



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

February 8, 2011

The Honorable Peter Courtney  
President of the Senate  
State Capitol Bldg., Room S-201  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

The Honorable Bruce Hanna  
Co-Speaker of the House  
State Capitol Bldg., Room H-269  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

The Honorable Arnie Roblan  
Co-Speaker of the House  
State Capitol Bldg., Room H-295  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**Department of Human Services**  
Children, Adults and Families Division  
Administration  
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Dear President Courtney, Co-Speaker Hanna, and Co-Speaker Roblan:

Please accept the attached report regarding the monitoring and reporting of information related to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program required under ORS 412.079.

The Department of Human Services is required by ORS 412.079 to report to each session of the Legislative Assembly the following information:

- The average time families have received cash assistance by family size.
- The wages and benefits received by an individual that becomes employed while receiving aid.
- The rate at which persons who cease receiving aid for employment subsequently apply for and receive aid.



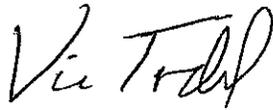
President Courtney and Co-Speakers Hanna and Roblan  
February 8, 2011  
Page 2 of 2

This report will also be posted at the following website:

<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/assistance/publications/index.shtml>

Please contact Xochitl Esparza at (503) 945-6122 if you have any question or concerns regarding the attached report.

Sincerely,



Vic Todd, Administrator  
Office of Self-Sufficiency Programs  
Children, Adults and Families Division  
Oregon Department of Human Services

CC: The Honorable John Kitzhaber, Governor  
The Honorable Ginny Burdick  
The Honorable Diane Rosenbaum  
The Honorable Ted Ferrioli  
The Honorable Tina Kotek  
The Honorable Andy Olson  
Duke Shepard, Governor's Labor and Human Services Advisor  
Bruce Goldberg, MD, Director, Department of Human Services  
Erinn Kelly-Siel, Assistant Director, Children, Adults and Families



**Report to the 2011 Legislative Assembly  
Regarding Temporary Assistance for Needy Families  
As Required by ORS 412.079**

**Background:**

ORS 412.079 requires the department to report to each session of the Legislative Assembly information described in ORS 412.079. The requirements in ORS 412.079 are listed below:

**412.079 Time limits; exceptions; rules.**

- (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this section, a needy caretaker relative may not receive aid under ORS 412.006 for more than a total of 60 months.
- (2) The Department of Human Services may not count toward the 60-month limit on receipt of aid described in subsection (1) of this section any month in which a needy caretaker relative:
  - (a) Receives a grant of temporary assistance to needy families under ORS 412.001 to 412.069 and 418.647, or assistance funded under Title IV-A of the Social Security Act in this or another state, prior to July 1, 2003;
  - (b) Resides in an area described in 18 U.S.C. 1151, and 50 percent or more of the adult residents in the area are unemployed;
  - (c) Is, in that month, a minor child and neither the head of the household nor married to the head of the household;
  - (d) Receives aid under ORS 412.001 to 412.155 and 418.647 that is not funded with grants under Title IV-A of the Social Security Act;
  - (e) Is enrolled at an educational institution under ORS 412.016;
  - (f) Is exempt from time limits pursuant to rules adopted by the department in accordance with section 408(a)(7)(C) of the Social Security Act; or
  - (g) Is unable to obtain or maintain employment for a sufficient number of hours in a month to satisfy the federally required participation rates because the needy caretaker relative:
    - (A) Is a victim of domestic violence as defined in ORS 411.117;
    - (B) Has a certified learning disability;
    - (C) Has a mental health condition or an alcohol or drug abuse problem;
    - (D) Has a disability as defined by the department by rule in a manner consistent with the definition of disability in the Americans with Disabilities Act;
    - (E) Has a child with a disability;

(F) Is deprived of needed medical care; or

(G) Is subjected to battery or extreme cruelty as defined by the department by rule.

(3) A needy caretaker relative may not be denied aid on the basis of the 60-month limitation described in subsection (1) of this section if the individual is experiencing a situation described in subsection (2) of this section.

(4)(a) The Department of Human Services shall monitor the average period of time a person receives aid and shall record such information by family size. The department shall monitor the wages and benefits received by an individual who becomes employed while receiving aid, including medical and child care benefits. The department shall monitor and record the rate at which persons who cease receiving aid for employment subsequently apply for and receive aid.

