



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

January 21, 2009

## Department of Human Services

*Children, Adults and Families*

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



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

Dear President Courtney and Speaker Hunt:

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.

Please contact me at (503) 945-5633 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

*"Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe"*  
An Equal Opportunity Employer



President Courney and Speaker Hunt

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Page 2 of 2

CC: The Honorable Ted Kulongoski, Governor  
The Honorable Rick Metsger  
The Honorable Richard Devlin  
The Honorable Ted Ferrioli  
The Honorable Arnie Roblan  
The Honorable Mary Nolan  
The Honorable Bruce Hanna  
Claudia Black, Governor's Human Services Advisor  
Bruce Goldberg, MD, Director, Department of Human Services  
Erinn Kelly-Siel, Interim Assistant Director, Children, Adults and  
Families Division

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## **Report to the 2009 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 Countable Months on Aid by Family Size:** Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) on-going cash assistance cases in June 2008 reveal the following average countable months on TANF by Need Group Size since July 2003. Need groups are the people whose basic and special needs are used in determining eligibility.

Need Group Size	Total Adults	Average Countable Months
01	506	4.56
02	4571	5.84
03	2692	6.18
04	1300	6.41
05	493	6.18
06	153	6.10
07	56	5.84
08	18	4.83
09	9	6.89
10	5	8.00
12	1	6.00

**Wages and Benefits after becoming employed:** The average starting full-time (30 or more hours per week) wage reported by TANF clients between July 2007 and November 2008 was \$9.50. A typical TANF family of three (one adult, two children) would no longer qualify for cash assistance if the adult worked for more than 18 hours per week at minimum wage. During this period, an average of 123 on-going TANF cash assistance cases reported earnings each month.

After having their cases close due to employment on or after July 2007, the following number of families (cases) were receiving Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) and/or Medical Assistance (such as OHP) in June 2008:

ERDC Only:	159
Medical Only:	3,321
ERDC and Medical:	1,754

**Rate of Return to Cash Assistance:** For the calendar year 2008, 82.6 percent of the cases that left TANF cash assistance due to employment were not receiving aid 18 months later. Of these cases, 66.6 percent did not return to cash assistance during the entire 18 month period, while 16 percent returned for some period of time, but had left cash assistance again by the end of the 18 months. The remaining 17.4 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.