Program participants, and individuals who are currently receiving TANF CA and are employed.

Transitional Child Care is child care assistance available for up to 24 months to former TANF CA participants who are transitioning off TANF CA in order to maintain employment or self-employment. The former TANF CA participant must have received TANF CA in Arizona for at least one month and submit an application for TANF CA within six months after the TANF CA case closure date. Currently, Child Care Assistance co-payments are at \$1, \$2, \$3, and \$5 per child, per day. The co-payments are based on family size and the income level of each client. If a family is determined eligible for Transitional Child Care, ADES does not assign a copayment beyond the third child needing care.

Appendix Five: Child Welfare Programs

Appendix Five, Data Table 1 provides the number of TANF Jobs Program eligible individuals who participated in some type of Barrier Resolution Activity. This data includes participants in the Arizona Families First (AFF) Program, a substance abuse treatment program funded with TANF grant monies. Clients participating in AFF are granted TANF Jobs work requirement waivers if complying with their treatment program.

Appendix Five, Data Table 2 provides the number of child maltreatment reports received by DCS and the average monthly number of families or children receiving TANF-funded services that are used to improve the family unit so that children can remain in their own homes or support to a legal guardian of a child who left DCS foster care for legal permanent guardianship.

Appendix Six: Short-term Crisis Services and Non-Marital Births in Arizona

Short-Term Crisis Services, which is partially funded by TANF, provides help to households experiencing emergent needs that cannot be met with their own income and resources, including emergency shelter, case management, eviction prevention, move-in assistance, utility deposits or payments, rental arrears, and other special services for securing and maintaining employment. The Department also contracts for specialized services for Domestic Violence (DV) survivors and their children, including emergency shelter for up to 120 days, transitional housing, counseling, case management, transportation, child care, and life skills training.

Appendix Six, Data Table 1 provides the number of individuals and families who received Short-Term Crisis Services. Data Table 2 provides data on non-marital births in Arizona provided by the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS).

**Appendix One: TANF CA Program
SFY 2021 and SFY 2020¹**

Data Table 1	Total TANF CA Cases (Average Month)	Total TANF CA Recipients (Average Month)	Total TANF CA Payments (Average Month)	Monthly TANF CA Payments Per Case (Average)	Monthly TANF CA Payments Per Recipient (Average)	Total TANF CA Payments	TPEP Cases (Average Month)	Average Months on TANF CA (Subject to State Limit Only)
2021	7,477	15,640	\$1,563,960	\$209.17	\$100.00	\$18,767,522	329	14.38
2020	6,801	14,430	\$1,386,174	\$203.82	\$96.06	\$16,634,082	134	13.38

Data Table 2	TANF CA Cases Closed Due to Sanctions	Number of TANF CA Cases with Benefit Cap Children	Payment Accuracy	Number of Cases That Reached the Federal Time Limit	Number of Cases That Reached the State Time Limit	Number of Cases That Received Benefits Past State Time Limit Due to Hardship Extension²	Number of Cases Ineligible Due to Needy Family Income Restrictions
2021	63	1,193	93.7%	0	0	2,216	1,686
2020	264	1,472	96.0%	214	897	2,838	2,355

¹ Numbers reflect data for the entire state for the full SFY, except as noted.

² Number of cases eligible for benefits as of the last day of the fiscal year.

Appendix Two: Work Activities through the Jobs Program SFY 2021 and SFY 2020

Data Table 1	TANF CA Recipients Waiting to Be Served as of June 30	Waiting Time (Days) After Becoming Eligible for TANF CA	Total TANF CA Recipients Served by Jobs Program	Total TANF CA Recipients Placed in Work Activities	Number of Participants Deferred from Participation in Jobs Program – Reason for Deferral= DV	Number of Participants Deferred from Participation in Jobs Program – Reason for Deferral= Caretaker of a Child Under Age One	Number of Participants Deferred from Participation in Jobs Program – Reason for Deferral= Caretaker of a Family Member in Medical Need	Number of Participants Deferred from Participation in Jobs Program – Reason for Deferral= Temporarily Unable to Work due to Physical or Mental Impairment
2021	82	2	6,439	2,069	5	405	0	237
2020	120	3	8,010	3,288	21	769	0	561

Data Table 2	Total Jobs Program Participants Who Found Employment (Unsubsidized Employment)	Jobs Program Participants Average Hourly Wage (Unsubsidized Employment)	Jobs Program Participants Placed in Employment with Health Care Provided (Unsubsidized Employment)	Adult Jobs Program Participants CA Cases Closed Due to Earned Income (Unsubsidized Employment)	Percent of Total Jobs Program Participants CA Cases Closed Due to Earned Income (Unsubsidized Employment)	Jobs Program Participants Job Retention Rate Over 90 Days (Unsubsidized Employment)	Percentage of Jobs Program Participants Placed in Employment Who Did Not Return to TANF CA (Unsubsidized Employment)
2021	1,593	\$14.64	245	987	12.4%	62% ¹	88.42%
2020	2,456	\$13.21	355	1,463	13.0%	56%	87.11%

¹ Currently, data is available for July 2020 through April 2021.

