



Executive Summary

JOBS Plus Program Report to the Legislative Assembly and Governor
Pursuant to ORS 411.896 for Program Year 2014.

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 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

- 1,020 participants were enrolled in JOBS Plus. Of these participants, 756 completed the JOBS Plus Program in the 2013-14 program year.
- Of the 756 participants, 590 individuals (78%) were subsequently working in unsubsidized employment following their participation in JOBS Plus. The percentage of participants obtaining unsubsidized work was 30% higher compared to the previous year. The increase is likely due to an improving economy.

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. According to OSAC, since the inception of the program to June 30, 2014:

- 6,373 Individual Education Accounts totaling \$3,956,678 have been activated.
- The average Individual Education Account was \$621 per person.
- 3,168 (49.7 percent) individuals used all or part of their IEA funds.
- The total amount of IEAs paid by OSAC to training providers was \$1,654,816.

The State continues to invest in JOBS Plus, as it is one key option for TANF participants to obtain real work history and increase their ability to enter unsubsidized employment opportunities.

HB 3535, recently passed by the 2015 Oregon Legislature, and portions of the DHS budget will make targeted reinvestments in the TANF program using projected caseload savings in the 2015-17 biennium.

HB 3535, includes language that provides DHS flexibility to pilot, for a 12-month period, alternative ways to operate the JOBS Plus subsidized employment program in coordination with workforce agencies and stakeholders for the purpose of increasing employment outcomes of participants on the program including youth. Given the continuing workforce system alignment efforts at the State level and the passage of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), the department looks forward to the ability to engage in this pilot effort to improve outcomes for participants and to align with key workforce strategies.