



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF STATE BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT



Employment First State for Individuals with Disabilities

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

CHARLES PERUSSE
STATE BUDGET DIRECTOR

June 30, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Phil Berger, President Pro-Tempore of the Senate
Representative Tim Moore, Speaker of the House
Senator Joyce Krawiec
Senator Jim Burgin
Senator Jim Perry
Representative Donny Lambeth
Representative Larry Potts
Representative Donna White
Representative Wayne Sasser
Representative Kristin Baker, M.D.
Mark Trogdon, Fiscal Research

FROM: Charles Perusse *Charles Perusse*
State Budget Director

SUBJECT: Work First Program

General Statute 108A-27.10.(b) requires the Director of the Budget to report at the beginning of every fiscal year on the number of permanent State employees who have been Work First Program recipients during the previous calendar year. Please find the attached report, which was prepared by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) with assistance from the Office of the State Controller (OSC).

If you have questions or concerns, you may contact Assistant State Budget Officer Erin Matteson at erin.matteson@osbm.nc.gov.

Attachment



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH
SECRETARY

June 21, 2021

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Mr. Charles Perusse
State Budget Director
Office of State Budget and Management
Room 5200, Administration Building
Raleigh, NC 27603

Dear Director Perusse:

North Carolina General Statute 108A-27.10, requires the Department of Health and Human Services to submit an annual report showing the number of permanent state employees who have been Work First recipients during the previous calendar year.

Should you have any questions, please contact Susan Osborne, Assistant Secretary for County Operations, at Susan.Osborne@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
Tara Myers on behalf of
B21898BA92B341B...
Mandy Cohen, MD, MPH
Secretary

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| cc: | Kody Kinsley | Susan G. Perry | Dave Richard | Jessica Meed |
| | Tara Myers | Rob Kindsvatter | Marjorie Donaldson | Zack Wortman |
| | Matt Gross | Meisha Evans | Joyce Jones | Lisa Wilks |
| | Katherine Restrepo | Jared Simmons | Jane Chiulli | Luke MacDonald |
| | Erin Matteson | Theresa Matula | Mark Collins | |

Background

North Carolina General Statute 108A-27.10 (b) requires the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Secretary, Office of State Budget Management (OSBM) Director and North Carolina Governor collectively to submit an annual report to the North Carolina General Assembly of the number of permanent state employees who have been Work First recipients during the previous calendar year. This report provides data for calendar year 2020.

Overview North Carolina's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program

North Carolina's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, known as Work First, promotes a strengths-based, family-centered practice. The Work First program is based on the premise that parents have a responsibility to support themselves and their children. The program provides low income parents with cash assistance and other services to help them become employed and move toward self-sufficiency. Biological parents, adoptive parents and stepparents may receive assistance for a child and must be included in the payment for the family, unless they are disqualified from the program. Non-parent caretakers can receive services and support which may prevent children from entering the foster care system unnecessarily. Families where grandparents, other relatives and legal guardians are caring for children may apply for assistance on the child's behalf but are not included in the cash assistance payment. These cases are termed "Child-Only" cases. For calendar year 2020, there was a monthly average of 10,591 Work First cases, with an estimated 72.84% being Child Only cases.

Data Collection Process

The Office of the State Controller assisted DHHS, Division of Social Services (DSS) Performance Management/Reporting and Evaluation Management with obtaining the data needed by completing a query in the BEACON System. The query parameters consist of the number of permanent state employees with income that meet the maximum net family annual income eligibility standard for Work First Family Assistance. The maximum monthly income level for Work First Family Assistance based on family size is shown below.

Family Size	Monthly Income Limit
1	\$362
2	\$472
3	\$544
4	\$594
5	\$648
6	\$698
7	\$746
8	\$771

The state employee data from the BEACON system was then matched to queries completed by the DHHS, DSS Performance Management/Reporting and Evaluation Management team. The queries completed by this team contained Work First recipient data from the North Carolina Families Accessing Services through Technology (NCFAST) system.

2020 Work First Parents Receiving Assistance	Number of State Employees Who Received Work First
4,597	0

For Calendar year 2020, there was a monthly average of 10,591 Work First cases, an estimated 72.84% were Child only cases. For calendar year 2020, an estimated 4,597 parents were included on the monthly Work First cash assistance payment. Out of 4,597 parents, the queries database results show zero (0) state employees received Work First cash assistance during the 2020 calendar year. DHHS is committed to ensuring TANF/Work First benefits and services are provided to low income families and program assistance is used in a manner consistent with the requirements of NCGS 108A-27.10 (b); which also serve to promote the integrity of the TANF/Work First program and the responsible stewardship of public funds.