Data Table 3	Number of Participants in Job Search/Readiness Activity	Number of Participants in All Work Experience Activity	Number of Participants in Short-Term Work-Related Training Activity	Number of Participants in High School/GED Activity
2021 ¹	143	2,069	25	41
2020	492	2,634	56	46

¹ Data for the Jobs Program for SFY 2021 is "point-in-time" as of August 5, 2021.

**Appendix Three: Self-Sufficiency Assistance for TANF Jobs Participants
SFY 2021 and SFY 2020**

Data Table 1	Work Related Transportation Assistance	Number of Individuals Who Participated in Vocational Education Activities	Number of Individuals Who Had Shelter/Utility Assistance Allowance Paid for by Jobs	Total \$ of FLSA Supplemental Payments Issued	Number of Individuals Who Received FLSA	Number of Individuals Receiving Transitional Medical Services (Avg. Monthly)	Number of Families Who Received a GD Payment
2021¹	1,749	50	434	\$3,138	8	101,119	3,011
2020	2,711	135	649	\$13,752	56	83,504	6,140

¹ Data for the Jobs Program for SFY 2021 is "point-in-time" as of August 5, 2021.

**Appendix Four: Child Care
SFY 2021 and SFY 2020**

Data Table 1	Monthly Average of Children Authorized for Child Care Assistance	Monthly Average of Children Receiving Child Care Assistance	Monthly Average of Children Authorized to Receive TANF Related and Transitional Child Care	Monthly Average of TANF Related and Transitional Child Care Caseloads	Child Care Assistance - Average Reimbursement	Total Amount Expended - Child Care Assistance (Million)	Total Amount Child Care Co- Payments (Million)
2021	43,934	32,446	4,986	3,732	\$540.74	\$212.47	\$9.62
2020	56,393	35,949	8,782	5,736	\$528.71	\$229.29	\$10.93

Appendix Five: Child Welfare Programs¹ SFY 2021 and SFY 2020

Data Table 1	Number of Individuals Referred for Screenings for Substance Abuse Treatment²	Number of Clients Who Received AFF Services²	Average Length of Treatment (Days)²
2021	5,746	2,927	106
2020	8,672	7,157	119

Data Table 2	Child Maltreatment Reports Received³	Average Monthly Number of Families Receiving Comprehensive In-home Services	Average Monthly Number of Children Receiving Subsidized Guardianship
2021	44,207	5,714	2,731
2020	45,175	5,986	2,761

¹ This data was provided by DCS.

² This table reflects data for the AFF Program. Data will be updated in 2022.

³ The DCS Monthly Operational and Outcome Report and Semi-Annual Child Welfare Report provides data on substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect along with context for that data. Both can be found on the Performance Measures page of the DCS website: <https://dcs.az.gov/news-reports/performance-measures>.

Appendix Six: Short-Term Crisis Services and Non-Marital Births in Arizona SFY 2021 and SFY 2020

Data Table 1	Number of Households Participating in Utility Assistance Programs¹	Number of Households Participating in Homeless Prevention Programs²	Number of Adults and Children Receiving Shelter Services (Emergency Shelters)²	Number of Adults and Children Receiving Shelter Services (Transitional Shelters)²	Number of Mobile and Community Based Advocacy Hours Provided to DV Victims³	Number of DV Survivors Receiving Services in Self-Help Clinics³	Number of DV Survivors Receiving Services from Attorney or Paralegal³	Number of DV Survivors Receiving Services from Lay and Legal Advocates³
2021	14,333	7,927	6,042	386	100,606	1,544	6,248	5,779
2020	23,261	1,119	6,301	170	111,981	1,712	6,142	7,887

¹ This data was provided by Community Action Agencies.

² This data was provided by Homeless Prevention Service Providers.

³ This data was provided by DV Survivors Service Providers.

Non-Marital Births in Arizona

	Non-Marital Births¹
2021	34,121
2020	35,353

¹ This data was provided by the ADHS.

Under Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI & VII), and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) of 2008, the Department prohibits discrimination in admissions, programs, services, activities, or employment based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetics and retaliation. The Department must make a reasonable accommodation to allow a person with a disability to take part in a program, service or activity. For example, this means if necessary, the Department must provide sign language interpreters for people who are deaf, a wheelchair accessible location, or enlarged print materials. It also means that the Department will take any other reasonable action that allows you to take part in and understand a program or activity, including making reasonable changes to an activity. If you believe that you will not be able to understand or take part in a program or activity because of your disability, please let us know of your disability needs in advance if at all possible. To request this document in alternative format or for further information about this policy, contact 602-364-3976; TTY/TDD Services: 7-1-1. • Free language assistance for DES services is available upon request. • Disponible en español en línea o en la oficina local.