(b) The department shall report the results of the monitoring required under paragraph (a) of this subsection to the Legislative Assembly not later than the 15th day of each legislative session.  
[Formerly 418.131]

**The following information is provided in accordance with ORS 412.079:**

**Average Time a Household Received Cash Assistance by Family Size:** The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program provides cash assistance and services to single parent households, two-parent households, households in which one or both parents receive Social Security benefits of SSI, and households in which the primary caretaker is a relative other than the child's parent. TANF Maintenance of Effort (MOE) funding is also used to provide cash assistance for families in which one or both parents are applying for Social Security benefits of SSI/SSDI.

TANF on-going cash assistance for all household types in June 2010 reveal the following average months on TANF by Need Group Size since July 2003.

**Average Months on TANF by Need Group**

| <b>Need Group Size</b> | <b>Total Families</b> | <b>Average Months</b> |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 01                     | 3,100                 | 36.35                 |
| 02                     | 10,674                | 22.43                 |
| 03                     | 6,945                 | 24.08                 |
| 04                     | 4,091                 | 26.01                 |
| 05                     | 1,937                 | 27.15                 |
| 06                     | 804                   | 28.45                 |
| 07                     | 300                   | 29.38                 |
| 08                     | 107                   | 30.15                 |
| 09                     | 45                    | 29.02                 |
| 10                     | 22                    | 32.05                 |
| 11                     | 9                     | 26.11                 |
| 12                     | 2                     | 25.50                 |
| 14                     | 1                     | 14.00                 |

**Average Countable Months a Household Received Cash Assistance by Family Size:** Federal law prohibits providing assistance to a family that includes an adult in the need group who has received cash assistance under any state program with funds provided by the Federal government, for more than 60 months (whether or not consecutive). TANF time limits do not apply to families in which the only recipients are children, e.g. when the adult is not receiving TANF because he or she is receiving SSI or when the adult is not in the need group because he or she is a relative caregiver who is not the child's parent.

States can exempt from time limits up to 20 percent of their TANF cash assistance caseload based on hardship as defined by the state. House Bill 2469 (2007) established a state 60 month time limit for receiving TANF cash assistance which began in July 2003. HB 2469 also defined the state exemptions to TANF time limits. Those exemptions are listed in ORS 412.079 (2). In addition, the department established an economic hardship exemption which applies to all adults during periods when Oregon's unemployment rate is equal to or exceeds 7 percent.

The table below displays the average countable months on TANF based on state time limit criteria. This information is also based on TANF on-going cash assistance cases in June 2010 by Need Group Size since July 2003. Need groups are the people whose basic and special needs are used in determining eligibility.

**Average Countable Months on TANF by Need Group  
(Based on Oregon Time Limit criteria)**

| Need Group Size | Total Adults | Average Countable Months |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| 01              | 449          | 4.55                     |
| 02              | 2580         | 5.27                     |
| 03              | 1953         | 5.48                     |
| 04              | 1229         | 5.52                     |
| 05              | 533          | 5.48                     |
| 06              | 199          | 5.37                     |
| 07              | 72           | 4.13                     |
| 08              | 33           | 4.06                     |
| 09              | 18           | 3.44                     |
| 10              | 8            | 3.50                     |
| 12              | 1            | 4.00                     |

**Wages and Benefits after Becoming Employed:** The average starting full-time (30 or more hours per week) wage reported by TANF clients during the 2010 calendar year was \$10.00 per hour. A typical TANF family of three (one adult, two children) would no longer qualify for cash assistance if the adult worked for more than 17 hours per week at minimum wage. Approximately 96 percent of all families receiving TANF benefits have no earnings.

After having their cases close due to employment on or after July 2009, the following number of families (cases) were receiving Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) and/or Medical Assistance (such as OHP) in June 2010:

|                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| ERDC Only:        | 51    |
| Medical Only:     | 3,957 |
| ERDC and Medical: | 1,583 |

**Rate of Return to Cash Assistance:** For the 2009 calendar year, 79 percent of the cases that left TANF cash assistance due to employment were not receiving aid 18 months later. Of these cases, 61.9 percent did not return to cash assistance during the entire 18 month period, while 17.1 percent returned for some period of time, but had left cash assistance again by the end of the 18 months. The remaining 21 percent of cases that left cash assistance due to employment returned to cash assistance and were still receiving cash assistance at the end of the 18 month period. The higher percentage of cases that returned to cash assistance is likely the result of the current economic crisis in Oregon as reflected by steady job losses.