



Oregon

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Executive Summary



JOBS Plus Program Report to the Legislative Assembly and Governor

Pursuant to ORS 411.896

Program Year 2013: July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013

Background

Oregon Revised Statute 411.896 requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) submit an annual report to the Legislative Assembly and the Governor containing an analysis of the JOBS Plus program and include recommendations from the department and the JOBS Plus Advisory Board regarding appropriate revisions to the program. The JOBS Plus program has been an integral part of DHS Self-Sufficiency Program services since 1994. JOBS Plus provides real work experience for participants and mentorship opportunities for participants in the TANF program. The goal is to move families out of poverty and into employment.

JOBS Plus Program Results

- 701 employer work-site agreements were completed in 2012-13 to connect participants to JOBS Plus employment.
- Of the participants, 415 individuals (59%) were subsequently working in unsubsidized employment following their participation in JOBS Plus. The percentage of participants obtaining unsubsidized work was 22% higher compared to the previous year.

On June 30, 2013, a snapshot of the JOBS Plus Program showed:

- 379 participants were working in JOBS Plus positions (up 8 percent from June 30, 2012).
- The average wage was \$9.65 per hour (up 4 percent from June 30, 2012).

"Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe"

Individual Education Accounts

Individual Education Account (IEA) funds are a benefit to JOBS Plus participants after they leave JOBS Plus. IEA funds may be used for the cost of books and supplies in addition to lab fees, tests, student body cards, and tuition. The Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) administers the IEA accounts. As of June 30, 2013:

- 6,293 Individual Education Accounts totaling \$3,891,946 have been activated.
- The average Individual Education Account was \$618 per person.
- 3,231 (51.3 percent) individuals used all or part of their IEA funds.
- The total amount of IEAs paid by OSAC to training providers was \$1,673,753.

DHS does recommend the JOBS Plus program continue to be a major strategy in the 2015-2017 biennium for increasing the employment outcomes of families in the TANF program as well as meeting the federal participation rate.

Additionally, given the current workforce system alignment efforts at the State level, the recent passage of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, DHS recommends that in the 2015-17 biennium the department is provided flexibility to pilot alternative ways to operate the JOBS Plus subsidized employment program in coordination with workforce system partner agencies, program participants, employers, and stakeholders for the purpose of further increasing work-based training and employment outcomes of participants in the program, including teen parents, and aligning with workforce key strategies.